Principal’s Report

Another busy and exciting week draws to a close at Gray St.

The Year 2 Camp to Port Fairy was a fantastic experience for both the children and staff. The night and days were action packed with great activities for the children which included the mutton bird walk, rock pooling and sandcastle competitions. It is a brilliant camp with fantastic facilities and access to some great environmental attractions. A highlight of the camp this year was the kite making and flying, which the children loved.

On Tuesday evening I attended with many Gray St parents and others from schools around Hamilton the Michael Grose parenting seminar. It was an entertaining and informative presentation. He has just released a new book Thriving! Raising exceptional kids with confidence, character and resilience. There are some key parenting principles that he shared with us:

- Develop self sufficiency in kids from the earliest possible age
- He who owns a problem, solves a problem
- You can choose how you act, think and behave
- Help kids adapt, rather than change situations to suit them
- Parenting is a never ending teaching activity
- Focus on the family not on individual children
- Involve kids fully in the family enterprise
- Relationships give you leverage…and need to be nurtured.
- Michael also used a powerful quote “There are two lasting bequests that we can give our children. One is roots. The other is wings.” Hodder Carter.

On Wednesday staff from the CMA visited students in grades prep to grade 2. Students learnt about water and how it effects the environment.

Today, we have had a number of Principals from the Portland Hamilton Network observing in classrooms. It has been a great opportunity to show case the rich learning experiences that happen every day at Gray St. We also had a visit from Grant Rau the Regional Director of the Barwon South West Region today. Grant has not had the opportunity to visit Gray St for some time so he was amazed by all the positive physical changes that have occurred over the past twelve months.
Water Watch

On Wednesday the P-2 grades enjoyed learning about the importance of water through the Water Watch trailer and Annie and Danny from the CMA. The Preps were also fortunate enough to look at freshwater creatures such as tadpoles, mosquito fish and water boatmen beetles under special microscopes. A very big thank you to Linda Grant who organised the science equipment, dam water and a fabulous talk and also to Jacinta Hendriks who assisted on the day.

Grade 3B Report

Following the fantastic experiences of life in the goldfields, which the children were engaged in at Ballarat, they have been able to write with greater knowledge and feeling. The task for the first of these pieces was to write an action based beginning and the second was to describe life in the bush.

Digging In The Goldfields

Clink, Clink the rocks are bumping against the side of the small pan. My hands are swirling the small rocks out to the bottom of the cradle. Rattle, rattle, rattle is the sound of the rock falling through the holes of the cradle. The river laps over the quartz stones. The leaves are dancing on top of the water. The sunlight is filtering through. My boots are slippery on the green moss and I have to be careful not to fall. My toes feel icy cold as the water fills my boot up. I'll be freezing all day. Rustle, rustle of the magpies in the tree tops as they spy on us nervously protecting their hatching eggs.

Nugget Of Gold

Hooves clattering hard against the ground under my feet. It felt like the earth was shattering down. The sound fades away and I get on with my work. I shoved the shovel deep into the creek and putting the gravel into my old dusty pan.

The Welcome Stranger Gold

As I try to fill up my pan, my back is aching. I need a break but no, I need the money and gold. All my body is so, so sore because I always am cramped over.

Bush Living  by Angus Harms

It would be hard living in the bush because your roof would probably leak because the pieces of wood would be uneven. You wouldn’t get enough to eat and the food would be rationed. Washing would be a nightmare as it would take so long.

The food would be terrible because if it was a hot day the food would be full of maggots and if it was cold it would be frozen. Also, if you were really lucky you would only get one or two potatoes. All you would get was a bit of mutton, tea and damper for breakfast, lunch and tea.

Your houses would be a wreck because your house would be stuck together with mud and the place would smell bad and the beds would be so uncomfortable. You would have to lay on an old flour bag to go to sleep. The whole house would be basically falling to pieces.

The washing would take a long time because you would have to go so far to get to the creek then another three hours to wash all your clothes. It would take so long to boil the water and your hands would be aching and about to fall off after doing the washing.

It would be hard for people to live.

Staff Profile

Mrs Donovan has been teaching at Gray St for 20 years she is currently teaching 4A.

What is your earliest childhood memory of school?
Being taken to school in a trailer with other students. The trailer was being pulled by a tractor.

What would your last meal be?
Roast leg of lamb and lemon cheese cake.

Name five people in history or current date that you would most like to meet?
- Cleopatra
- Martin Luther King
- Dalai Lama
- Winston Churchill
- Betty Jeffries

What do you do when you are not working?
I like to spend time with my family. One husband, two children and three grandchildren. I love knitting and doing killer sudoku.

What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken and why?
I have had several interesting trips and lived overseas. I lived in England for 9 months but probably my most interesting was to Alaska. The scenery was just breathtaking.
We had a fabulous time at Port Fairy. After the big storm the day before, the weather was very kind to us.

This was the first year we have been on a boat trip and tried kite making, both were a great success. The sight and sound of 49 delighted students flying their kites was amazing.

The children are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and positive, can do attitude.

A very big thank you to our helper dads- Mr Biggin, Mr Hunter and Mr Koch. Thanks also to the wonderful Mrs Allen.

Emma Callaway, Kerrie McFadden and Carolynn Murray

Student reports

Before we could see the Mutton birds we had to wait a very long time. But eventually they came. They came out when the second star came out, which I thought was a planet because: it was flashing. Fact. Did you know that: Mutton birds take up their food from their mouth to feed their babies! Yuck! When the Mutton birds finally came out there were millions quod zillions! I could not believe my eyes! One landed where the wood was to hold on to! Mr. Koch took us to a bush that you could eat! It was a bit too sweet! I spat it out.

Chelsea R 2B

At the lighthouse there were cupcakes because Elena’s parents made them for her birthday they were delicious and the icing was green. The light house was orange because the red paint came off. Everyone wanted to go inside but it was closed. For morning tea at the light house we had a donut and a lamington it was great.

Eliza 2B

Thursday the 10th November, the Grade 2’s went on a bus to Port Fairy. We got to the cabins and got our beds ready. Then we split up into two groups. Half of Group A went on a boat and the other half stayed at the playground. Group B stayed at the lodge and made kites. We swapped over. At 7.30pm we left for the Mutton Birds. We got back at about 10pm and had ice-cream. On Friday we went to breakfast. Some people were still in their pyjamas! After breakfast we played outside. Next, we walked a lillooooonnnggg way to the lighthouse. Elena got to have a birthday party. Then we went to the beach and had a sandcastle competition. We all had fun. After we had lunch we went home.

By Elena Huggins and Olivia Muldoon
Fundraising News
Frozen tubes will be for sale for $1 from the canteen. Please bring your dollar every Friday. 
This week there will also be a few bags of lollies available for purchase at $1 a bag.

Hot Lunch
The next hot lunch day will be held on Friday 2nd December. Forms were sent home with all students today. These are due back by Friday 25th November. 
Anyone willing to donate an hour of their time to help out on this day would be appreciated immensely.

Farmer’s Market
Thank-you to all parents who baked and made items for the final Farmer’s Market for the year. We made the grand total of $947.00. A big thank-you to our faithful team of mums who helped price and sell goods on the day, without their support we could not run these events!

You Can Do It! Term 4: Confidence
At this time of the year, where reflection, testing and planning for the years ahead, is at a frantic pace, it is important to reinforce confident thinking.
Tiredness, in adults and children, can encourage feelings of despondency.
As parents and teachers, we need to make sure the following important elements of being confident are reinforced, encouraged and acknowledged.
1. Not being afraid to make mistakes;
2. Believe you will be more likely to be successful than fail, if you keep having a “red hot go” (try very hard);
3. Not worry too much what people think of you if you say something wrong or silly;
4. Use sensible thinking about yourself when you make a mistake or someone is mean to you;
5. Look and sound confident.

Cybersafety Tip
Set and protect your passwords
Choose a ‘strong’ password, a minimum of eight characters, a mix of upper and lowercase letters, at least one number and at least one symbol.
Avoid using words in the dictionary-try using a passphrase instead.
Have different passwords for different activities; change them regularly.
Don’t store a list of passwords on your computer in a word document.
Select ‘no’ when a computer offers to automatically remember a password when logging onto a website, especially banking, social networking and webmail accounts.
*Passphrase- ie “Somewhere over the rainbow, blue birds fly”, becomes- 5w0tR,Bbf. Making it easier to remember a strong password. (Just don’t use this one!!)
Source: Australian Government, ‘Protecting Yourself Online’

IMPORTANT TERM 4 DATES
November 28th
RE Break Up
December 1st
Combined Carols Festival 1pm
Gr 1, Gr 3 and 5/6 Choir
December 2nd
Hot Lunch
December 5th
Art Exhibition Opening
December 13th
Transition Day
December 20th
School Concert
December 21st
Special Assembly
December 22nd
Last Day Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal

‘SELF PORTRAIT’ ART EXHIBITION
GRAND OPENING
MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER
7PM – 8PM
All students across the school have been busily creating ‘self portraits’ to display and sell at the Art Exhibition.
The grand opening will take place on Monday 5th December at 7pm. All parents and students are welcome. Art work will be available for sale.
Further information will be sent home next week.

MOVING ON
Moving On will be on Monday November 28 at the Hamilton PAC in Brown Street from 7-9 pm. A light supper will be provided.
Sessions for parents will include a presentation by Battforce from Geelong called from “Small and Snotty to Tall and Spotty” and a panel of Year 7 parents offering tips and advice.
Information was handed out to all grade 6 students today.

Monivae College - Yr 7 – 2012 Orientation Days
Our first Orientation Day will also be an Assessment day on Monday 21st November. On this day our enrolled students for Yr 7 – 2012, will undertake a series of assessment tasks prior to entering Year 7 in 2012. No one is assessed as passing or failing the tests. The assessment is not seen as a conclusive statement of each student’s ability, but assists our staff in catering for each students learning and future needs.
The second Orientation Day will be on Tuesday 13th December, parents and guardians will be invited to a short Welcome Liturgy and morning tea. Students will participate in the Welcome Liturgy, then undertake sample Yr 7 EXCEL lessons.