Principal’s Report

As our year starts to wind down very quickly, the focus this week has been on a most informative interactive incursion by the Melbourne Market Authority on Wednesday. The program covered the process that our fruit and vegetables go through from the farm to the market to our homes. The students in years Prep to 4 enjoyed tasting a variety of fresh produce some special hints were also shared; Ryan in Prep B shared with me that we shouldn’t keep tomatoes in the fridge, they should be left in a bowl on the bench to ripen. “Keeping them in the fridge makes them taste yucky.” Thank you to the wonderful band of parents who came and cut all the fruit and vegetables up for the students to sample.

Today I accompanied the Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 choirs to St Mary’s church where both choirs performed in the combined schools Carol Festival. It was a great experience for the students involved. Thank you to Miss Robb and Mr Hayes for doing such a great job preparing the students for their performances today.

Concert preparations for all the grades are in full swing and our Grade Six students are busily preparing for their special graduation night on the 11th December. With so much going on both at home and at school, it is proving a really busy time for all. For our pupils however, it is a time of celebration and enjoyment with lots of exciting happenings.

Tomorrow the whole school will participate in a Step Up program. The aim of the Step Up program is to give students the opportunity to familiarizes themselves with the new year level they are entering in 2014. We hope this will ensure that students have a smooth transition into the following year and know what to expect for the new school year.

On Monday, the Preps and their Grade Six buddies head off to Lake Pertobe for their special day of activities together. This is a wonderful tradition and something that all the students will refer back to in time.

Next Wednesday all students from P-6 who participate in Religious Education will walk to the Uniting Church to participate in a special Christmas service, in past years this has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Each grade level do a short performance related to the meaning of Christmas. Following the service we will return to school and have our special helpers morning tea to thank all our wonderful parents, grandparents and volunteers, for a wonderful year.

The final School Council meeting for 2013 was held on Monday evening. Our Councillors have continued to give invaluable, committed service to our school this year and I extend to all of them my grateful thanks for their support over the past 12 months and look forward to working with them again next year.

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen
2013 SCHOOL CONCERT
Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th December

Concert Arrangements

The school concert will be held twice this year – once on Monday 16th December and a repeat performance on Tuesday 17th December. Both concerts will be the same except that Semper Sursum Awards for students in grades prep to four will be announced on Monday and announcements of grade 5 Semper Sursum Awards, 2014 Leadership positions and grade 6 Dux Awards and the Daniel Hodgson Award will be made at the conclusion of the Tuesday concert.

- All students will be required to attend both concerts
- PAC doors will be open at 6.30pm.
- All students must be at the PAC no later than 6.45pm.
- Students are to go to the supper room upon arrival.
- We will be starting promptly at 7pm.

It is anticipated that the concert will finish at about 9.30pm on the Monday and Tuesday night.

Pick-up of students after the concert concludes - Prep students will be collected first from the front of the stage. Children from other grades can be collected from the supper room at the conclusion of the concert. Children are to come dressed in their appropriate costumes.

The final rehearsal at the PAC is on Monday 16th December during the day.

Parents of students in grades Prep, 1 & 2, will be able to collect their child on the Tuesday night after their item from from the Function room. More information will be on next week’s newsletter.

Last year many parents, quite wisely and appropriately, chose to allow their child to stay home the days after the concert. These day off after a latish night provided a good opportunity for children to rest-up. Even though Tuesday and Wednesday are not officially days off for students, parents may choose to give their children, whatever their age from preps to year 6, the rest day.

Ticket Sales

TICKETS ARE SOLD THROUGH THE SCHOOL OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8.30AM AND 4.15PM

TICKET SALES - Tickets are $5 each.

Monday 9th December - Parents of students in grades 6 and 5 may purchase a maximum of 4 tickets per family.
Tuesday 10th December - Parents of students in grades 4, 3, 2, 1 & Prep may purchase a maximum of 4 tickets per family

Wednesday 11th December - any tickets remaining may be purchased.

Tickets may be split over the two nights if required. (Parents do not have to attend both nights)

No reservations will be made. Payment must be made at time of purchase.
If you are unable to call into the office, you may use the order form attached. Please send the order form and payment to school in a clearly marked envelope stating “CONCERT TICKETS/DVD”. These tickets will be sent home with your child.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON THE NIGHT OF THE CONCERTS

School Concert DVD

The school concert is one of those special moments some parents like to have on DVD. DVD’s need to be ordered and paid for in advance. The cost of this year’s DVD is $30. Please order using the form attached. Orders and money need to be returned to school in an envelope clearly marked “CONCERT TICKETS/DVD” by Friday 13th December.

These will be available for collection in February 2014. If you will have no children attending Gray St next year, please call into the office in February to collect your ordered copy.
Letters from Grade 2 about the Port Fairy Trip

Dear Mrs Murray,

I am writing to thank you for organising camp for both the grade twos this year at Port Fairy.

I enjoyed the boat ride because the waves were like a rollercoaster! Humpy bumpy is what I would have called it, if it was a rollercoaster.

The spaghetti bolognaise was very scrumptious. I hope you enjoyed camp too!
From Mia McKinley 2B

Dear Mr Biggin

I am writing a thankyou letter to you because you had to go and walk everywhere with us on camp. I hope you have a good sleep-in on the weekend. Thank you for giving me a crab.

My favourite activity was going crabbing and flying the kites. Thank you again for taking us to Pea Soup and the light house. Next year I would like you to come on camp as well! Thank you also for getting me back into bed.

From Henry Bensch 2B

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd December</td>
<td>Jean Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th December</td>
<td>Michelle Rhook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th December 10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>Nicole Downes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th December 12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Kym Hunter</td>
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</tbody>
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Music at Gray St

Next year Dylan Edge, Leesa Clark and Tara Forster will be available for private music lessons during school hours.

Dylan – Violin, Piano, Guitar, Singing, Trumpet, Cello and Theory. Lessons are $15 per half hour.
Leesa – Flute. Lessons are $28 per half hour. ($14 per half hour if lesson shared with two)
Tara – Drums. Lessons are $25 per half hour.

Lessons will be charged per term, with payment expected the first week of every term.

If you wish for your child to participate, please complete the expression of interest form below and return it to school by Wednesday 4th December. Thank you.

Expression of Interest for Music Lessons

I, ........................................, would be interested in my child/ren participating in private music lessons at school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Name</th>
<th>Teachers Name</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
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Signed: .................................................. Date: / /
OSHClub Vacation Care

OSHClub will be running vacation care over the January 2014 school holidays. Next week a comprehensive program will be sent home with all students. If you would like further information please call Rosemary on 0408 936 652

Uniform

Next Tuesday will be the last day for ordering Uniform for this year. If you require uniform for the start of next year, please place an order and finalise payment by Tuesday 3rd December. Order forms are available from the office.

St. Mary’s Christmas Expo

Saturday 7th December

Expo in the PAC from 9.30-3.30pm.

With the Parade along Gray Street from 10.30am.

Pre-purchase ride wristbands from St Mary’s Primary School. 1=$15 2=$25 3=$40 or $20 each on the day

Lots of new and exciting traders this year including many local traders, petting zoo and Santa’s Fun land

GROUP PHOTOS

Group photos are available for purchase: These include House Captains, Whole School, Junior School Council, School Captains and Music Captains. Photos cost $10 each and can be viewed and ordered from the school office. Orders and payment must be in by Wednesday 4th December.

GROUP PHOTO ORDER FORMS

STUDENTS NAME: ……………………………… GRADE: ……………

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Photo Title</th>
<th>Number of Photos</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>X $10 each</td>
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</tbody>
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Payment Method: Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Please debit my: VISA / MASTERCARD (CIRCLE)

Office Use Only

Amount Received: $ Date: / /

Initialled: Payment Method: Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Credit Card
School Concert Tickets and DVD Order Form

Students Name: ………………………………………………………………… Grade: …………………

I wish to purchase the following (please note only 4 tickets per family)

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<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Total</th>
<th>Office Use</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concert Tickets* Monday Night</td>
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<td>Concert Tickets* Tuesday Night</td>
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<td>DVD</td>
<td>……………@ $30 each</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Payment Method:  Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Please debit my:  VISA / MASTERCARD (CIRCLE)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE /

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

Office Use Only

Amount Received: $  

Date: / /

Initialled:  

Payment Method:  Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Credit Card