Principal’s Report

As the year draws rapidly to a close the school continues to be a hive of activity.

This week I have had the privilege of working through the process of selecting the 2012 school captains with the students in year five. All Grade 5 students had met with me and I had explained the importance of the role and each child was given a list of duties that maybe asked of the school captains (role description). The Grade 5’s then met again and nominated who they thought would make an appropriate school captain. The nominees were then asked to prepare a short speech to present to their peers, grade four students, class teachers and myself. This was carried out last Friday. I was just amazed by the high standard of all the presentations. On Tuesday I met with the nominees and completed a round table discussion. From there I am consulting with the class teachers and specialists and will make the final decision. All students in grade six next year will have a position of responsibility and I am looking forward to working closely with all the grade six students in 2012. We will announce the 2012 School Captains at our annual end of year Concert.

This year the Grade Six Graduation is taking a different format that was decided on in consultation with the students and parents. Preparation has been in full swing over the past weeks, culminating into tonight’s Grade Six Graduation ceremony. All Grade Six students will be enjoying a meal with past and present staff prepared by the Grade Six parents followed by the presentations. Parents, family and friends have been invited to attend. Following the formal side of the evening the Grade Six students will then enjoy a disco. Special thanks to Baimbridge College for the loan of their chairs and sound system and to the ‘Cally’ Hotel for allowing us to borrow their portable stage for the evening.

Next week of course, our school year culminates in our Concert nights and we will also be having our final assembly on Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. where we as a school we will say farewell to our Grade Six students. We will also be announcing the classes for 2012 at this assembly. Most families have very full programs with wind-ups, celebrations and secondary school speech nights as well. We are encouraging parents to co-operate in keeping children at home on Tuesday (between late night concerts) and on Thursday (teacher pack-up day) On the Tuesday, staff will be packing up and preparing for 2012 and attending meetings to pass on pupil records and discuss grade placements with your child’s next teacher.

On Thursday, it is a big clean up day where much setting up and organising for the new year is undertaken. School officially ends at 1.30 pm on Thursday 22nd December and resumes on Friday 3rd February 2012.

Next Wednesday student reports are distributed. To get the most accurate information from the reports the ‘Student Achievement’ section needs to be read in conjunction with ‘Further Learning’ section. It should also be noted that the rating dots on the summary page are often an aggregation of teacher marks. This is especially so in years 3 to 6. For instance the Information and Technology dot is created from 3 marks from the ICT teacher and 3 marks from the class teacher. ‘The Arts’ dot is from an aggregated score with input from the music, art and class teachers. The Health and Physical Education dot is from an aggregated score with input from the PE and class teachers.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the next week at the school concert nights and the final assembly.

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen

Pictures from Art
2011 SCHOOL CONCERT
Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th December

Concert Arrangements

All students will be required to attend both concerts

ARRANGEMENTS:

- 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.

Our school concert will be held twice again this year – once on Monday 19th December and a repeat performance on Tuesday 20th 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, 2012 Leadership positions and grade 6 Dux Awards and the Daniel Hodgson Award will be made at the conclusion of the Tuesday concert.

The final rehearsal at the PAC is on Monday 19th December during the day.

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

Parents of students in grades Prep, 1 & 2, will be able to collect their child on the Tuesday night after their item from the Function room at 8.00pm. Please complete the slip below and return it to school TOMORROW.

Ticket Sales

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

TICKET SALES - Tickets are $5 each.

Friday 16th December any tickets remaining may be purchased by any family – no ticket limits apply.

All tickets are to be purchased from the school office. No reservations will be made. Payment must be made at time of purchase.

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. The Order form is below. Orders and money need to be returned to school in an envelope clearly marked “CONCERT DVD” by Friday 16th December.

These will be available for collection in February 2012. If you will have no children attending Gray St next year, please call into the office in February to collect your ordered copy.

School Concert DVD Order Form

I, ________________________________ wish to purchase ___________copy(ies) of the school concert DVD and have enclosed $____

Eldest Child: __________________________

Year level in 2012: _________________

Business Hours phone number: _________________

Office Use Only

Amount Received: $____

Date: / / 

Initialled: __________________________

Payment Method: Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS
Junior Netball 2012

At the Hamilton Netball Association AGM held on Monday, a new junior netball co-ordinator stepped up and various roles and other duties were spread amongst teams, thus making it feasible to run a junior netball season in 2012.

The summer competition will commence Saturday 11th February 2012 and conclude 24th March (6 weeks).

Gray Street will be assisting with taking registrations during the first three weeks of netball and we are asking for parent volunteers to assist with this task. It should be no more than 2 hours receipting payments whilst the netball is being played in the first three weeks.

We hope to enter U10 and U12 teams subject to sufficient coaches and umpires.

Registration costs for the summer season are:

- U10 - $54 (VNA $30 + HNA $24) (VNA is payable only once per year)
- U12 - $64 (VNA $40 + HNA $24)

If your child wishes to play netball complete and return the Confirmation Notice sent home this week. This will assist us in gauging numbers before the end of 2011.

Notes are due to Ms Ferrier by next Wednesday 21 December.

Carolynn Murray & Lisa Ferrier

Art Report

Our FABULOUS and CLEVER grade six students have been extremely busy with hand-sewing their mini pillows. Maddi, Syrenna and Blake were very proud owners of their wonderful pillows. With minimal assistance, all three students achieved this task with flying colours!

The Art Exhibition!

*CONGRATULATIONS to all the talented and artistic students at Gray Street!*

The Art Exhibition with over 320 displayed self-portraits on both sides of the fencing was a ‘unique’ way of expressing the multi-talented art work from all the students. The prep to grade six students listened carefully to specific instructions on how to draw themselves and reflect who they are through the elements of colour, shape, tone, line and space. With a mirror on one hand and an oil pastel in the other, each began exploring, recognising and touching their facial features. Many were amazed with what they found! I feel very proud and privileged to have been a part of this learning journey with each student. The self-portraits took over four sessions to complete, which explains the level of achievement accomplished.

A HUGE thank you to all those that helped with preparing the self-portraits, and the art exhibition held last Monday night. I would personally like to thank Glen Murray for kindly donating the temporary fencing to show case the portraits. It has been very pleasing and rewarding to see all the students discussing their portraits with family and friends and recognising other students on display in a positive way. Hip-hip hooray to you all!

Last day for purchasing portraits is tomorrow. Portraits are $20 each. Please send money to the office in an envelope.

New Uniform Shop

New uniform will be available for collection/purchase on the following days before school returns in 2012:

- Monday 30th January 9.30 to 11.30
  2.00 to 4.00
- Tuesday 31st January 9.30 to 11.30

Book Box/Parent Payment Order Forms

All order forms must be returned to the office by Friday 16th December.

Any questions please see Leesa or Maree in the office.

Fundraising

A big thank-you to all the parents who have helped over the year with our various fundraising activities. These have included an Art Show, Ladies Night, Picture nights, Farmers’ Market, Hot dog days, Easter eggs, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day stall, Friday tubes. The list goes on. Thank-you to all those parents who give up their time to help throughout the year. Our school could not function without these unsung heroes. Please have a restful and safe Christmas.

Thank-you Liisa Beaton