Fiona and Harold from Life Education have been visiting us this week. The focus of the sessions has been about respecting the body and making wise choices. Life education approach is based on the concept that each child is special and individual – UNIQUE.

Pictured above: Grade 3B

DATE TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>Special Hot Lunch Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>Swimming starts for Grades 1 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd March</td>
<td>District Athletics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Firstly, I would like to introduce and extend a warm welcome to Mrs Caterina Wilkinson who is our newly appointed Visual Arts teacher for this year. Caterina comes to us with a wealth of experience and a real passion towards teaching art across all year levels. She will be a wonderful asset to the school.

There has been added excitement this week with the arrival of the Life Education Van and more especially for Harold the giraffe who is the mascot for the program. A little more information about the Life Education program, it is a registered charity, and not-for-profit organisation. The program provides positive sessions that develop the social skills and knowledge necessary for effective decision-making, communication, negotiation, peer resistance and refusal in drug-related situations. Life Education encourages respect for the uniqueness of each individual, and teaches the skills to assert confidently that individuality, especially in social settings with friends. The program aims, in partnership with schools and the community, to help reduce tobacco use and illegal drug use among young people; encourage them to avoid or delay alcohol use; and reduce the harms associated with any drug use. Life Education's primary schools programs which commenced in 1979 are delivered by 120 full-time and part-time educators using Life Education's national network of more than 90 mobile and static classrooms, complemented by direct delivery in school classrooms. Over 750,000 students participate in the program each year.

Life Education's programs are based on the latest research, and provide high quality drug education featuring role-play; social skills training; correction of common myths; and varied, fast-moving and interactive activities facilitated by excellent educators assisted by the latest multi-media technology. Life Education Australia believes prevention is better than cure!

Congratulations to our exciting swim team - Scott Nippress, Riley Tully, Billy Zebra-Hutchins, Carter Prendergast, Tessa Kohn, Eilish MacGillivray, Sophie Lean, Claire Dempsey, Elly Mclean, Lydia Ewing, Emily Goodman and Danielle Vankalken who successfully competed in the Zone Swimming Competition on Tuesday at Portland with all swimmers doing a personal best time in at least one event. Tessa had a special day gaining two firsts and a second, and taking out the age championship for the day. Tessa has qualified for three events in the Barwon South West Regional Swimming Championships in Geelong. The Under 13 girls relay team - Elly, Danielle, Lydia and Emily finished the day on a high with a win in the freestyle relay, and qualified for Geelong also. Thank you to our parents who transported the students to Portland and supported them throughout the day.

Tomorrow, Neve Claffey and Billy Zebra-Hutchins our school captains and Madeleine Bradbeer and Cameron Webb co leaders of the Junior School Council will be attending the National Young Leaders Day at the Melbourne Convention centre.

The Aims of National Young Leaders Day are to:

- Inspire students to make an immediate positive impact on their school
- Challenge students to consider the size and shape of their own impact on the world
- Encourage students to seek opportunities to develop their skills and potential
- Educate students on the mechanics of leadership and influence
- Promote a model of leadership that emphasises goal achievement of behalf of others as well as the individual
- Motivate students to be great leaders in their area of influence.
- Empower students with practical skills of balancing study, school commitments and social life as well as managing stress in these areas.

Guest speakers presenting to the students will include - Matt Preston, Tim Maddren & Stevie Nicholson, Commissioner Craig Lapsley, Victoria Fire Services Commissioner and Kate Leeming, the first person in history to cycle continuously from Africa’s most westerly to its most easterly point.
I am sure our student leadership team will find the day inspiring and we look forward to hearing about their experience on their return to school.

Just a reminder to regularly check your children’s hair for head lice. There have been a few cases reported to us in recent weeks. From my previous experience when children have had their hair tied up this has made a difference to the number of head lice cases in the school. A bonus is that hair tied up with school colours looks great too and prevents hair falling over eyes when children are working and playing at school.

Finally, we are currently searching for Paige English’s grade six rugby jumper if anyone may have seen a size ten jumper could you please return it to the Office. Thank you.

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen

‘Every child, every opportunity’

**HAMILTON DISTRICT TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Hamilton District Primary Schools Tennis Championships for children 12 years and under took place last Wednesday afternoon at the Hamilton Lawn tennis courts. The competition was of a very high standard with many games going to deuce and many sets going into a tie-breaker. The children are to be commended on their performances and wonderful display of sportsmanship. Congratulations to Lukas Egger and Chelsea Jeal who both came runners up on the day. Lukas and Chelsea will now go on to represent the school and the district in Warrnambool on Friday 11th March.

Sports committee
ART

Welcome to ART with Mrs Wilkinson. It has been wonderful to meet and teach amazing ‘up-coming’ artists this first week.

I’m looking forward to enhancing their knowledge and developing their art skills in art this year in a variety of ways, through line, shape/form, tone, texture and colour.

Just a reminder that you child is required to have their own smocks (old shirt is also suitable) as it will get very ‘messy’ at times, (names clearly labelled please).

WANTED: Newspapers and/or magazines.

Thanks and get creative.

Caterina Wilkinson

SWIMMING – GRADES 1 & 6

Students in grades 1 & 6 will start their swimming program on Monday 7th March. Below is the swimming timetable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Grade 6 Swim</th>
<th>Grade 1 Swim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22nd March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICES HANDED OUT THIS WEEK

023 - 2011 Grade 5 & 6 Choir
Junior Netball News

Our netball season has started extremely well with reports from all of our coaches that players are demonstrating good skills and sportsmanship. A very big thank you to our coaches and assistant coaches for 2011 who include Katelyn and Sarah Millard (Wallabies), Michelle Ahearn and Kym Sparrow (Emus), Deena Monsen (Kangaroos) and Sharon Donehew and Lisa Ferrier (Echidnas).

Please note this Saturday is round 4 and all fees must be paid prior to players playing their fourth game. If players play without paying, teams will be penalised and points deducted resulting in ladder positions being affected.

A reminder that players must notify their coaches if they are unavailable to play.

Carolynn Murray & Lisa Ferrier
Netball 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRAW ROUND 4 5TH March</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.30AM</td>
<td>College Rubies v Gray St Emus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.30AM</td>
<td>St Mary's White v Gray St Wallabies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.30AM</td>
<td>St Mary's Blue v Gray St Echidnas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.30AM</td>
<td>College Owls v Gray St Kangaroos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ZONE SWIMMING

On Tuesday students participated at the Division Swimming Sports in Portland.

All kids had a fantastic day, with all doing a personal Best time in at least 1 event.

Tessa had a good day with 2 firsts and a second, and taking out the age championship for the day. She has qualified for three events for the Barwon South West Regional Swimming Championships in Geelong.

The under 13 girls freestyle team consisting of Elly, Danielle, Lydia and Emily finished off the day with a win and qualified for Geelong.

Cheers
Dean
ATHLETIC SPORTS – WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH

On Wednesday 16\textsuperscript{th} March the Athletic Sports will be held at Pedrina Park (North Boundary Road). All students in grade one to grade 6 will participate in these sports. (\textbf{Prep students will participate in the afternoon session but will participate in field events on Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} March at school – see more information on the next page.})

The day begins at 9.30am and concludes around 3pm. Students in grade 1 to 6 are bussed to Pedrina Park leaving school at 9.10am. Students participate in a variety of athletic sports. The program is attached to this week’s newsletter.

Students in grade 1 to grade 6 will participate in the morning field event sessions (ie: long jump, high jump, shot put, discus).

Prep students will be bussed to Pedrina park at 11.10am and will join students in grades 1 to grade 6 in track activities (ie: sprints, hurdles and relays).

If you would like to take your children home with you at the end of the day directly from the sports, (approximately 3.00pm) the form below \textbf{must be returned to the office by Friday 11\textsuperscript{th} March. Students who have not returned their forms must return to school for dismissal at 3.30pm. Arrangements CANNOT be changed on the day.}

\textbf{IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION}

Students are not permitted to leave until the conclusion of the day, unless previous written notification has been received at the office or the Teacher responsible for First Aid (Mrs Donovan) has made contact with the parents.

Students need to bring:
- morning tea and lunch (food to ‘graze’ on)
- drinks
- school hat
- sunscreen
- a coat
- a safety pin for ribbons

We hope to see as many parents, grandparents and friends as possible on the day.

\textbf{Sports Committee}

\begin{center}
\textbf{ATHLETIC SPORTS COLLECTION OF STUDENTS}
\end{center}

I, \textbf{…………………………………………} will be collecting my child/ren from Pedrina Park on Wednesday 16\textsuperscript{th} March, at the completion of the Athletic Sports.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
NAME & GRADE \\
\hline
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\hline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

\textbf{…………………………………………} \\
\textbf{Date: / /2011}

Signed
PREP STUDENTS ATHLETIC DAY

Prep students will complete their field events at school on Tuesday 8\(^{th}\) March starting at 2.00pm and finishing approximately 3.15pm. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parent helpers are required, if you are able to help and hold a Working With Children Check please let Ms Ferrier or Mrs Harms know.

On Wednesday 16\(^{th}\) March they will go up by bus to Pedrina Park to the Official Athletics Day at 11:10 am to take part in the track events during the afternoon. The children will take their school bags and have their lunch with the other children in their house team. They will be able to be collected from the sports or return by bus to the school as per the rest of the school children.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

In recent times the Victorian Government introduced a new checking system to help protect children under 18 from physical or sexual harm. The Working With Children Check creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. Applicants are checked to make sure their record does not include any criminal offences specified in the Act or findings by a specified professional disciplinary body (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching).

Benefits of the Check include ongoing checking of a person’s criminal record, providing organizations such as schools with the ability to verify a check at any time.

From our school’s point all school volunteers must have a current Working With Children Check. School volunteers can include but is not limited to: parent helpers on camps and excursions, parents who take part in our meals on wheels program, school sporting coaches, parents who hear reading.

Working With Children Check application forms are available from the Post Office. These Checks are provided at no cost to volunteer applicants.

ATHLETICS SPORTS – Wednesday 16\(^{th}\) March

We require parent assistance for the morning of our Athletic Sports Day on Wednesday 16\(^{th}\) March. (Parent volunteers must have a Working With Children Check – see above and attached information). If you could assist please complete the form below and return to the office by WEDNESDAY 9\(^{th}\) MARCH.

Thank you

.........................................................................................................................................................

ATHLETIC SPORTS – PARENT HELPERS

I, ................................................ will be able to help on the morning of Wednesday 16\(^{th}\) March at the Athletic Sports Day.

Phone Number: ..............................

Eldest Child ................................. Class.......................
Fundraising - Term 1

Bulbs  -  If you wish to purchase bulbs, please complete the order form in the catalogue and return money and form in a clearly marked envelope - BULBS. All forms and money must be returned to school by Tomorrow Friday 4th March.

FROZEN TUBES  $1 every Friday

SPECIAL HOT LUNCH DAY – TOMORROW FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
Anyone able to help with lunch tomorrow please come to school at 12 noon. Thank you.
Frozen Tubes will be for sale during lunch time.

NEXT FUNDRAISING MEETING
TUESDAY 22ND MARCH AT 7PM in the staffroom.
All Welcome.

GIANT EASTER RAFFLE

The Gray St Giant Easter Raffle will be held again this term.

It would be appreciated if each family would donate some Easter Eggs for the raffle. Please send all donations to the office. The more donations the more prizes.
Raffle books will be distributed to the eldest child with the newsletter next week.
Raffle tickets are 50¢ each. There is a prize for the family that sells the most raffle books.
Raffle books and money are due back to the office by Thursday 24th March.
The raffle will be drawn on Friday 1st April.
One day, I was bored. We had nothing to do. My dogs were even bored. Not Fun !!!!!!!
I suggested that we go to the beach. Mum said, “Yes.”
I went, “Wah-hoo!”
So we got on our togs and we were on our way.
I am very, very impatient. Not a lot of people are as impatient as I am because if you are as well, then you are really, really impatient. When it’s not even an hour, I am whingeing, “Are we there yet? Are we there yet?” Finally, we were there – at the beach. I decided to walk my dogs down to the water. I threw the tennis ball into the water. The dogs bolted into the water, too. The dogs and I were having so much fun. We didn’t realize it was lunch time. We kept playing and playing. Eventually, Mum called us over to have lunch. We got Red Rooster. I love Red Rooster but we don’t have one in Hamilton. We went back to the beach but the dogs were puffed. My brother and I had heaps of energy so we went swimming. Most of the time, we played Tiggy with the waves. The waves were It. We usually are very, very good at it. We called out, “Ha ha ha!” Mum and Dad called us to go home. We asked, “5 more minutes?”
After 5 minutes, Mum said, “Come on, you two.”
On the way home, I said to Dad, “Let’s go fishing tomorrow.”
You can’t imagine how that went. Oh! The horror!

By Aaron

A Day at The Beach by Sharney

It was a beautiful day and I decided to go to the beach. I thought it would be quick but it did not seem quick at all because I was so excited. At the beach I went in the water. It was cold at first but I dived in and I got used to it. While I was in the water Mum was sitting under the umbrella. I was having fun but then I did not know where I was.

I had the best day ever because Dad said it was going to be a hot day, so we all went to the beach. I went on a boat. Dad had a nap. My brother, Henry had a run.
Dad got up and said, “Let’s get an ice-cream.”
“Okay,” said Henry.
After the ice-cream we went to the park. We had fun. We went home. Henry and I went to bed.

By Michael

“Den den den dent, den dent.”
The shark came up. We were so scared that we jumped out of our pants! And the shark nearly ate us but we jumped up and we put a rope around its mouth and we rode it to shore and we won a trophy!!

By Carter
TABLE TENNIS FOR JUNIORS
Commencing Tuesday 8th March
GIRLS AND BOYS
9—15 years of age
Hamilton Leisure and Aquatic Centre
6.45pm to 8.15pm
Nightly playing fee: $3.00 per session
Annual Club Membership: $25.00
Children are asked to wear sporting attire including white soled sports shoes.
Playing bats are available for those without their equipment.
All supervisors have a current working with children check.
Further details: please phone Darryl Lacey 5571 1734 or Peter Humphries 5572 3413

CYBER SAFETY PARENT & COMMUNITY FORUM
FREE FORUM - Hamilton PAC at 7pm on Tuesday March 15

If you have ever wondered just how safe your child is on the internet; how to monitor their use of technology, or worried that your child was getting bullied in cyber space then help is now at hand. You are invited to attend the Staying Safe in Cyber Space parent and community forum.

The free forum will be held at Hamilton PAC at 7pm on Tuesday March 15, led by expert, Brett Lee from the Internet Education and Safety Service.

Brett Lee worked as a Queensland Police Officer for 22 years, 16 of those as a Detective predominantly in the field of Child Exploitation. In his last five years of service, he was a specialist in the field of undercover internet child exploitation investigations. Having spent thousands of hours as a fictitious child on the internet, Brett knows that internet dangers are real.

In 2010 Brett presented at over 100 primary and secondary schools in Australia and New Zealand, sharing his knowledge and giving the students vital information to keep themselves safe on line. Student sessions are being held during the day for both primary and secondary students.

We are fortunate to have Mr. Lee also provide this essential information to parents, teachers and community members. In the evening forum, Brett presents a compelling presentation around children and Cyber Safety, providing simple strategies for parents and teachers to keep all children safe when using mobile phones and the internet. The evening will include a panel of local representatives from Victoria Police, education, information technology and mental health professionals who will share their insights with parents on how to better manage internet safety and cyber bullying. Please consider attending this free event: Tuesday, March 15 Hamilton PAC, Brown St. starting at 7pm.

Staying Safe in Cyber Space was funded by School Focused Youth Service and the evening forum is being hosted by Gray Street Primary School. A similar program will also be conducted in Portland, Warrnambool and Corangamite Shire. For further information please contact Julie Drechsler on 5551 8557, School Focused Youth Services Coordinator.