ATHLETIC SPORTS

Pictured above left to right: House Captains, Paige English (Nigretta), Carter Prendergast (Wannon, Jake Baker-O’Keefe (Grange) and Olivia Jones (Glenelg) all hope their house wins the Athletic Sports next Wednesday.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd March</td>
<td>District Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1 Dismissal 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th April</td>
<td>First Day Term 2</td>
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www.hamilton-ps-grayst.vic.edu.au
ADDRESS 42 Gray Street, Hamilton 3300 Victoria, Australia TEL 03 5571 9295 FAX 03 5571 1315 EMAIL Hamilton.ps.gray@edumail.vic.gov.au
Another busy week is drawing to a close at Gray St. The school has been a hive of activity with the Life Education Van in full swing and the Grade 1 and 6 students starting their swimming program. Student’s have also been busily practising for the upcoming House Athletics Sports.

This week I was informed that former student Corey Ogle, has been selected to play cricket for the Under 19 Australian Touring Side travelling to Dubai in April. We congratulate Corey for his outstanding achievements so far and wish him all the very best for the upcoming tour in Dubai.

As we are now using the new flexible learning area for lessons up to 3.30 p.m. we are asking all parents to wait outside at the exit door nearest to your child’s classroom this will ensure that valuable learning time is not being interrupted. Thank you for your anticipated support with this.

Finally, I have included an outstanding piece of writing by one of our talented grade 5 students Brent McLaren to share with you.

Dear Mum and Dad,

Finally we got off that stinking old boat. I was freezing cold and I felt really scared and frightened. I was starving for the whole trip on the boat because they didn’t feed us much and the others got all the food before me. The island looked like it was deserted. It looked like no one had been living there for many years.

I felt two of the convicts put their hands on my shoulders, They were going mad and looking for a fight. I was too little and felt ill and weak after the long journey on the ship so I didn’t want to fight back. So I went and hid behind a big rock, shaking with fear.

I thought back to the eight months I’d spent on that boat. There was a big thunderstorm and the boat shook like it was out of control. I couldn’t get out of my cell and the big waves splashed me and I got all wet. There was lightening and big massive thunder and it was very noisy. Everyone was yelling for freedom. I was very scared of the dark and the big massive storm. I was really happy when we reached the land.

They plan to live here on the island but I want to get out of here. First off I will find some food and then I will build a raft and try and then find my way home. I hope to see you again,

From your boy, Brent.
The current Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School Council met for the last time this year on the 7th of March. I am thrilled to report that Jim Bailey and I were returned to the school council and we welcome new parent councillor Simon McKinley. Simon has a daughter in prep. Kerrie Mc Fadden will also return as the teacher representative. I would also like to acknowledge a new parent to the school in Steven Livingstone who has volunteered his time to be involved with the education sub committee. We look forward to an election of officer bearers at the next meeting in April. However I am pleased to once again be working with my fellow councillors towards the betterment of our children’s future at Gray Street. For those new to the school a full list of the School Councillors are located on our website www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au. We would be very pleased to hear any issues you wish to raise.

It is pleasing to see the BER building project finally come to fruition after the disruptions to the school that occurred during 2010. We are now awaiting final approval and a certificate of occupancy. This will allow us to finally use the new toilets and we will say goodbye to the portable toilets for good!

We have also taken the opportunity to repaint the majority of the classrooms. I must acknowledge the patience of our staff as we complete this project, the results however will be long lasting and make a significant difference to the presentation of our school. Landscaping around the new toilet and canteen entrance has also been completed. We will be looking to open the new building sometime in May and we would welcome any interested parents to join our organising sub committee.

Our Outside School Hours Care commenced at the beginning of term and is providing much needed care to Primary school aged children in Hamilton. We have had a modest start with 22 children enrolled in the service to date. Our application for approval under Family Assistance Law has now been granted and we can now offer our service with full Child Care Benefits (CCB). Families using the service that qualify for CCB will now only be invoiced for the gap amount which is the portion of our fee that parents can not claim as Child Care Benefit. With school holidays fast approaching I would encourage all families who maybe considering care for their children during the vacation to enrol and secure their place as the school holidays program looks fantastic.
Council took the opportunity to invite senior teachers Anthony Hill and Lisa Speed to our meeting to discuss the school’s swimming program and house swimming sports. We were grateful to them both for providing a greater understanding to council of the running of both programs and we were also pleased to explore a number of ways in which to enhance the swimming sports.

With the changes of classroom use and the senior students now residing in the old infants building, it has been noted that there has been a change to the patterns of use to the Drop and Go Zone located in Kennedy Street. Council resolved to write to Southern Grampians Shire to seek a second Drop and Go Zone towards the top of the Kennedy St and French St corner. The Drop and Go Zone is activated between 8.00am – 4pm. It is designed for a fast pick up or drop off of your children safely without the need to stop and park your vehicle. The proposed second Drop and Go Zone will further assist in the safe arrival and departure of our students. If you have any comments in relation to this action please feel free to contact one of our School Councillors or Principal Helen Freeman for more information.

Our fundraising committee has met for the first time this year with a full year of activities planned. It is fantastic to welcome new parents to this committee as this year more than ever the additional funds raised will be invaluable to enhance our school’s resources.

A priority of School Council projects for the year were also considered including the appointment of Parent Class Representatives for each grade, implementation of the Ultranet, a review of school uniform, an audit and review of internal school signage needs and a review of current school policies. A four yearly review of the school’s strategic plan will also be conducted this year which will involve consultation with the whole school community.

As you can see it is an exciting year of activities planned as we look to consolidate on last year’s efforts and BER building activities. As always please feel free to contact any one of the members of school council for any further information.

Can I also take this opportunity to recommend your attendance at a Cyber Safety Parent Forum on Tuesday 15th March at 7pm at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre in Brown Street. This forum will provide information to parents on internet safety and addressing Cyberspace bullying. Practical information covering Facebook, MSN Messenger, Frostwire (free music), predator methodologies, social networking, protective and preventative safety measures will be addressed. The session will be conducted by former QLD Police Detective, Brett Lee who worked predominately in the field of Child Exploitation and undercover internet child exploitation investigations.

Cheers
Hugh Koch (Ted’s Dad)
President
YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

On Friday the 4th of February, Madeleine, Cameron, Billy and myself made our way to the Melbourne Convention Centre for the Annual Young Leaders Conference. Over 4000 kids from all over Victoria joined us for the privilege of watching and listening to six very inspirational leaders including Victoria’s Fire Commissioner Craig Lapsley, Kate Leeming who rode a bicycle across Africa and the first female to cycle across Russia as well, Stevie and Tim from Hi-5 and famous food critic Matt Preston.

This was an amazing experience for us all and we learnt so many things to improve our leadership. Everyone shared inspirational life stories and made us realise how fortunate we are.

By Neve Claffey

SWIMMING – GRADES 1 & 6

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Grade 6 Swim</th>
<th>Grade 1 Swim</th>
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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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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15th March</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18th March</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>12.30 – 1.30</td>
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Wanted

Sarah Maclean and Elise Couchman would appreciate donations of buttons, thread and wool for an exciting Grade 5 Sewing Project! Please drop any donations to the office.

Thank you

HOW MANY JELLY BEANS IN THE JAR – RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

Tomorrow the Schools Relay for Life team “Rays Revellers” will be holding a “how many jelly beans in the jar” competition.

Students (and parents) are welcome to participate. Cost $1 for two guesses.

Deb Hicks will be taking guesses in the office from 9.00am tomorrow and into next week. Winner will be announced at Assembly on Friday 18th March.
MASSIVE SECOND HAND SCHOOL CLOTHES SALE
ONE DAY ONLY

Tomorrow - Friday 11\textsuperscript{th} March
9.00am to 12.00noon and then 3.30pm to 4.00pm
New Open Learning Area
(old quadrangle off the main office)

Cheap, cheap, cheap
Prices start from $1

Windcheaters, polo shirts, shorts, summer dresses,
school shoes, football boots,
girls winter pants, pinafores and skirts etc
All Must Go!!!

Junior Netball News

There will be no netball this Saturday due to the Long Weekend.

Active After School Sports Program

Next week the Active After School Sports program will be cancelled for both the Monday and Wednesday sessions. Lacrosse will fall on Monday, which is the Labour Day holiday while Athletics would be directly after the Gray St Athletics Day. We are currently in discussion with the coaches to make up the sessions early next term.

Regards,
Raquel Potter
Active After School Sports Coordinator
ATHLETIC SPORTS – WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH

On Wednesday 16th 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.

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 has been handed out today with 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 must be returned to the office by Friday 11th March. Students who have not returned their forms must return to school for dismissal at 3.30pm. Arrangements CANNOT be changed on the day.

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.

Sports Committee

ATHLETIC SPORTS COLLECTION OF STUDENTS

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

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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Date: / /2011

Signed
FUNDRAISING - TERM 1

FROZEN TUBES $1 every Friday

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 have been handed out today to the eldest child.

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.

MORE PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
ATHLETICS SPORTS – Wednesday 16th March

Thank you to the parents that have already offered their time on the morning of the Athletic Sports. We require AT LEAST another 10 parent helpers on the morning of our Athletic Sports Day on Wednesday 16th March. If you could assist please complete the form below and return to the office by TOMORROW FRIDAY 11TH MARCH

Thank you

ATHLETIC SPORTS – PARENT HELPERS

I, ........................................ will be able to help on the morning of Wednesday 16TH March at the Athletic Sports Day.

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

Eldest Child .................................. Class......................
OSHC

The staff and children have taken advantage of wonderful weather in February, with outdoor activities, like catching butterflies, which help develop an understanding of our wonderful diverse environment.

March brought the beginning of Autumn and a wonderful amount of coloured leaves. So instead of raking them, the children in OSHC used their creative minds designing a colourful display of leaves and leaf prints which has brightened up our room.

This week with national sea week the children have created a water display adding to it daily with a different sea creature that the children have made. We will finish up this theme by making mock fish on Friday.

All the children enjoyed Pancake Day. As it gave us the opportunity to try out this wonderful treat and test our culinary skills.

International Women Day and Australian Women’s History month helped the children look at significant women in their lives. For most of the children that was their mum.

We continue to celebrate international and national themes all through this month with many exciting activities to come.

As the coordinator I am excited the way the children have participated in all the activities and created many of their own. We have seen the creation of princesses, kings, dragons with many more characters to come I am sure.

Coordinator
Rosemary

AUSKICK REGISTRATION DAY

NAB HAMILTON AUSKICK
Registration Day 2011 Melville Oval Grandstand
Tuesday March 29 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Cost $55 pp
Contact Mal Sharp, Auskick Coordinator mobile 0419 874535
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.

Demons Hockey Club
If you are interested in playing hockey come along to our Registration Night

At ‘the Cally’
Tuesday 15th March
Between 3.30—5.30pm