Principal’s Report

All the comments by the Minister for Education Martin Dixon’ last Thursday when he visited Gray St centred on ‘this is a great school’.

He made particular mention of the students and the way they were enthusiastically engaged in their learning and also the stimulating learning environment that is provided for the students. The timing of the visit allowed for the Ministers to participate for a short time in an Italian lesson with the Preps. We are one of the school’s that was referred to in an article in the Sunday Age on February 5 Schools Join Forces to Rescue Languages. We are part of the new innovative cluster arrangement this year that has enabled us to teach a core subject as in our case Art for our prep students in a second language as part of an ‘immersion program’ that is the first of its kind in the state.

Our school leaders, Georgia, Cooper, Sophie and Dylan did an outstanding job as the school ambassadors. They had prepared some probing questions for the Minister which he enjoyed answering over afternoon tea.

Monday we had our ‘Know your Ipad’ night unfortunately we did not have many people able to attend but those who did found it extremely worthwhile. The ‘Apple Ipad Expert’ organised by Grangeburn Office and IT Supplies was a wealth of knowledge and was only too happy to answer individual questions. Thank you to the Gray St Learning Community Steering Committee for organising this great opportunity.

On Tuesday night I attended the first fundraising meeting for the year, it was great to catch up again and be swept up with the enthusiasm the mums show planning events for the year. Kim Sparrow has volunteered to sell the tubes again at Friday lunch from the canteen until the end of Term.

The Easter Raffle is also in full swing with many, many books already sold and the donations of eggs are coming in at a steady rate. You have until the 16th March to have donations to the office so that they can be wrapped and ready to go for the big draw on Friday 23rd March at assembly. Thank you to all our families who have donated eggs so far. It never ceases to amaze me the passion and enthusiasm shown by this great group of mums, working together with the school community to raise funds for the school.

Next week’s calendar is looking full of exciting events with the arrival on Monday of the Life Education Van, especially for Harold the giraffe who is the mascot for the program. A little more information about the Life Education program, it 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 appropriate to the year level.

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!

As well as the Life Education program we have our Athletics Sports on Wednesday at Pedrina Park. This always is a highlight in the school calendar. The Preps on Tuesday had their opportunity to show their athletic prowess in their ‘special field events’ morning. They will be joining the rest of the school at Pedrina Park around lunchtime on Wednesday to join in the track events. I look forward to seeing as many parents, carers, grandparents and friends there to cheer our athletes on for their respective House.

Finally, we have had a good response to the Ballot for the vacant positions on School Council, tomorrow is the final day that we can accept your vote so if you could return your ballot paper to the Office by 4.00 p.m. tomorrow that would greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Helen
Athletics Sports – Wednesday 7th March

On Wednesday 7th 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. Prep students will participate in the afternoon session.

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 will be attached to next 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 notice sent home today with every student must be returned to the class teacher by Friday 2nd March. Students who have not returned their forms will return to school for dismissal at 3.30pm. Arrangements CANNOT be changed on the day.

Students are not permitted to leave before the Athletic Sports have concluded.

Students need to bring:
- Morning Tea and Lunch (food to ‘graze’ on)
- Drinks
- School Hat
- Sunscreen
- A coat
- A safety pin for ribbons

All permission notes in regards to the Athletic Sports must be returned to class teachers by Tomorrow – 2nd March

Prep/Grade 1 Field Events

On Tuesday the Prep and younger Grade 1 students competed for house points in shot put, discus, long jump and high jump. It was wonderful to see them all trying their best and striving to reach the highest standard possible. The students came away from the morning with an assortment of ribbons and exciting tales to tell.

It was also great to see so many parents attend. A big thank you goes out to the many parents who assisted on the day. Every bit of assistance, big or small, helps us immensely. So if you were a ribbon pinner, shot put returner, child arranger, point writer, sand raker, paparazzi or part of the cheer squad, thank you!

Junior Netball 2012

Draw for Saturday 1st March

Under 12
College Owls v St Mary’s Red
Gray Street Hotshots v Gray St Aces
Gray St Coasters v Dunkeld
Hamilton North Dragons v St Mary’s Blue

Under 10
North Allstars v North Gems
College Rubies v St Mary’s White
College Sapphires v Gray Street Smarties
Gray Street M&M’s – Bye

NO NETBALL 10th March 2012 DUE TO LONG WEEKEND HOLIDAY

Carolynn Murray & Sheree McGinley
Netball 2012

Parent Helpers required for Athletic Sports

We require parent assistance for the morning and the afternoon of our Athletic Sports Day on Wednesday 7th March. (Parent volunteers must have a Working With Children Check – see above information). If you could assist please complete the form below and return to the office by TOMORROW – Friday 2nd March.

Thank you

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

Athletic Sports – Parent Helpers

Parent Name: ...........................................

☐ Am able to help the morning of the Athletic Sports Day

☐ Am able to help the afternoon of the Athletic Sports Day

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

Eldest Child ...........................................  Grade.............
Fundraising

Tubes
Frozen tubes will be for sale for $1 from the canteen every Friday, starting tomorrow. Please remember to bring your dollar.

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 by Friday 16th April. The more donations the more prizes.

Raffle books were distributed to the eldest child last 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 Wednesday 21st March.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 23rd March.

Pauls Collect a Cap
A reminder our school is collecting Pauls Collect a Caps. All money raised will go to purchasing items for the canteen.

Photography Competition

‘In Focus - Celebrating Farm Life’ a photographic competition sponsored WDH and Farmer’s Health.

Theme 7 - Images of farm life is a Primary school student category (1st - $100, 2nd - $50, 3rd - $30)

The photography competition is free and open to all.

All entries must be received by Sunday 1st August, 2012.

Only one entry will be permitted in each eligible theme and category.

Only photos not previously entered in a photography competition may be submitted.

Photos must be submitted digitally either on a CD/USB drive or via the website www.farmerhealth.org.au

All photos must be accompanied by:

i. A brief title/caption (20 words or less)

ii. An explanation of how the photo fits the theme (100 words or less)

For further information see Mrs McFadden or the poster in the Open Learning Area.

Patient In Casual Clothes Day”
To support the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal the Social Service Committee is holding a “Patient in Casual Clothes Day” on Friday 23rd March.

Students are asked to wear casual clothes along with “Patient” attire - sling, bandage, bandaid, crutches etc.

Envelopes for donations were sent home today.

Conveyance Allowance
To be eligible, students must live in regional and rural Victoria and live more than 4.8km from their nearest appropriate government school, non-government school or free bus service. For further information please contact Maree or Leesa at the office.