Dates to remember
May 4 – May 11
Swimming Grades 1 & 2
May 10
Gray St Cross Country
MSO Gr P – 4
May 15
NAPLAN Testing
May 16
NAPLAN Testing
HDSA Cross Country
May 17
NAPLAN Testing
May 21 – May 25
Education Week
May 21 – June 1
Swimming Grade 3 & 4
June 4 – June 8
Eisteddfod
June 7
The Magic Flute Production
Gr P – 6

Notices handed out this Week
022 – 2012
Cross Country – Gr 3 – 6
023 – 2012
Meals on Wheels – Gr 5 & 6

Principal’s Report

Another busy week draws to a close at Gray St.

On Tuesday we had approximately ninety people attend the Agency Forum organised by the Brophy Organisation at Gray St in the open learning area. We had many positive comments not only about the space but the displays of students work both in the area and the Prep and Grade Two classrooms.

Next Wednesday we have two of our teachers volunteering their expertise to other teachers in the network. Lisa Ferrier in Prep and Natalie Quinn in Grade 6 with support from Vicki Renick, a well known Literacy Consultant, are offering a demonstration lesson in writing. Good luck to Prep A and 6B for this great learning opportunity.

We welcomed this week our new Italian Teacher Assistant, Miss Ilaria Daneluz who will be working with Mr Marco Antonelli our Italian teacher running our successful language program with the preps.

The Eisteddfod is fast approaching and all students involved are busily practising. We are all looking forward to this special event in June.

The canteen has really started to take off with the number of orders increasing. Unfortunately we do not have enough volunteers as yet and as I mentioned in an earlier newsletter the success of the canteen depends on this volunteer support. Please if you are able to offer some time could you please contact Lyn through the school office. Thank you.

On Tuesday we had a great meeting of our new Class Representatives. Tomorrow you will receive a letter outlining this new initiative. Please look out for it in the school bag tomorrow afternoon.

Congratulations to Rory Gill and Ben Annett who are heading to Geelong tomorrow for the Team Vic State Footy trials, we wish them all the very best.

Finally, we have our School Cross Country for students in Grade 3 to 6 next Thursday afternoon at the Hamilton Lake. Parents and grandparents are most welcome to come and support the students in this challenging event.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen
School Council
President’s Report

In my first report for 2012, I would like to thank my fellow school councilors for allowing me the opportunity to again lead a passionate and enthusiastic school council for 2012. In the last few years we have been able to plan and develop numerous projects and address many issues within the school – I am thrilled to be able to continue that work this year. School council met on Monday night with a full agenda to explore. It was our first fully attended meeting for a few months and we are very pleased to welcome new councilors, Bonita O’Brien and Christine Jeal to School Council.

We have again determined to utilise a system of working groups to assist and drive the School Council agenda. The Education Committee led by Susan Bradbeer provided an update on the priorities for the rest of the year. These include the development of a customer service policy, further refinement of the newsletter, implementation and transition to a new uniform, finalization of parent class representatives, healthy food and healthy eating options at the newly opened canteen and further work on the school Ultranet.

Our Facilities Committee has also been preparing for the year ahead with a presentation to School Council of two key projects from the Master Plan. One of the most visible projects that requires urgent attention is the recladding and insulation of the Music Centre. Council moved to allocate $2000 towards the material costs of this project and will now seek further assistance from our tradesman parents to assist with the labour. The second project presented to council was the planting of a shrub hedge around the perimeter of the school to soften the current fencing on the Gray and Kennedy St boundaries. The use of a hardy variety of shrub called muehlenbeckia will cover 194 metres and require the planting of more than 1650 plants. $3500 was allocated to this project, with planting planned to take place in Spring. It is expected that this robust and quick growing species will provide excellent coverage within 2 years. Further design work and costing will also be developed for additional elements of the Master plan so that we can quickly move to complete our priority list. We also thank Julie Graham for taking over the coordination of the vegetable patch in the terraces gardens near the oval.

Congratulations to our Fundraising committee for their efforts in first term. Look out for the annual Mother’s Day Stall on Friday 11 May and the huge Farmer’s Market 21 June. Their efforts are essential to further our landscaping master plan and support the other activities of the school.

We were pleased to receive our first report from the Junior School Council. Their plan to coordinate the Paul’s Collect – a – Cap fund raiser is fantastic and we have asked Mrs Freeman to investigate how we can prevent the toilet paper feeling like “sandpaper”!

Our Principal has had a busy start to the term and was thrilled to report the return of the Canteen after more than a four year absence. Council is not out to make a profit but the canteen must break even to maintain this service for our students and families. We are delighted to welcome Lyn Battista as manager of the Canteen and remind the school community that the Canteen will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday for lunch orders and counter sales at recess and lunchtime.

Helen has also reported on a number of professional development and information sessions that she has attended as the school prepares for the transition to “Safe and Caring Schools – Student Support Services”. This model will increase local school autonomy through changes to the governance and service delivery and we will rely strongly on Helen’s guidance on this matter as it is implemented.

Thank you to those parents who have elected to support the school community by acting as Class Representatives. Council feels that this is a vital initiative in providing a valuable resource to both parents and teachers that will further strengthen our school community.

There is a big term ahead including the Hamilton Eisteddfod 4th-8th of June. As we head into the season of shorter days and longer nights, keep warm and enjoy the rest of term two.

Cheers
Hugh Koch
School Council President and Ted’s Dad

Simon McKinley, Helen and I have also been working on submitting a funding application for a Solar Schools Grant. We have been developing a project to reduce our electricity costs through the retro fitting of florescent light tubes with lower wattage globes and the capping of our ceiling air vents to prevent winter heat loss. There are more than 500 florescent lights within the school so the saving could be remarkable not to mention the savings in energy costs. Currently it costs the school more than $24,000 annually in electricity however our entitlement from the department is only $17,000. It is envisaged that these measures will assist in reducing this cost.

Above: Chloe and Kealy rehearsing for the Eisteddfod.
**Fundraising**

Please, please send in your gifts for Mother’s Day. We are still really short of pressies for our stall and don’t want to upset children or mums on their special day. If you are able to help with wrapping gifts this Friday please come to the art room after assembly. Last Friday there was a great turnout of helpers and this made the job so easy! Thank-you for all your help.

Friday 11th May is the Mother’s Day stall. Children can bring in from $3 - $5 to spend on this day. The children love going shopping for their gifts.

There is a farmers market and movie events arranged for later in the term, so keep an eye on the newsletter.

Liisa Beaton

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**Grade 6 & Prep, Parents & Students, Meet & Greet**

We are hoping to hold a “Meet & Greet” whereby the parents of our Prep students get to meet their child's buddy & parents.

The proposed date is the afternoon of Sunday June 17th, at Gray St, so keep this date free for a cuppa and a chat.

More info to follow.

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**Gray St Learning Community**

You are invited – to attend “I'm not a target!” – a family workshop on bullying issues to be run by Muhkter Kadiri at Gray Street school stadium on Saturday 26 May 2012 from 2pm – 4pm.

Bring the family, bring a plate of afternoon tea to share afterwards, BYO drinks. All welcome. This will be an interesting and informative event. Mark it on your calendars now!

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**Swimming**

Students in Grade 1 & 2 will continue swimming tomorrow and all next week.

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**Cross Country**

A notice was sent home earlier this week with all students in grades 3 to 6 in regards to the cross country.

Please return signed permission forms and medical forms to the class teacher by Friday 4th May.

The cross country will be held on Thursday 10th May and students in grades 3 – 6 will be collected at 2pm to travel to the Lake. The cross country run starts Ballarat Road side of the Lake and finishes at the Boat Shed area.

Students will then be bussed back to school at approximately 3pm.

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**Meals On Wheels**

Grade 5 & 6 Students

Students in grade 5 & 6 participate in Meals on Wheels every Friday for Term 2 & 3.

A notice was sent home earlier this week with all students in grades 5 and 6 in regards to the Meals on Wheels program.

Please return signed permission forms to the class teacher by Friday 4th May.

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**Volunteer Drivers**

Friday 4th May

Kristi Brook & Mark Phillips

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**Canteen**

Canteen operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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**Earn & Learn**

We’re thrilled to announce that Woolworths Earn & Learn is back for 2012 and it’s now easier than ever to participate and receive valuable resources for your school.

It's simple to participate: from the 9th May, when parents shop at Woolworths they collect stickers from the checkout operator and place them on sticker cards. There’ll be 1 sticker for every $10 spent* (*excludes liquor, cigarettes, and gift cards.)

Once your sticker card is full please send to your child’s grade. Each grade will get to ‘spend’ their Earn and Learn points in July.

Sticker cards will be sent out with next week’s newsletter.

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**Pauls Collect a Cap**

This term we are holding a competition to see which grade can collect the most caps in 10 weeks. The grade with the most caps per students will win a fantastic morning tea!!

If you have any caps at home please bring them to your classroom in a plastic bag, marked clearly with the student’s name, grade and how many caps.