Principal’s Report

It’s been a very busy fortnight since the last newsletter was distributed.

The Eisteddfod last week was again a real highlight. All the build up, excitement and the continuous practising by all the students involved resulted in a very personally rewarding experience for all our performers.

Congratulations to all who participated and performed at their personal best. Special mention to our Senior Recorder Group who came first in their section, this group are the students who do such a great job at Friday morning assembly playing Advance Australia Fair for us all. My appreciation to the wonderful staff that are very passionate about providing this opportunity for the students. Special thanks to Liz Robb who spent time rehearsing with the students. I would also like to thank all the teachers who are involved in the Recorder program plus those teachers who gave up their time to assist with rehearsals. It was a great team effort. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hamilton Eisteddfod Committee who do an excellent job organising and running the program over the two weeks.

This week it is the Dance section of the Eisteddfod and I am aware that we have students competing in this section, again I wish them the very best of luck and hope they enjoy the experience and have fun.

The school has recently taken up a subscription to ‘Parentingideas’ Australia’s leading provider of parenting education resources to schools. They provide an extensive range of learning resources for parents, articles and up to date content for school newsletters and websites. Michael Grose, who last year held a parent forum at the Performing Arts Centre is the Director. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years classroom experience who knows first hand the importance of developing a strong parent-teacher partnership. Over two decades he has worked full time as a parenting educator supporting parents with all aspects of child rearing. In that time he has also authored eight books for parents and teachers. You can also hear him on radio 774 every second Saturday when he presents his regular parenting segment. Starting today I will include one of Michael’s articles or tip sheets in each of our newsletters. The ‘Parentingideas’ parent BLOG will be available on our school website as well as a link to the ‘Parentingideas’ magazine.

On Tuesday, all teachers had a very productive day working on their student mid year reports which will be distributed on Thursday 28th June followed up with parent/teacher interviews on Monday 23rd July and Tuesday 24th July. It was decided to have Tuesday as the report writing day as this enabled parents where possible to take an extended long weekend.

The wood raffle was drawn at assembly on Friday 1st June and the winners were:

Pene Baker, Hamilton – Trailer of Wood
B Malcolm, Heywood – Wheelbarrow

Congratulations to our winners. Unfortunately B Malcolm of Heywood did not leave a phone number on the ticket. If you know of a B Malcolm living in Heywood, please ask them to contact the school.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone at Gray St to congratulate Reverend Peter Cook on being honoured in the Queen’s Birthday 2012 Honours list this week. Reverend Cook currently conducts Religious Education lessons at Gray St and has so for many years. His bright, bubbly personality and his supportive caring manner is something that the Gray St community are very grateful of.

Enjoy your week ahead.

Helen

North Hamilton Kinder Visits

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Education Week - Transition Day
Grade 5 Students spent the day at Baimbridge College as part of Education Week Celebrations.

Lawson playing violin at Baimbridge College transition day in music. He likes how Baimbridge College let's you have a go. Even when you don’t know how to play. By Josh and Lawson

At the transition day we participated in an art class. We had to draw a ram skull, hammer, wooden spoon, bottle, high heels and a school shoe. By Holly and Chloe

In art we had to draw ram skulls, hammers, wooden spoons, bottles, shoes and legs by Izaac and Luke

We were using computers to make comics to take home and show what we’ve done to our whole family!

Trying out for Year 7 in 2014 we’re going to have so much fun. We Already Made Like 1000 Friends.

By Paris & Beth

Library News
A reminder that children may borrow books for two weeks and then books must either be returned or brought to library sessions for re-borrowing.

A large number of children have books overdue and we ask that parents and children regularly check that library books are brought along to school. This will help to save time being wasted in chasing children with overdue books.

We ask that all children ensure they have no overdue books leading into the school holidays.

Hockey

Last Friday, 10 students from Grades 3-6 travelled to Warrnambool to compete in a Division Hockey Competition representing Gray Street. The team played three games on the day. In the first game they won 11-0, in the second game they came a draw and in the third game they went down 2-4.

The students put in a fantastic effort on the day and behaved extremely well. Thank you to the parents who took the students to Warrnambool and a very, very big thank you to Narelle Pitts who coached on the day. She did a brilliant job.

Emma Callaway

Rosemary Trimnell - Volunteer

For the past 3 years, Rosemary comes to school every Tuesday to help Leesa in the office. Working with Leesa and Lesley Maroney, Rosemary helps organize all the athletic sport cards into their age groups. She also helps with laminating, photocopying, counting of coupons, stapling, cutting various items and pasting work into the children’s books for the teachers.

When On Wedensday and Thursday Rosemary attends Mulleratrong where she is a mainstay in the Lunch on the Run program where she is capable of doing everything asked of her. She is a marvel at what she is able to do that the rest of us would find mostly unmanageable.

Rosie loves coming to school to help out and we enjoy having her here helping.
Fundraising News

Farmer’s Market
We have two exciting events to look forward to before the end of term for all our children so keep reading the newsletter.

We are having our first Farmer’s Market of the year. This year the market is to be held on:

Thursday 21st June from 3.30

It will be held in the open learning centre, Gray Street. Bus children will be allowed to buy things early.

It is to be held on this day so it does not clash with the canteen. We are asking each grade to bake or make different items:

- Prep - 2 to bring jellies, small cakes, lollies and individual items
- Grade 3-4 baked goods, cakes, slices and biscuits
- Grade 5-6 slices, cakes, savouries and sausage rolls

Movie Fundraising Event
ICE AGE 4 (continental drift)
When: Friday 29th June, the last day of term 2
Time: 4.30pm for 5.00pm screening
Where: The Hamilton Cinema, Thompson Street
Cost: Children: $12.00
     Adults: $15.00

Tickets can be purchased shortly from the school office.

There will be an epic afternoon tea with a drink provided for each person attending the movie. Fabulous prizes including a raffle of Ice Age goodies, lucky door prize and guess the number of lollies in a jar game.

We are asking for donations of a variety of items like vanilla cupcakes, lollies, large plastic cups for popcorn (milkshake sized). There is also a list at the front office. I am sure both these events will be great things for our children and we would love your support, either as donators or helpers on the day!

Gray St Learning Community

It's getting colder ……… It's getting wetter ……… it’s winter!!

Warm up with a nice warm coffee, and enjoy learning about different coffees, and how to make the best coffee, ever.

The Gray Street Learning Community have organized a “Coffee Café” at Roxburgh House in Thompson Street on Monday June 25 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Mark this in your diaries now if you’re interested in attending, as places will be limited.

Book in now if you wish to attend. See attached flier. Hand in your form to the school (Please include your ph. Contact no. in case we need to contact you). Or call Southern Grampians Adult Education to book your place on 55719900.

Earn & Learn

Due to the success of the campaign thus far, Safeway are extending the Earn & Learn program until the 12th August 2012. That’s three more weeks to earn valuable stickers for your school.

Also they are having a “Double Stickers” promotion kicking off next week. From Monday 11th June until Tuesday 19th June, all customers who buy specially marked products will be eligible for double stickers on their total shop. As long as you spend more than $10 and include a product from one of eight big brands, including Dove Beauty, Lipton & Flora, you will earn twice as many stickers. So, now’s the time to be letting your parents & communities know that next week’s shop could make a big difference to your school’s tally.

Canteen

Canteen operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Volunteers for next week are:

Mon 18th June
10.45 – 2pm – Kerry Price

Wed 20th
10.45 – 2pm – Brigid Kelly

Friday 22nd June
10.45 – 1pm – Kim Sparrow
12.00 – 2pm – Helper Needed

Specials: Monday – Hamburgers $3
Wednesday – Fried Rice $2.50

Pauls Collect a Cap

Tuesday 19th June is the last day for this term to bring your caps in. The grade with the most wins a fantastic morning tea!!

Meals on Wheels Drivers

15th June
Narelle Pitts & Naomi McLeod

Managing Digital Photographs

A managing digital photographs short course was run through the Gray Street Learning Team on Thursday 17th of May. Nine members of community were present and all enjoyed the informative and informative evening.

We were shown a selection of web based platforms that can be used to edit and enhance personal digital photographs. All were free to download and use.

We had time to play with our own photographs and manage their storage.

The evening was informative and highly productive.

Thank you to those who attended and to the Learning Community for providing this fantastic opportunity.

Julie Dohle
Free range parenting

Allowing children to develop real independence is one of the biggest challenges modern parents face. Our basic job is to keep kids safe and secure, that doesn’t mean we eliminate risk altogether by overprotecting them.

Would you let primary school kids catch a train on their own?

This was the indirect challenge for parents when the psychologist dubbed America’s worst parent Lenore Skenazy visited Australia recently.

US parenting show host Skenazy sparked a worldwide controversy when she admitted allowing her nine-year-old son to ride the New York subway on his own.

“Bad mum” was the outcry from parenting groups everywhere.

Allowing children to develop real independence is one of the biggest challenges modern parents face. When to allow a child to walk to the park on their own, babysit younger siblings, make their own way to school, catch a train to the city and go to the cinema without adult supervision, are the sorts of dilemmas that many parents sweat over.

Most parents I meet admit to having had more freedom to roam when they were kids than they allow their own children, yet they are unwilling to allow their children those same freedoms.

Children’s busy schedules, concerns over increased traffic and stranger danger are the most common reasons given for parents restricting children’s freedoms to navigate their communities free from adult supervision.

Ironically, we’ve learned in the last two decades that kids are more likely to be harmed by someone they know than from a stranger in the street, on a train or in a park. The world is no less dangerous than it was when we were growing up, but there is a perception that it’s less safe.

Independence builds confidence

There’s a lot to be said for giving kids a little bit of rope. Giving children more independence is one of the most effective ways of developing confidence. It builds a broader experience base than parents can normally provide.

Greater freedom also involves an element of risk, which is naturally scary for parents. While our basic job is to keep kids safe and secure, that doesn’t mean we eliminate risk altogether by overprotecting them.

Instead we reduce risk by skillling up our kids to navigate the broader environment safely on their own. Scaffolding – children being granted small degrees of independence – is a strategy many parents use to reduce the risk for their children in public while they grant their children more freedom. Dropping young children off a few hundred metres from the school gate and allowing them to walk the rest of the way on their own is an example of scaffolding to independence.

The primary school years are the time to build the skills of independence, so that when children move into adolescence they are more able to be self-sufficient.

Adolescents usually want greater freedoms than parents are prepared to give. Expecting young people to maintain contact with you; setting time limits for being out and rewarding responsible behaviour with greater freedom are some practical ways for parents to reduce risk with this age group.

A necessary leap of faith

It’s funny how most parents find it easier to grant greater freedom to later borns than to their eldest children. It’s easier for parents to let go of the later borns, as we’ve learned from experience that most kids are pretty capable when it comes to navigating their expanding world. Besides, youngest borns get plenty of hands-on lessons watching and listening to their elder siblings’ exploits of navigating the big, wide world.

Regardless of where children come in the family, granting them more freedom can be a leap of faith for many parents. But it’s a leap we should take earlier rather than later.