**Dates to remember**

- **Monday 18th February**
  Meet & Greet

- **Tuesday 19th February**
  Prep Field Event 9-11am

- **Wednesday 20th February**
  No Preps required at school

- **Friday 22nd February**
  Swimming Sports Gr 2 – 6

- **Monday 25th February**
  No students required at school

- **Friday 1st March**
  Golf Clinic Gr 5 & 6

- **Wednesday 6th March**
  Athletic Sports

- **Monday 11th March**
  Public Holiday

**Contact us**

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**Principal’s Report**

**Wow! What a great ‘Family Picnic’ last Friday night in our magnificent Botanical Gardens.**

It was the perfect night and setting for our first activity for the year. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the great opportunity to catch up with other families. It’s been a unanimous decision to keep this as an annual event on the calendar.

Last weekend, Kammi Barker competed in ‘Woorrangalook’ the Victorian Indigenous Surfing Titles at Torquay and won the Under 10 girls competition. Kammi who would normally compete in the Under 8 competition blitzed the competition: we may have a new World Champion from Hamilton in a few years. Well done, Kammi.

Well, it is most encouraging and quite humorous watching our budding athletes in prep as they prepare for their ‘special field events’ morning next Tuesday from 9.00 - 11.00. Prep parents are most welcome to attend. They have been working with their Grade Six buddies perfecting their techniques……. hopefully some prospective starters in future Olympics.

Students in Years 2 to 6 are looking forward to the House Swimming Sports next Friday at Hughan Park (outdoor swimming pool). Safety is the number one priority for all us in regards to our students at Gray St. As was the case last year for any large school event that is held outside the school all students will return to school together after the event and if parents then choose to pick their child/ren up early the normal process through the Office will be necessary. Thank you for your anticipated support with this matter. This will ensure that staff can be confident that they have the correct documentation on where individual students are.

Yesterday we had some excitement at school not only with the students but many of the staff especially the Office staff with a visit from Cam Mooney and James Podsiadly from Geelong. The Year Four students enjoyed the football clinic organised AFL.

Congratulations to Cooper Gill an ex student from Gray St who on the weekend won the Junior Central Masters Golf Competition in Bendigo not only did he win his age group, Under 16 but actually won the Open, the best score overall. He is playing this week in the Victorian Open on Sunday. Fabulous effort Cooper!

Finally, can I please reiterate the rule that there is no parking allowed in both the ‘drop and go’ zones during the times specified on the sign. This week we have had parents parking and leaving their vehicles to bring children into school. If you need to do this you will have to park in a different area between 8.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Thank you.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen
Swimming Sports Grades 2-6

The Annual Gray St Swimming Sports for children in Grades 2-6 will be held on Friday 22nd February at Hughan Park (Hamilton Olympic Pool - outdoor).

We are aiming to begin the sports at 10am to allow time for the weather to warm up. If it was to be an extremely hot day we will endeavour to start earlier (e.g. 9.30am). We will let the children know the day before if the starting time is to be earlier.

The program will again include an optional age group race for children in Grade 3-6 to find a champion swimmer for each age group. We will still be running our overall 100 metre championship race for boys and girls which is also optional and open to children who are capable of swimming that distance.

All children will need to be well prepared for the day with a substantial amount of food for morning tea and lunch at the pool. Children will also need a water bottle, their own sunscreen, their school hat and a couple of towels as they will be in and out of the pool for their races. If the weather is cool they will need to be prepared with additional warm clothes (preferably spare sport or other uniform items).

Children should wear their school sports uniform to school and it would be wise to wear bathers under their school sports uniforms. Children can bring streamers and other items of clothing to support their Houses but they must wear their uniform to school. Hair dye is not permitted.

Children are not permitted to buy food from the canteen and will be required to sit under the shade shelters in their allocated House groups. Children will not be permitted to wander around the pool or to sit in the designated area for parents and spectators which is located on the opposite side to the children.

All children will be expected to walk back to school at the end with their class. NO children will be dismissed from the pool at the conclusion of the sports.

The school has a record of your child’s swimming level based on the program run by HILAC in 2012. If your grade 2-6 child is new to the school or has had swimming lessons over the holidays please send a note to your child’s class teacher indicating which level your child is now in. All children should have been advised the level we have recorded for them - grades 3-6 will have had this recorded in their diary to be checked by you and the grade 2 children have been given a separate note with their level recorded on it. If you believe the level your child is in is not accurate, could you please send a note to your child’s class teacher recording their name, grade and new level.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the pool on Friday 22nd February.

Help Needed

Help is needed with the setting up of the shade tents at approximately 8am on the morning of the swim sports. Please let Leesa in the office know if you are able to help.

Junior Netball 2013

At the Hamilton Junior Netball Association AGM last year, it was unanimously decided to run the junior netball season in 2013 on Sundays, in conjunction with the Hamilton Junior Football. The one season will start mid to late April.

Gray Street hopes to facilitate the entry of U10 and U12 teams again this year should we have sufficient interest from our students. We will also be seeking parental assistance to coach and umpire these teams.

Netta Netball will be running this year and dates will be advised when they come to hand.

Carolynn Murray & Sheree McGinley

Education Maintenance Allowance

Information in relation to Education Maintenance Allowance has been handed out with this newsletter. If you are eligible for this allowance please ensure the completed form is returned to school by Thursday 28th February. LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED.

Conveyancing Allowance

The transport of students to school is primarily the responsibility of student’s families. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) provides financial support to some families to assist with the cost of transport to school. Assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance is available to students that are in rural and remote areas and do not have access to a free school bus. If you live more than 4.8km from your nearest government school or bus stop you may be eligible.

For further information please contact Leesa or Maree in the office.

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is handed out every Thursday to the eldest child at School. You can also find the newsletter on the school website. The newsletter can also be emailed to you directly.

Prep Days Off

Prep students do not attend school on the following days in February:

Wednesday 20th February 2013
Monday 25th February 2013
Canteen Specials
Term 1 Special Menu Items

Monday Specials
Chicken Burger - $3.50
Wholemeal Roll - Chicken fillet, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot & mayonnaise.

Wednesday Specials
Chicken Wrap - $3.00
Crumbed Chicken, Salad & sweet chilli mayonnaise served in a wrap
Salad Boxes (available every day)
Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot, pineapple, cheese & dressing - $3.00
Egg Salad (as above) with hardboiled egg - $3.50
Ham Salad (as above) with sliced Ham - $3.50
Chicken Salad (as above) with diced Chicken - $4.00
Fruit Salad (diced fresh fruit) - $3.00

New Uniform
The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.00am and 3.00 to 3.30p.m. for sizing purposes only.
Please place Uniform Orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) in the letter box at the Office.

1st Hamilton Scouts Resumes
Joeys – Tuesday 12th Feb
6.15pm to 6.45
Cubs - Tuesday 12th Feb
7pm – 8.30pm
Scouts – Monday 4th Feb
7pm to 9pm
North Boundary Road, Hamilton
New Members Welcome
For further details contact Caroline on 0427 850 944

Southern Grampians Shire Council Colouring Competition
Please collect entry forms from the school office for the Lake Hamilton All Abilities Playground.
Entries are due to be handed in to class teachers by next Wednesday 20th February.

A Day of the Rail Reserve
A cycling and walking event between Hailton & Wannon on the Rail Reserve
Saturday 16th February
9.00am to start walking
10.00am to start riding.
Start at Balkin’s Road Crossing.
BYO lunch.
Flyer with complete details available from the school office.

Easter Workshop
Easter Workshop will be held for primary school aged children on Tuesday 26 March from 3.30-5.00pm at the Uniting Church, Lonsdale St, Hamilton, cost $5 per child. The session will include afternoon tea, story telling, food and craft. Numbers are strictly limited and children need to book in by ringing Uniting Church on 55724881 or email to unitinghamilton113@bigpond.com by Friday 22 March.

Junior Basketball
Minders Basketball Club are looking for anyone interested in playing basketball.
You can start basketball this year if you are turning 8 yrs old – Born 2005 through to 1998.
Boys teams contact: Jason Stone: 0428 849 917 or iandestone@bigpond.com
Girls teams contact: Sharon Donehue: 0407 72 41 63 or sharon.donehue@bigpond.com
Coaching interest - please contact either of the above.

Cut this out and return to the office
DITCH THE PAPER!!!
Help us slash our photocopy costs and help the environment!
Sign up to have your NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION emailed to you.

Student Name/s and grade/s: .................................................................
Parent Name/s: .................................................................
Email Address: .................................................................