Principal’s Report

From the feedback I have received the Meet & Greet interviews were a great success on Monday night.

The purpose was to enhance communication between you and your child’s teacher so that important information could be shared on your child’s academic, social, emotional and medical needs over the year. I am sure the information sheet that you received summarising particular routines, events, curriculum focus specifically related to your child’s grade level will be useful to you. If you were unable to attend on Monday I would encourage you to contact your child’s teacher through the office and make a time to catch up. The information sheets that were distributed on the night will also be available on the school website.

The Department ask schools to remind parents at the beginning of each school year that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs; and reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers. We have received some information from a commercial insurer which we have at the Office.

A reminder that the School House Swimming Sports for students in Years 2 to 6 will be held tomorrow at the Hughan Park (outdoor swimming pool). Could you please ensure that children have a drink bottle filled with water, food and have sunscreen on before they come to school then students can reapply as the morning progresses. This exciting morning begins at 9.30 a.m. and parents are most welcome to come and cheer their child/ren on. Due to the sports there will be no assembly on Friday.

As you would be all aware next Monday is a Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil Free Day). Our teachers will be working with the teachers from Hamilton North and George Street Primary Schools on the explicit teaching of mathematics. Over the past two years the teachers having been working with Andrea Hillbrick a highly respected educational consultant specifically on the teaching of mathematics through the Hamilton/Portland Network. Last year the three schools were successful in securing a grant that has enabled us to continue our professional learning with Andrea. This work is directly related to the Gray St Strategic Plan (2012 – 2015) which in the main is to improve our English and Maths student achievement. To achieve these goals,
School Council

Becoming a School Council member is an excellent way to become involved in our school. Much of the work of the school council is achieved through the following sub committees of, Facilities, Education, Finance, Fundraising and Out of School Hours Care. School Council currently meets twice per term on Mondays at 7.00 p.m. Membership of school council sub committees (Facilities, Fundraising, Out of School Hours Care and Education) does not require election to school council.

School Council Elections 2013 – The Notice of Election and call for nominations for School Council is attached to this newsletter. Interested parents are asked to consider nominating for vacancies on school council. For the next two years. We do have one, one year term as well due to a resignation.

Nomination forms are available from the office or maybe downloaded from the Hamilton (Gray St) website. These must be lodged by 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 28th February 2013. In nominating for school council elections, this maybe via self nomination or getting someone in your category of nomination to nominate you. In the event that an election is required, it will be conducted from Thursday 7th March, with the ballot closing 4.00 p.m. Thursday 15th March 2013. The current term of School Council ends for the following members: Hugh Koch, Jim Bailey, Simon McKinley, and Susan Bradbeer (due to family leaving Gray St) (parent members)

Continuing members who still have one year to serve on council are: Jason Muldoon, Bonita O’Brien and Christine Jeal (parent members)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2012 School Council members and members of the sub committees for their commitment to Gray St. Your time and huge effort has been very much appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a School Councillor but are not sure of the commitment or what is required please speak to a current member of School Council listed above or to me personally.

Artist of The Week

This year there will be two Artists of the Week awarded per week, one student from grades P-2 and one student from grades 3-6. As a reward for being Artist of the Week, the students will be given a bag of ‘art goodies’ to take home and experiment with for that week, similar to the maths suitcase in classrooms. If your child is awarded Artist of the Week, they will receive the bag of goodies to take home at assembly on Friday. The bag with all contents will then need to be returned to me in the artroom by the next Thursday, ready to be given to the next Artist of the Week. Please try to keep all materials safe. This will be a fun way for students to experiment with different art mediums at home. Artists of the Week will commence this Friday.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Emma Brown

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 (eg 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 wonder 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.
Athletics Sports – Wednesday 6th March

On Wednesday 6th 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 but have already participated in field events on Tuesday 19th February at school.)

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 handed out to 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 1st 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

Prep & Grade 1 Students Under 6 Field Events

On Tuesday, 5 and 6 year old students competed in their house colours as part of the school athletics carnival. Students competed in the field events - shot put, discus, long jump and high jump. It was great to see all students trying their very best. They were very proudly wearing their ribbons during the morning and enjoyed the applause of parents. Thank you to all the parents who helped or supported on the day and also our Grade 5 helpers.

On Wednesday 6th March they will go up by bus to Pedrina Park to the Official Athletics Day at 11:10 am to take part in the track events during the afternoon. The children will take their school bags and have their lunch with the other children in their house team.

Working With Children Checks

In recent times the Victorian Government introduced a new checking system to help protect children under 18 from physical or sexual harm. The Working With Children Check creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. Applicants are checked to make sure their record does not include any criminal offences specified in the Act or findings by a specified professional disciplinary body (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching).

Benefits of the Check include ongoing checking of a person’s criminal record, providing organizations such as schools with the ability to verify a check at any time.

From our school’s point all school volunteers must have a current Working With Children Check. School volunteers can include but is not limited to: parent helpers on camps and excursions, parents who take part in our meals on wheels program, school sporting coaches, parents who hear reading.

Working With Children Check application forms are available from the Post Office. These Checks are provided at no cost to volunteer applicants.

Parent Helpers required for Athletic Sports

We require parent assistance for the morning and the afternoon of our Athletic Sports Day on Wednesday 6th 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 22nd February.

Thank you

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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

Eldest Child ........................ Grade......... Contact Phone Number: ...........................................
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen Specials</th>
<th>New Uniform</th>
<th>Conveyancing Allowance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 Special Menu Items</td>
<td>The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.00am and 3.00 to 3.30p.m. for sizing purposes only.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Monday Specials</strong></td>
<td>Please place Uniform Orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) in the letter box at the Office.</td>
<td>For further information please contact Leesa or Maree in the office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Burger - $3.50</td>
<td><strong>School Banking</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Workshop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholemeal Roll - Chicken fillet, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot &amp; mayonnaise</td>
<td>Bank of Melbourne School Banking will commence Tuesday 26th February and continue for the remainder of the year each Tuesday. We welcome the Prep students to Gray Street Primary School and invite children in all classes who wish to participate in School Banking to pop into Bank of Melbourne at 134 Gray Street Hamilton to open an account if you do not have an existing Bank of Melbourne account.</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:untinghamilton113@bigpond.com">untinghamilton113@bigpond.com</a> by Friday 22 March.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Wednesday Specials</strong></td>
<td>We have recently partnered with Phillip Island Nature Parks Australia. Open an Incentive Saver for your child aged 4 - 15 and a penguin will be adopted on your behalf. You will also receive a child's Three Park Super Pass for Phillip Island Nature Parks for entry to the world famous Penguin Parade (you might spot your adopted penguin), Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Centre. Great idea for school holidays. Look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday.</td>
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<td>Chicken Wrap - $3.00</td>
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<td>Crumbed Chicken, Salad &amp; sweet chilli mayonnaise served in a wrap</td>
<td>Education Maintenance Allowance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Boxes (available every day)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot, pineapple, cheese &amp; dressing - $3.00</td>
<td><strong>New Uniform</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Banking</strong></td>
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<td>Egg Salad (as above) with hardboiled egg - $3.50</td>
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<td>Ham Salad (as above) with sliced Ham - $3.50</td>
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<td>Chicken Salad (as above) with diced Chicken - $4.00</td>
<td><strong>Conveyancing Allowance</strong></td>
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<td>Fruit Salad (diced fresh fruit) - $3.00</td>
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**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:** ..........................................................