Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents,

Our FAST (Families and Schools Together) program has commenced with thirteen families participating. This program is one of the most successful family programs we have operated at the school and it is wonderful to see families spending quality time together and supporting one another in such a powerful manner. Thank you to all the parent mentors who facilitate at the program.

The Gray Family Centre will also be commencing the “Reading Is as Easy as ABC” on Wednesday 21st May. This has been a very popular program in the past with parents gaining the knowledge to know how to commence teaching their child to read before they commence Preschool. There are so many things we as parents can do with our children to prepare them to become great readers. At this workshop you will gain some simple ideas to support your child. Please talk with Kylie Grainger in the Gray Family Centre to register for this fantastic workshop.

All of us as parents have dealt with envy in our children. Envy is the perpetual “wanting more” syndrome. The opposite of envy and entitlement is gratitude. Gratitude comes from the feeling of freely receiving things, not because we deserve them but because someone has kindly given them. Parents and teachers need to help children work through their feelings of entitlement and envy and move to a position of gratitude. This involves three skills:

- Giving to gratify the basic needs
- Limiting—making sure children do not get too much or get inappropriate things
- Containing—helping a child work through feelings about a limit.

As part of this principle, children need to learn to say “thank you” and “I am sorry”. Helping our children to become humble and grateful is a life skill that our children will thank us for one day.

Have a wonderful week.

Sayonara—Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, Assistant Principal

'Too Many Elephants in This House'
National Simultaneous Storytime
Wednesday 21st May 11am
Assembly Hall Gray Primary School

Every Child, Every Day - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody’s responsibility and everyone’s business.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Sue Beynon</th>
<th>What you don’t like?</th>
<th>I don’t like frogs, snakes and rude behavior.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your role?</strong> Principal</td>
<td><strong>What do you like best about your job?</strong> The best part of my job is spending time with the students and watching them grow in their learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What do you enjoy?</strong> I enjoy travelling, especially to Asia, watching movies, reading and spending time with my grandsons.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Sharon Chin</th>
<th>What you don’t like?</th>
<th>Dishonesty, rudeness, and bad manners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your role?</strong> Assistant Principal</td>
<td><strong>What do you like best about your job?</strong> The wonderful community of staff, students and parents/carers at Gray School.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What do you enjoy?</strong> Watching Hawthorn win, listening to music, reading and travelling</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Keira Stewart</th>
<th>What you don’t like?</th>
<th>Crocodiles, snakes and disrespect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your role?</strong> Year 6 Teacher and Senior Teacher for Yr 3-6</td>
<td><strong>What do you like best about your job?</strong> Working with students at Gray School (especially the best class 6 Stewart) to help them achieve goals and be the best individual they can possibly be.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What do you enjoy?</strong> I enjoy fishing, swimming, running, netball and watching NRL-Newcastle Knights and NSW Blues!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name: Donna Westaway</th>
<th>What don’t you like?</th>
<th>I have a fear of heights and crocodiles!!! So no roller coasters or skiing in the dams for me!!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your role?</strong> Art / Science Teacher</td>
<td><strong>What do you like best about your job?</strong> I enjoy watching students develop their own artistic styles. Nothing beats seeing a child excited and proud of themselves when they finally master a skill or complete a task that they first thought was not possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What do you enjoy?</strong> I enjoy spending time with my family, I also love playing Netball (I’ve been playing for 3 decades now!!) I am passionate about reading and believe it is the door to opening all learning.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name: Jonno Brunton</th>
<th>What you don’t like?</th>
<th>Visiting cold places, being sick.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your role?</strong> Year 5 Teacher</td>
<td><strong>What do you like best about your job?</strong> Seeing students understand something new for the first time.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What do you enjoy?</strong> I enjoy rock climbing.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Name: Yvonne Patterson

What is your role? I am the Lead Teacher, am coach for Year 5/6 teachers and have responsibility for data collation and analysis.

What do you enjoy? I love learning about many things and working in my garden.

What you don’t like? I don’t like seeing animals or children being hurt.

What do you like best about your job? That’s an easy question – the best thing about my job is the children. Children are our tomorrows.

What you don’t like? I don’t like seeing animals or children being hurt.

Name: Genna Smiley

What is your role? I am a Year 2 Teacher

What do you enjoy? Travelling, collecting nail polish (I have over 800 bottles), reading teacher blogs and spending time with my family.

What you don’t like? Tardiness, back-chatting and rude people.

What do you like best about your job? Planning fun, meaningful and interesting lessons, watching my students grow and achieve their goals, working with dedicated and talented teachers and tutors.

Mothers Day Gift Stall

Special Gifts for a Special Mum

Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th May
in the Family Centre Building
8:00am – 2:30pm
Gifts priced from $1.00 - $10.00

Students will attend the stall in their class groups.

We have beautiful gifts available – Spoil your Mum this Mother’s Day!

A Joint Initiative of the Gray Primary School Council and The Gray Family Centre
My-oh-my, how quickly these chooks grow! This week, they will be five weeks old and they have well and truly entered the awkward teenager phase. They have very few baby feathers left, as their adult feathers are growing into place and they have long and lanky legs. Thankfully, they still peep like babies and won’t start clucking until they are about 4 months old.

Over the school holidays our babies outgrew their coop, so they were moved into the ‘Big Chicken Coop’ and are now living with our grown-up chooks, some of which are their mothers. They love being able to run around and forage in the dirt and grass. We were happy when they moved into the ‘Big Chicken Coop’, as that meant we no longer had to clean their stinky coop!

Mr Mark and the Gardening Group now do most of the looking after of our babies, however we do make sure we visit them every couple of days.

We still don’t know if they are hens or roosters, and we probably won’t know until they start to crow (at around 8 weeks old they should start trying to crow, according to Google).

Fingers crossed we have all hens as they will start laying eggs for the canteen at around 6 months of age.
Our 2014 FAST Program began last Thursday with great fun had by all. Our night started with a delicious dinner prepared by our parent partners – Thank you Peta and Jen. Each family created a flag – a symbol that represents their family. The flag will sit proudly on their family table for the next 7 weeks of the program and they look fantastic!

Towards the end of the night we divided into two groups – the kids went off with some of the FAST team and played games and made chocolate crackles while the parents had some coffee and chocolate biscuits during ‘parent time’.

Yvette and Alex were the lucky winners of the Door prize – we hope you enjoyed the special gifts for your family.
Reading is as Easy as 123
Gray Primary School and The Smith Family are offering free sessions to help you teach your child to read.

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN OF READING

- Morning tea provided
- Free kids books and library bag
- Little children welcome
- Learn about teaching your kids how to read, write, listen and speak
- Bear Hunt with your kids on week 3

Reading is a Family Affair

Where: Wednesday 21 Mar
Wednesday 28 Mar
Wednesday 4 June
9:00 - 10:00am
Gray Primary
Family Centre

Where: Wednesday 11 June
9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Gray Primary
Family Centre

Phone Kylie Granser on
9432 1700 or
0412 416 071

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Parents Meet

Are you looking for a place to meet other parents?
Please join us for coffee, tea and toast each Wednesday morning and chat with other school parents.

Parents Meet
Every Wednesday Morning at the Gray Family Centre
8:00am - 10:00am

Contact Kylie at the Family Centre for more information
Children are welcome

ONE VOICE

A VOICE AGAINST SUICIDE IN OUR CITY

DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
MAY 31 2014
SATURDAY 7:00-8:30PM

ONE VOICE will be hosted by Hope City Church who wish to raise a VOICE of HOPE through Praise, Worship and Prayer against suicide here in Darwin.

Pastor Don and Cilla - Hope City Church
Suicide is rampant in our city and surrounding areas which seems to be on the increase each year. We at Hope City Church are partnering with local organisations who already reach out to people suffering with depression in our community.

As the SPIRITUAL ARM in our community we would like to lift OUR VOICE as we Pray and Worship against suicide and also support families who have lost loved ones through the devastating effects of suicide.

Sue Beynon - Principal/Education over 30 years
"ONE VOICE" is a local initiative that I believe will bring a spiritual response which is necessary to break through the darkness of suicide and bring hope to those who need it. We live in the "lucky" country, the Great Southland, and we want people to have the future they dream of.

Toni Ah-Sam - Ochre Business Consultant
As an indigenous business woman and leader in the Darwin community, I believe that ONE VOICE is very much needed in our community to address the overwhelming issue of youth suicide. I have seen first hand the devastation on how youth suicide impacts our indigenous young people.

ONE VOICE will communicate a SPIRITUAL VOICE of HOPE and bring together all Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people and services who are wanting real and practical solutions to address this issue.
Let’s Read promotes reading with children from 0-5 years across Australia.

Reading with your child is one of the most important things you can do to develop your child’s ability to read, write and build skills for starting school. Let’s Read supports you in reading aloud with your child. It helps you and your child develop a love of books, share rhymes, stories and songs, and spend special time together.

Please see Kylie at The Gray Primary School Family Centre to receive your library bag, book and information sheets.

This is Gus. He loves lazing about and reading a good book. This week his favourite book is ‘I went walking’. Gus loves people visiting him – come visit Gus in the Gray Primary School Family Centre.

Donations are needed for our popular Mother’s Day Stall.

Can you help with some of these items or other items that are suitable as a gift for mum?

- Plants or Flowers
- A tea cup
- Bath Salts
- Scented Candles
- Soap
- A box of Chocolates
- Hand or face creams
- Tea & Coffee wrapped with a ribbon

Our Mother’s Day Stall will be held in week 4 – It’s just around the corner!

Donations can be left at the school office or handed to the class teacher. Thank you for supporting the Gray School Council.

Access to Mathletics and Reading Eggs at the Family Centre

Are you wondering what Mathletics and Reading Eggs are, but don’t have access to the internet at home?

Each Monday and Tuesday from 2:30 – 3:10 pm, Ipads will be available for parents/carers and students to access these programs. We will show you how to access and use the Apps at your pace. Please feel free to drop in and have a look.

This is a 10 week trial and students must be accompanied by an adult.

Please see the Family Centre for further information.

Helping you read with your child
Enjoy a FULL HOUR of fun sport and games

To ensure children have the opportunity to fully benefit from these free sport and structured physical activity sessions, we ask that parents wait until the completion of the sessions to pick up their children. Their full attendance assists in the smooth running of the program for other participants and the program coaches and ensure children get the most out of every session.

About the AASC program

The Australian Sports Commission’s AASC program is an Australian Government initiative that provides primary school children with a positive and fun introduction to sport and other structured physical activities, and motivates children to be active for life.

This is achieved through the Playing for Life philosophy, which is based on the game sense approach to coaching. The AASC program has adopted this philosophy as it creates a fun, safe and inclusive environment in the introduction to sport and other physical activities.

Each session is designed to give children the opportunity to develop their motor skills, self-confidence and self-esteem to a level where they can make the transition into community sport. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle with a nutritious snack provided at each session.

We look forward to your cooperation in allowing your child to participate for the full duration of AASC programs in order to gain the benefits from each session.

Term 1 Active After-school Communities (AASC) program activities begin on 07 May and will run for 7 weeks. It is open to Year 1 to Year 6 students. The activities will be run at Gray Primary School.

Wednesday - Rugby Union
Thursday - Athletics
2.30pm to 4:00pm
Please ensure your child is collected by 4.00pm as there is no supervision after this time.

NOTE: LIMITED SPACES

PLEASE NOTE: A consent form (available from the front office OR by emailing Paula Da Costa, see below) is required to be completed and handed in to the front office by Monday 05 May 2014 in order for your child to participate.

If you would like any other information please contact Paula Da Costa; 8932 1700

ausport.gov.au/aasc