Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents,

Our first two weeks of attendance were excellent and we thank parents for ensuring that your child attends school every day. Students who do attend every day are far more likely to succeed and will be able to access the intervention programs that we operate in the school.

As the monsoon weather is still with us I would like to remind parents of our policy in regards to wet weather. If the weather is too wet at recess or lunch time students remain in their classes and teachers provide some board games or a DVD for students.

At the end of the school day if there is lightening or stormy weather students will remain in classes until the storm blows over. If parents are waiting in cars at the front of the school or in the car park they will need to either wait patiently or come into the school to collect their child. Please do not phone the school during the storm.

We welcome Ms Kana Tomarino, who is teaching Japanese to our Year 3-6 students. This is a great new initiative at the school. Students learning Japanese will be able to continue these studies at Rosebery Middle School and Palmerston Senior College.

Two other great initiatives in the school this year are our Speech project and our Reading project. The Speech project involves students from Preschool to Year 2 and the Reading project involves students from Year 2-6. We have a qualified speech therapist working in the school every Friday. She will work in classes with the teacher to support oral language skills in students. The purpose is to improve the oral language skills of all students, which in turn will support those students with their reading, writing and spelling. The reading project involves rigorous testing of our students and coaching of teachers to ensure that each student’s need is met in regards to their reading. I would like to thank the school council for their support of both of these fantastic initiatives.

It is very important that the school is notified if your address or phone number has changed. If there is an emergency with your child we need to have the correct phone number to ring so that your child is not in a distressed state. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date at the school by phoning the office to give them your new phone number.

Have a wonderful week

Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, Assistant Principal
Orders due back Friday 14th February

Please ensure students' name and class is on order form and correct money is enclosed. All orders to be taken to Library.

Outside School Care NT will be doing a crazy hair day with lots of colour to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

When: Friday 14th March 2014 at Recess & Lunch

Where: Outside Room 13

Cost: Gold Coin Donation

Please come down and support this wonderful cause and get some funky hair

COME TRY HOCKEY

We are looking for new junior players to join our hockey club in 2014.

Juniors start at $75 which is $5 a game with free training.

For more information or to join Saint Mary’s Hockey Club, visit our website

Smhc.asn.au

e.saintshcdarwin@gmail.com

p. 0418 884 406

BAMZI

(Bamzi is our new sponsored child)

Living conditions and access to basic services for Bamzi’s family and community:

- Bamzi’s family lives in a house made of bamboo and mud with a thatched roof and an earth floor.
- The family uses wood for cooking.
- The family obtains water all year round from water piped to their neighbour, collection takes up to 30 minutes.
- Toilet: The family uses a pit latrine.
- The nearest health facility is about two hours away.
Library Visits

Each Friday Preschool Barbour visits the Library and spends time with their buddy class 5/6 Rummery. Last Friday the 5/6 students were researching the Sochi Olympic Games on the laptops and were happy to share this with the preschoolers.

Mem Fox’s Ten Read Aloud Commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
5. Read stories that the kids love, over and over and over again, and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let the children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember: or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start with the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever teach reading or get tense around books.
10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

http://www.memfox.net/welcome.html
Indigenous Parents Group

Come along and catch up with old friends and meet new friends

Every Friday Morning in the Family Centre
8:00am – 10:00am
A light morning tea will be provided

Children Welcome

See Monica or Kylie for more information
We look forward to seeing you!

Play2Learn Groups

MONDAY: 9 - 11am A supported playgroup for families with children 0 – 4 yrs
Venue: Good Beginnings Centre, Gray Primary School Victoria Drive, Gray
(Please bring a piece of fruit to share)

TUESDAY: 9 - 11am A supported playgroup for families with children 0 – 4 yrs
Venue: Driver Resource Centre Driver Primary School, Driver Avenue Driver
(Please bring a piece of fruit to share)

Play2Learn Baby Group

WEDNESDAY: 9 - 11am A supported playgroup specifically for parents with infants up to 12 months. This group is delivered in conjunction with a Maternal Health Nurse.
Venue: Good Beginnings Centre, Gray Primary School Victoria Drive Gray.
(Morning tea provided)

Palmerston Toy Library

MONDAY: 9 -11am Alternate between Danila Dilba, Rolyat Street Palmerston and Palmerston Indigenous Village (PIV) Stuart Highway Howard Springs.

THURSDAY: 10 – 12pm The Palmerston Toy Library aims to provide a service to families and children in the Palmerston area, by providing a mobile, outreach support service.
Parents will be able to borrow toys from a mobile toy library that operates from Salvation Hall, Woodroffe Avenue, Woodroffe.

All Good Beginnings programs are provided free of charge

For more information please call
Office: 08-8932 7022 Mobile: 0417 200 170
www.goodbeginnings.org.au

Please see Kylie at the Gray Family Centre to secure your place or get an information pack. The FAST Program will run at Gray Primary School in Term 2, 2014.
Measles

What is measles?
Measles is a highly infectious viral illness, which can cause serious disease. Measles is now uncommon in Australia because of high levels of immunisation.

Annually in Australia since 2000 there have been years with 10 cases only and some years with up to 200, many in returned travellers. In the Northern Territory since 2000 there have been 0 to 5 cases per year.

How is measles spread?
Measles is spread by breathing in airborne droplets from the coughs and sneezes of people infected with the disease. Measles is one of the most highly infectious communicable diseases. In Australia most measles infections originate from returned overseas travelers or from foreign visitors who can then spread the infection to non-immune individuals.

What are the symptoms?
The symptoms of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and sore eyes, which usually occur about 7 to 10 days after exposure to a case followed by a red, blotchy rash 2 to 4 days later. The rash starts on the face and spreads down the body. One third of people with measles develop complications particularly young children and adults. These include ear infection, diarrhoea and pneumonia, which may require hospitalisation. Rarely, measles may result in encephalitis (infection of the brain).

What is the infectious period?
A person with measles is infectious from 24 hours before the onset of the first symptoms until 4 days after the appearance of the rash. They are most infectious before the rash appears so often do not know they have measles.

Who is at risk?
People who are not immune either by vaccination or previous infection are at risk of measles infection.

How can measles be prevented?
The best protection against measles infection is vaccination and people should receive 2 measles-containing vaccines. In Australia the vaccine is available as a combination vaccine containing measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV).

All children are currently recommended to get vaccinated for measles at 12 and 18 months of age as part of the National Immunisation Program. Children that did not receive the 2nd vaccine at age 18 months should receive the 2nd dose at 3 years.

People who were born before 1956 were most likely exposed to measles and are considered immune.

All people who were born after 1956 should have evidence of either receiving 2 measles-containing vaccines or evidence of having had the disease (by a blood test).

It is important for all overseas travelers to ensure that they are immune to measles.

No measles-containing vaccine should be given during pregnancy or to women contemplating pregnancy. Pregnancy should be avoided for 28 days after vaccination.

Disease in non-immune people exposed to measles can be prevented by administration of a measles-containing vaccine if given within 3 days of exposure, or by administration of immunoglobulin within 7 days of exposure. See the ‘Measles Contact’ fact sheet.

How is it diagnosed?
Measles can be difficult to diagnose early in the illness because there are many other viruses that cause similar symptoms (cough,conjunctivitis and runny nose) with fever and a rash. Sometimes the presence of white spots inside the mouth, called Koplik spots, the timing of the fever and the rash and the characteristics of the rash can help a doctor to make the diagnosis.

Whenever measles is suspected, swabs from the nose or throat, a urine sample or a blood test can be collected to confirm the diagnosis in the laboratory. Confirming the diagnosis is important so that other people who may be at risk of measles can be identified.

What is the treatment?
There is no specific treatment for measles. People with measles should have plenty of fluids and rest and treat symptoms as they occur. While the person remains infectious it is important that they stay at home to reduce the risk of spreading the disease to other people.

Where can I get vaccinated?
The free vaccine is available from your community health centre, Aboriginal Medical Service and most general practitioners.

How is measles controlled?
People who have measles should stay at home until they are no longer infectious which is usually 4 days after the onset of the rash. Doctors, hospitals, laboratories, schools and childcare centres must notify cases of measles to the local Centre for Disease Control. This is so that people at risk of infection can be identified and control measures can be implemented to prevent further spread of the virus.

For more information contact the Centre for Disease Control in your region:
Alice Springs 8951 7540
Darwin 8922 8044
Katherine 8973 9049
Nhulunbuy 9867 0357
Tennant Creek 8962 4259
OT for Kids NT provides Occupational Therapy services to children and families throughout Darwin, Palmerston, rural and remote areas.

OT for Kids NT is committed to delivering high quality, family centred services, working on the goals which are important to YOU and YOUR CHILD. OT for Kids NT works with children of all ages, on a range of developmental and everyday life skill needs.

We work on your goals and priorities in areas such as: self care skills, troublesome mealtimes, fine and gross motor skills, school readiness, using the senses for learning, play and social skills and range of other skills your child needs to be happy and successful every day. We collaborate with other services, schools and day care to ensure the needs of your child and family are being met.

OT for Kids NT is based in Winnellie, although school or home visits are available. After hours and Saturday appointments are available if required.

REGISTERED PROVIDERS FOR MEDICARE, HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM & BETTER START INITIATIVE FUNDING

- Comprehensive or brief assessments
- Treatment sessions based on family goals and functional needs
- Planning and consultation such as creation of resources
- Attendance at meetings, consultation with teachers, child care workers and service providers
- Parent support and programming via phone or skype

FIND US ONLINE AT www.otforkidsnt.com.au or

MORE INFORMATION? call 89844814 or email info@otforkidsnt.com.au