Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents

Welcome to week three of this term. We have two important events coming up in the next few weeks.

**Thursday 21 February 7.45m to 9am - Open Day in all classrooms.**
Parents, careers and grandparents are invited to come into your child’s class to have a look at the work the child is engaged in and meet the teacher. This is not an interview time. However, if you would like an interview with the teacher at another time you can give your contact details to the teacher to contact you at a later time. All our PEGS partners will be present in the outdoor area outside the intervention centre so pop along and see what they have to offer.

**Monday 11 March 6pm - School Council Annual General Meeting.**
This is an opportunity to come along and participate as a partner in your child's education and the decision making of the school. Meetings are held once a month and are efficiently run so they go for no longer than 1.5 hours. We are looking for parents from across all areas of the school (Preschool, Early Years, Primary Years) as well as representatives from all our culture groups. This is an enjoyable way to serve your community and get to understand school life. If you would like more information please talk with Kylie Grainger, Karen Manning, Sue Beynon or Sharon Chin.

We are currently testing all our students in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics. Once all the testing is completed students who are below the national benchmark will be given some additional tutoring during class time. However, students need to have regular school attendance, display a willingness to improve academically and not be constantly displaying unacceptable behaviour in order for them to participate and gain improvement from the intervention. In situations where students are not meeting their responsibilities parents will be contacted and the additional support will be withdrawn. Parents will be advised by letter in the next few weeks what additional support your child is receiving.

Can I please remind all parents and carers about the need for students to lock up their bikes and scooters in the bike rack. In the situation where bikes and scooters are not locked up we cannot guarantee the safety as in the past we have had them stolen from the bike racks. Please support your child by teaching them to be responsible for locking up their bike or scooter.

Have a wonderful week.
Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, Assistant Principal
Gray Primary School and PEGS Open Day
Thursday 21st February
7.45am - 9.00am

Please join us to celebrate the start of the new school year. Each classroom will be open for families to visit. This is a great opportunity to have a look at the great work the students have been doing and meet some of our wonderful Teachers and Staff.

PEGS (Partners Engaging Gray School) comprises of nine organisations working together ‘to encourage, support and empower the Gray School Community to access quality school and community services’.

Please join us on Thursday the 21st to learn more about these organisations. Each organisation will be showcasing the work they do and information will be available on the services they provide.
**SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- **Back to School Vouchers:** Please see the front office staff if you have not already used the $150.00 School Voucher. The Voucher will expire at the end of Term 1.

- **Absences:** if you child is away from school for any reason please notify the front office 89321700

- **Late Students:** All late students must sign in at the front office before going to class.

- **Canteen:** Lunch orders need to be placed by 9 am to ensure children get the food you want them to eat. **NO CANTEEN ON MONDAY.**

- **Medication:** All medication entering the school needs to be brought into the front office where it will be kept for the day. A consent form needs to be completed by the parent, and the medication brought in its original packaging showing the Name of Medication, and the dose to be given.

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**CYCLONE AND STORM SEASON**

The cyclone season runs from 1 November to 30 April. It is vital all parents/guardians are prepared at the start of the season for the possibility of a cyclone, flood or storm striking your area sometime during this period.

On average, there are two to three cyclones each season from the waters surrounding the Northern Territory, including the Timor and Arafura seas and the Gulf of Carpentaria. The number of cyclones that affect coastal areas varies each year and it should also be remembered that the cyclones can vary in intensity.

Details of the outlook for the 2012-13 tropical cyclone season for the Northern Region will be issued by the Bureau of Meteorology at the end of October and will be available on the Bureau of Meteorology website at [http://www.bom.gov.au/nt/](http://www.bom.gov.au/nt/)

When a cyclone watch is declared for your area, the school will be kept fully informed by the department and letters will be sent home with students advising parents/guardians of the latest situation and steps that will be taken if the situation deteriorates.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor radio and TV bulletins for further cyclone information. The ABC is the official media broadcaster for all emergency information.

In the event of a cyclone watch and/or warning being declared, the Counter Disaster Council, in consultation with the Department of Education and Children’s Services, will advise the Chief Minister of the need to close schools and/or offices and advice will be distributed immediately when that step is taken.

**Far more frequently we have severe storms which hit at home time. If there is a thunderstorm with lightning, students must be collected from their classrooms, they will not walk out to the car park. Students will not be allowed to ride their bikes home until the storm has passed.**

Sue Beynon, Principal

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

At Gray we wear school uniform everyday. The uniform consists of a blue shirt, black shorts and a bucket sports hat, closed in shoes or sandals, no thongs or Crocs. Please help by ensuring your child is wearing the appropriate uniform when they are in school.
Gray Primary School (Good Beginnings Building)

Good Beginnings Palmerston is based at Gray Primary School in the green demountable towards the back of the school. We offer a variety of programs, resources, information and support for families in the Palmerston community.

Gray Play 2 Learn

Play 2 learn is a supported play session where play based learning is designed around what the children are interested in, to help their development. The sessions are facilitated by an Early Childhood worker and Family support worker.

At Play 2 Learn we believe that by providing children with a secure and happy environment, where they are supported to develop their intellectual, social, emotional and physical skills, they will become confident and competent individuals.

Children and parents can participate in experiences together, strengthening relationships between children, parents and caregivers.

Good beginnings will support you to build on your existing knowledge, skills and the resources that are available to you. Create connections and relationships in the community, both with other parent and community supports and services.

PARENTS, FAMILIES AND CARERS.

You are invited to come along to check out your child’s class and meet their teacher.

RM 8 T/1- Ms Bambridge on Thursday 14th February
8.00 am
RM 17 5/R- Ms Rummery on Monday 18th February
8.00am
RM 19 4/M- Ms Modoh on Tuesday 19th February
8.00am
RM 12 2/J- Ms Johnston on Wednesday 20th
8.00am

YMCA After School Care

The daily cost is $21.00 per child.
Enrolment forms are available in the office at Gray Primary School or further information may be obtained at childcare.darwin@ymca.org.au

Scholastic Book Club

Due Date for Issue 1 - Scholastic Book Club - Thursday 21st Feb

Book Club 2013 has started with Issue 1 coming home this week.
Please return your order by the due date above.
Please ensure the student’s name and class is written clearly on the order form and is sent with the money.
All orders and money are to be taken to the Library.

Tuesday
Play 2 Learn 9am — 11am Birth — 4yrs
(Please bring a piece of fruit to share)

Wednesday
Baby Play 2 Learn which is run in conjunction with Maternal Health Nurse, who will answer any questions you may have in regards to your Childs health and development
9am — 11am Birth — 12 months
(Morning tea provided)

Friday
Dreamtime Indigenous Play 2 Learn
9am — 11am Birth — 4yrs
(Morning tea provided)
Building the **Boundaries-and-Expectations Assets**

All young people need to know their limits as well as what’s expected of them. Here are ideas on how to build the six Boundaries-and-Expectations assets for children and youth at different ages:

| Ages Birth to 1 | • Realize that babies don’t intentionally violate standards and boundaries. Don’t punish them for violating boundaries they can’t understand.  
  • Distract children from inappropriate behavior and draw attention to how you want them to act. |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ages 1 to 2     | • Give simple, understandable boundaries, such as, “Sit down,” or “Don’t bite.”  
  • Enforce boundaries consistently so children don’t get confused.  
  • Affirm children when they act appropriately. |
| Ages 3 to 5     | • Stay calm when children act out in highly emotional ways.  
  • Model how you want children to act; don’t just tell them what to do and what not to do.  
  • Learn what to expect from preschoolers. Read about child development in books and magazines, talk to other parents, or talk to preschool teachers or child-care workers. |
| Ages 6 to 11    | • Encourage schools, neighbors, organizations, and communities to have consistent boundaries and consequences so children know how to act in different settings.  
  • Be firm about boundaries that keep kids safe. Don’t negotiate these boundaries.  
  • Challenge children to do their best in school, and help them whenever you can. |
| Ages 12 to 15   | • Be patient, calm, and consistent as young teenagers test the boundaries you set.  
  • Negotiate new boundaries as children grow older. Work together on what’s acceptable and what’s not.  
  • Ask young people where they are going and who they will be with. |
| Ages 16 to 18   | • Help teenagers think about their goals for the future and what kind of boundaries they’ll need to meet them.  
  • Continue to have boundaries for appropriate behaviors and consequences for violating those boundaries.  
  • Respect teenagers’ privacy needs while showing interest in their friends and activities.  
  • Challenge teenagers to do their best in school and other activities. |

Developmental Assets are positive factors within young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that research has found to be important in promoting the healthy development of young people. From Pass It On! Ready-to-Use Handouts for Asset Builders, Second Edition. Copyright © 2006 by Search Institute®. 612-376-8655, 800-888-7888; www.search-institute.org. This handout may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.
Territory Children OSHC

Currently Territory Children has vacancy's in after school care and vacation care. We offer a personal family feel for you and your child. The team at Territory Children pride themselves in their personal approach catering for your families individual needs.

We currently collect children from Gray School, Woodroffe School, Bakewell School, and Palmerston Christian School.

In the last few weeks we have been contacted by a few parents asking if we pick up from Gray school. We are located on the grounds of Woodroffe Primary School (55 Woodroffe Ave Woodroffe) To express interest or if you require any further information, please contact Samantha or Linda on 89313 533 or 0457 047 079

Bus Transport Available.

Do you require transport from Gray Primary School to YMCA Driver Afterschool Care?

A group of Gray Primary School Parents have started a permanent school bus run which goes from Gray Primary School and drops the children off at the YMCA Driver OSHC.

This bus run is through a professional organisation and costs are to be shared amongst the parents utilising the bus service.

If you are interested then please contact Gray Primary School or Blindi Burnell for further details bdburnell@bigpond.com

SIGN ON DAY

SENIORS AND JUNIORS

When: Sunday 24th February
Time: 10.30 am till 2.00 pm

Where: The Clubhouse at Fred’s Pass


For further information please phone 89884139 or 0428268937.

(We are able to accept the $75 Sport Voucher 2013 towards the cost of membership fees and uniform)

St Luke’s Anglican Church, corner of Priest Circuit & Victoria Drive, Gray is organizing an Alpha course starting every Wednesday from 20th Feb until 15th May.

Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

The Course will explore the meaning of life, a practical introduction to the Christian faith.

An Introduction dinner will be held on 15th Feb at 6.30pm.

All are welcome to this free event.

Call Fang Ling 0457863338 for enquiry and registration.