Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents,

We hope you all had a great week with your children and that everyone is now back into routines for school. This means the routine of being organized in the morning so that students are at school by 8am. We would also appreciate if parents could ensure that you discuss with your children the after school arrangements as often students are left in the office for 30 minutes waiting to be picked up and other students do not know if they are being picked up or not. Many parents are ringing the school at the busiest time of the day (around 2.15pm-2.40pm) for messages to be passed on to their child and this causes much stress for the office ladies.

Our whole school average attendance is sitting around 88.5% for Term 1. Our target is 91% so we are 2.5% behind in reaching this target. For us to achieve this target in Term 2 we need every child at school every day possible. The 91% attendance allows for most students to have five days absent in the term. Students who have more than five days absence in a term are at great risk of not learning to their potential. These students fall behind their peers academically and socially and find it difficult to catch up and to make good friends. These students are also not able to access our intervention programs due to their high level of absenteeism. Students with a high number of absences will be placed on Attendance Plans by the Attendance Team. We will be tracking every student this term and will notify parents when your child has five days absent from school.

This year it is Gray School’s 30th Birthday and we will be celebrating this event on Thursday 25th September. We are currently looking for volunteers who would be happy to be on an organizing group for this wonderful event. It is not a huge amount of work involved as the planning has already been done by the staff and School Council has looked over that planning. If you are interested in supporting the school in this way can you please contact either Kylie at the Gray Family Centre or Sue Beynon. Your help would be much appreciated.

Sayonara Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, Assistant Principal

RAFFLE

A basket full of chocolate eggs.
Only $1 per ticket
Drawn on Thursday after lunch!

Every Child, Every Day - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody’s responsibility and everyone’s business.
Helping you read with your child

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.

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 – 3:10pm Ipad 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.

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
THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING OR WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO THIS?

The way life works is around reality consequences – good consequences for good choices and painful consequences for inappropriate choices. A healthy respect for consequences keeps us living in reality and moving in a positive direction. Consequences transfer the need to be responsible from the parent to the child. All parents want their children to learn that if they make good choices life is much better than when they make bad choices.

However, most parents have difficulty allowing their children to suffer the consequences. The natural tendency is to bail them out and make excuses for their behaviour. However, by doing this, we are shaping the child into an adult who does not take responsibility for her/his actions, attitudes and behaviour because they have learned not to take on any responsibility.

Listed below are some hints to help parents:

- Make consequences a natural flow of the choice – ie not too soft and not too strict – if a child ‘forgets’ to bring their excursion note to school they miss out on the excursion
- Consequences need to be immediate especially for younger children
- Implement consequences when warnings and talking have failed
- Balance praise for good behaviour with consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Rewards are appropriate when a child is learning a new skill or for exceptional good choices. Rewards lose their effectiveness if given in response to what is expected.
- Stay away from emotional consequences such as guilt, shame and anger. When a child feels the pain of loss of privileges (ie no computer time) this teaches them far more than a parent getting angry with them.
- Make sure you have firm boundaries and expectations with your child and you regularly discuss these with your child.

From “Boundaries with Kids” by Dr Henry Cloud and Dr John Townsend
Thank you to The Smith Family

The Family Centre is looking fabulous at the moment – during week 10, Clare from The Smith Family delivered a stunning yarning mat that has already been put to good use at our parent groups. The design is really special and everybody has commented on how beautiful it looks. Clare also delivered a lovely baby mat that our very little babies that visit can use.

Then to top it all off during the holidays we visited a toy shop and picked heaps of beautiful new toys for the parents and kids to play together with at our Family Centre. We have trucks, garages, dolls, prams, puzzles, blocks, cash registers, trolleys and lots more.

Please come and visit and have a look at our new items. We would love to see you.

Kylie and Baby Annie enjoying playing together on the new mat.

Our 2014 FAST (Families and Schools Together) Program starts next week! This is your last opportunity to participate in the program as places are filling up quick. See Kylie at the Family Centre if you are interested.

Are you interested in a program that:

- Strengthens families
- Teaches children to respect their parents
- Gives parents time to share ideas and help each other
- Helps make strong links between the family, the school and the community

FAST helps you to:

- Help your child to do well at school
- Make your child feel good about themselves
- Help your child to have good friendships
- Feel less alone as a parent
- Think about the good things you are doing for your child
- Talk and listen to each other