Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents,

I would like to thank the whole school community for the way you have all supported each other through the death of Richard Baird. Richard’s death was a very sad time for all of us as he was such a delightful young man who made friends with everyone. His funeral will be held at Sacred Heart church, Emery Avenue, at 11am on Friday 28th February. Most of our staff will be attending the funeral. However, school will operate as normal and teachers from other Palmerston schools will take our classes from 10.30am to 1pm on Friday. Today Richard’s family came into the school to “smoke” the school as part of Aboriginal culture. We thank the family for enabling this to occur.

On Friday the canteen staff will also be at the funeral. However, they will serve spaghetti bolognaise for lunch if students order this in the lunch crate.

This year we have a whole school target of reaching 90% attendance for students every term. Our whole school average attendance to date is 89.6%, which is fantastic. In order to achieve this target we will need every family to:

- Ring the school when your child is absent
- Ensure that your child is at school every day unless they are sick
- Ensure that your child is at school by 8am every day
- Ensure that your child does not have more than five days absence every term.

We understand parents keeping children at home when they are genuinely sick. However, we also understand that when children have more than five days absence in a term their academic progress is hindered greatly. We will be checking absences every week and making phone calls and home visits if your child is in danger of having five or more days absence in a term. Attendance at school is compulsory. If you are having difficulties getting your child/ren to school please come and talk with Sue or Sharon so we can support you.

Please remember to ask your child’s teacher for the user name and password for “Reading Eggs” on line reading program and “Mathletics” on line maths program. Both of these programs children can work on independently and they will greatly support your child to improve their reading and maths results at school.

Have a wonderful week.

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

**SRC FUNDRAISING DRESS UP DAY**

**DRESS AS WHO YOU WANT TO BE (When you grow up)**

* Gold coin donation

**When:** This Friday 28th February

---

**WHATS HAPPENING**

**SRC Dress Up Day— Friday 28th**

**Richard Baird’s Funeral— 11am Friday 28th**

**AGM— Wednesday 5th March ( 6 pm )**

**Meet & Greet Year 2-6 —Wed 5th March 5pm-6pm**

**Meet & Greet Year 1’s—Wed 5th March 9am**

**Meet & Greet Transition—Wed 19th March 9am**

---

**Change in School Dental Clinic Number**

**New number on 8922 6466**

---

**Absences contact number**

89 321700
A “smoking” ceremony is an ancient custom among Indigenous Australians that involves collecting various native plants and using them to produce smoke. This is believed to produce cleansing properties and the ability to ward off unwanted and bad spirits. Smoking ceremonies are performed at major events such as births and deaths. The smoking ceremony is conducted by Aboriginal people with specialized cultural knowledge. The ceremony aims to cleanse the space in which the ceremony takes place.
Our thanks to Rebecca Drahm and family from Beta Berrimah Butcher’s for their very generous donation of $1,000 to support Alison and Jason with the expenses of Richard’s funeral. Rebecca and her daughter, Tahlia are handing over the cheque to Principal, Sue Beynon who then gave the cheque to the family.

Hi my name is Donelle Dingo and I am the AIEW—aboriginal/islander education worker at Gray School. I have been working at Gray School for many years. I have seen many children come and leave Gray. What I really love about my job is ..when the light comes on within a child and the realization that “I CAN DO IT” and also the development of a child educationally and spiritually as they go through school. I am the mother of 4 children and Nanna to 8 grandchildren. I am originally from Mullewa in WA. I love football and basketball.

If you need support with your children or just want to chat please contact me through the school office—89321700.

Gray School AIEW

Gray on Display 2014

Preschool and Years 2-6 Parents and Families are invited to join us

Wednesday 5th March

Between 5.00pm and 6.00pm
to explore the classrooms and meet teachers.

Food and drinks will be on sale

Transition and Year 1 classes will hold their “Meet and Greet” after they host the Early Childhood Assembly

Year 1 - Wednesday 5th March at 9am
Transition - Wednesday 19th March at 9am
Mrs Casey’s and Barb’s class have settled well into preschool and have made lots of new friends.
Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

Have you missed out on thousands of dollars?

In 2001, the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.

Twelve Chartered Accountants  ABN 61 712 659 747
www.twelve.com.au  Principal: Derek Nolan CA

Your Family Tax Specialist
Personal responsibility is the mark of true leadership. However, shirking responsibility or shifting the blame to others is a national sport in many western countries.

"Its not my fault" can be heard in court rooms, political rallies and in sporting tribunals everywhere as blame for a transgression is shifted away from the individual and placed on a scapegoat. It is little wonder that many children are experts at shirking personal responsibility.

Lack of personal responsibility is shown when children find excuses or blame others for their misbehaviour. It is shown when siblings are blamed for starting fights, parents for children's school lateness and classmates for misbehaving at school. Anything or anyone but themselves is to blame!

"Its not my turn" is another way of shirking responsibility.

Most parents want their children to be responsible for their actions. Taking responsibility means a child sees a problem and fixes it. A child who takes responsibility helps out regardless of how many times they have helped before or who causes a situation.

When a child complains that the toilet roll is empty then he or she can be invited to take responsibility for it. Similarly, if the bread bin is empty, the fire is out or the living room floor is a mess then the message could be that they should 'do something' about these situations.

When a child is late for school, forgets to hand in homework or deliberately hurts a classmate even though some teasing occurred then he or she needs to shoulder the blame and take responsibility for their actions.

Sounds tough but this is the approach to take if we are to promote a true sense of responsibility, initiative and accountability.

In families some children become adept at ducking their responsibilities. It is smart management to share the load using rosters and other organisational strategies.

But in the myriad of informal situations around the house where someone needs to take responsibility then it is helpful to take the "don't tell me, please fix it" approach.

Next time a child responds to your request for help with that classic line "but it's not my turn" look them straight in the eye and say, "You know, you may be right but isn't it lucky that you are so willing to help" and simply walk away. No buts, no arguments.

What's your child like?

Does your child take responsibility?

DOES HE

1. Usually help at home without being reminded? [Yes 2 No 0]
2. Take the initiative and fix things or help even if he won't receive recognition? [Yes 2 No 0]
3. Blame others when things go wrong? [Yes 0 No 2]
4. Own up straight away if he has done the wrong thing? [Yes 2 No 0]
5. Start games and initiate activities at home or at school? [Yes 2 No 0]

SCORE:
10: What a responsible child! Leadership potential.
6-8: Knows about taking responsibility but needs an occasional reminder.
4-5: Needs someone on his shoulder all the time! May need to be given more responsibility.

To promote personal responsibility in your child:

1. Help them identify BUT NUTS and BLAME GAMERS.
   - BUT NUTS look for excuses such as tiredness, moods or other people when things go wrong. "But I am too tired to help."
   - BLAME GAMERS blame others when things go wrong. "It's not my fault. Sarah started it."
2. Make sure they have some jobs at home so that others rely on them.
3. Use a roster for jobs and place responsibility on children to do tasks without being reminded.

Action Plan

First Step .

Next Step .

For more ideas about promoting responsibility and accountability in children visit www.parentingideas.com.au

Quote

‘The reason people blame things on the previous generations is that there is one other choice.’ Doug Larson

parentingideas.com.au