Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported the school over the past weeks when there has been strike action. It is always a difficult time and we hope that a resolution can be achieved very quickly.

Can I please encourage parents to ensure your child wears a helmet when riding their bike to school. I notice that none of our students currently wears a bike helmet. This becomes a serious issue if the child falls from their bike and suffers head injuries. With Christmas coming up it may be a great idea to put a bike helmet on Santa’s list.

A parent spoke with me recently about using a product called “Barnlice” to get rid of those dreaded nits. She said it was the best product she has used. You can buy this product from any chemist but check around for the best price.

During the school holidays your child/ren can still go on the computer to continue practicing their Maths and Reading by accessing the Mathletics and Reading Eggs programs. If you do not have a password please speak with the class teacher. These programs are free for you to use at home as the school pays the license fee each year. Both of these programs are excellent and for all ages so make sure you have the website and the passwords. The students can work on these programs independently.

Our whole school Awards Assembly will be held on Wednesday 11th December at 8.30am in the hall. If your child is receiving an award you will receive a phone call to let you know so that you can be at the assembly to show your support and be proud of your child’s achievement.

School reports will be sent home on Wednesday 11th December in a sealed envelope. In this envelope will also be their attendance certificate for the semester and the letter advising what class the child will be in next year. The classes may have to change due to the current staffing uncertainties. However, we will endeavour to keep the classes the same as advised in your letter.

The school office will be closed over the Christmas / New Year period. The office will be closed from Monday 23rd December 2013 until Friday 10th January 2014. Parents may come into the office after 10th January to spend the $150 back to school voucher.

Have a wonderful week.

Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, Assistant Principal
ASSEMBLY AWARDS
22/11/13

GIANT MERIT AWARD
Annie Mae Rizaldo

MAXI MERIT AWARDS

T/B  Austin Jenkins  T/F  Keith Atkinson
T/F  Siddhanta Neupane  T/F  Rebel Rodgers x 3
T/1B  Dakota Wallace  1/25  Zoey Prance
2/J  Rafael Rizaldo  2/J  Brock Proosdy
3/4B  Taylah Ahmat  3/4B  Joshua Marquez
5/R  Naymikah Senge-Henda  5/6S  Ngametua Aukin
5/6S  Jett Cordes  5/6S  Josie McGuinness
5/6S  Lucas Roe  5/6B  Brad Svansfeld
5/6B  Alyssa Wrenn  5/6B  Scott Wilson
5/6B  Parmia Charkhyan

EARLY YEARS
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
AWARDS

TB  Tristan Tyson  Leah Baird
TF  Sarahjane Diaz  Leah Power
T/1B  Ani Garg  Tom Wilson
1/2L  Raymond Mills  Julianna Kostanjevec-Doyle
1/2S  Robert Hampton  Jermaine Dwyer
2J  Dunto Sailor  Tory Walsh

PRIMARY
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
AWARDS

3W  Jazmine Sharples-Gardner  Sheila Shields
3/4B  Linclon  Tayla Ahmat
5R  Brandon Martin  Ruby Sailor
5/6S  James Sailor  Danielle Sinclair-Mason
5/6B  Brandon Martin  Lola Coonan-Russell

LIBRARY
AWARDS
Highest borrowers for the year

T/B  Keith Atkinson  T/F  Jai Locke
T/1B  Aira Mae Rizaldo  1/2L  Janelle Jong
1/2S  Annie Mae Rizaldo  2/J  Patrick Tidalgo
3/W  Grace Turner  3/4B  Sharmayne Rizaldo
4/M  Bang Tran  5/R  Josed Labayo
5/6S  Alyssa Wrenn  5/6B  Josie McGuinness

OUR LOST PROPERTY BASKET WILL BE ON DISPLAY OUTSIDE THE FRONT OFFICE EACH AFTERNOON.

If you have misplaced something please come and check the basket as all unclaimed property will be donated to the Red Cross at the end of the year.

BORROWED SCHOOL SHIRTS

Due to Mandatory School Uniforms we have a stock of uniforms that can be borrowed if needed under certain circumstances. Our stock is currently very low due to shirts not being returned. If your child has borrowed a uniform we would greatly appreciate their return. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Please treat the table below as a suggestion only; all donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be given to the class teacher or left at the front office. A big thank you to those who have already donated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presch</td>
<td>Crafty items - stickers, glue, tape, colour pencils, colouring in books, simple craft activities, books, play-dough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tran</td>
<td>Christmas Items - bauble, tinsel, cellophane, Christmas paper, shiny things stocking fillers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Around the house - cleaning stuff, sponges, detergent, toilet paper, paper towel, tea towels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Packets - biscuits, rice crackers, popcorn, cereal, flour, sugar, cake mix, nuts, dried fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Personal care - toothpaste, soap, band-aids, dental floss, sunscreen, deodorant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Cans - baked beans, spaghetti, veggies, fruit, pet food, spreads, tuna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Long-life items - Rice, pasta, 2 minute noodles, soup, gravy mix, casserole mix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Treats - chocolate, sweets, jellybeans, poppers, juice, chips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VACATION CARE PROGRAM @ GRAY SCHOOL

16th – 20th Dec 2013  13th – 17th Jan 2013
6th – 10th Jan 2014  20th – 24th Jan 2104

Programs are available at the office.
* Subject to whether there are enough numbers.
NEW After School & Vacation Care SERVICE

OPENED—Mon 07 Oct 2013
Together with the Outside School Care NT—Gray Primary School will offer its own on-site afterschool and vacation care services from the start of the new term (subject to regulatory approvals).

WHAT IS OFFERED?
High quality after school care program and snack menu from 2.30pm—6.00pm each school day.
Vacation care from 7.30am—6.00pm through the school holidays.

HOW DO I ENROL MY CHILDREN?
Pick up an Enrolment Pack from reception or download from the Website: www.outsideschoolcare.com
OR CALL JANET on 0499994158 or JADE on 0409976228

Enjoy breakfast with:

COPAL—City of Palmerston on Wednesday 4th
Fresh Fruit compote with yogurt and honey
Dear Parent/Guardian

The Northern Territory Government is committed to supporting all Territory families in helping their children receive a quality education.

I am therefore pleased to advise that every enrolled school-aged child across the Northern Territory will again be entitled to $150 through the Back to School Payment Scheme in 2014. In accordance with our election commitment, this is twice the amount that was provided through this scheme under the previous government.

The Back to School Payment Scheme entitlement can be used during Term 1, 2014 to purchase essential school items through your child’s school. Essential school items may include uniforms, text books, stationery, resource hire schemes, subject material costs, student identification cards and costs for camps and excursions.

For preschool students, the Back to School Payment Scheme entitlement can be used during the term that the child first commences school.

Your school will record all eligible purchases made and can provide you with a record of payment on request to enable you to keep track of how much of your entitlement has been used.

I have attached a list of frequently asked questions about the Back to School Payment Scheme. If you would like further information about your entitlement, please contact your child’s school.

Yours sincerely

PETER CHANDLER
Back to School Payment Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Back to School Payment Scheme?
The Back to School Payment Scheme was initiated by the Northern Territory Government to help families offset the beginning of year expenses for students.

How much is the entitlement worth?
The Back to School Payment Scheme is to the value of $150 per eligible student.

Who is eligible for the Back to School Payment Scheme?
Students enrolled and attending a Northern Territory (NT) school are eligible for the Back to School Payment Scheme. This includes students enrolled at NT government and non-government schools and NT home-educated students.

Where can the Back to School Payment Scheme entitlement be used?
The entitlement for students enrolled in NT schools can only be used through the school the student first attends at the beginning of the school year. The entitlement cannot be used at shopping centres, supermarkets, takeaway food outlets etc.

Schools provide the goods and services that enrolled students may purchase with their entitlement. Parents/students do not need to provide copies of a letter or any other item to access their entitlement.

What can the Back to School Payment Scheme be used for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entitlement may include Goods and Services such as:</th>
<th>Entitlement cannot be:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• textbooks</td>
<td>• used for voluntary parent contributions, including donations to the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• stationery, including calculators, flash drives, school diaries etc.</td>
<td>• used for canteen purchases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• uniforms, including hats, book bags etc.</td>
<td>• redeemed for cash, including refunds for purchased goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• resource hire schemes, excluding refundable deposits</td>
<td>• transferred between students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• elective subject/material fees</td>
<td>• transferred to another school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student ID card</td>
<td>• returned to parents after Term one if they authorised the funds to be used for activities/items to be purchased in Terms 2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• school camps</td>
<td>• used to purchase goods and services from suppliers other than the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• excursions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• elective activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• student photocopying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year Book</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Councils can decide the appropriate goods and services to offer to their school community. The goods and services must provide value-for-money and parents/students should be able to take
possession of goods up to the value of $150 or access the equivalent value of services. Schools cannot use the payment scheme for classroom supplies on behalf of parents/students.

It should be noted that a refund will not be granted, where the entitlement is used for goods or services which are not available until after Term one (e.g. a Year Book in Term four or a school camp in Term three) if the student leaves the school in Term two, or the camp is cancelled.

**Is there a Back to School Payment Scheme voucher?**
No. It is not necessary for families to produce any documentation in order to use the entitlement.

**Does the entitlement have an expiry date?**
The Back to School Payment must be used by the following timeframes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Payment Scheme must be used by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool students</td>
<td>The end of the term that the student commenced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to Year 12 students</td>
<td>End of Term One</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Can the Back to School Payment Scheme entitlement be used for the following school year if it has a remaining balance?**
No. The Back to School entitlements expire as set out in the table above.

**Does the entitlement have to be used all at once or, for example, can it be used for something worth $20 in February and then for something else in March?**
The entitlement can be used multiple times and at different times to the total value of $150 as set out in the table above.

**Can students use the entitlement?**
While it is preferable that a parent/guardian uses the entitlement, it is acceptable for older students to use the entitlement for school items with the permission of parents/guardians. However, neither DoE nor the school accepts responsibility if the student uses the entitlement without the parent’s permission.

**What happens if the student changes school and the full entitlement has not been used?**
The entitlement – or the balance remaining of it – is not transferable to other schools. The $150 entitlement must be used at the school where the student first enrolled and attended in Term one.

**What happens if the student already has a school uniform, books or stationery? What else can the entitlement be used for?**
The entitlement can be used for any essential school item available at the student’s school. The school should be contacted to discuss the options available.

**What is the School Record of Payment form?**
Schools must keep a record of the goods and services used by each parent/student. Schools may use the School Record of Payment form or schools can choose another preferred method of record keeping. School’s must provide a record of goods and services used by parents/students on request.

**Is the entitlement taxable? Does it have to be claimed as income?**
No. The Back to School Payment Scheme is not taxable and does not need to be included on an income tax statement.