Dear Parents/Carers and Grandparents,

The best way for a child to succeed at school is to have over 90% attendance (only 5 days absence each term) and for the child to see and understand the partnership between home and school. Tonight parents have that opportunity to support your child by attending the Meet and Greet. At the Meet and Greet you will be able to meet your child’s friends and their teachers (including the Art and Health and PE teachers) and you will be able to look at your child’s bookwork to see what they are learning and the effort they are putting into their learning. Please do come along. From 5pm to 6pm.

At 6pm the School Council will hold their Annual General Meeting and we also encourage you to participate in the meeting and put up your hand to be part of the School Council. This is an opportunity for you to have your say about the future direction of the school and the decisions we make.

Our whole school attendance is a big focus this year as we really want to improve this to an average of 91%. This means every child needs to be at school every day. When students miss two days in a row or they are absent every Friday or another day on a regular basis, parents will initially receive a phone call from the school and then a follow up home visit. If the attendance does not improve over the next two weeks, we will hand the case over to the attendance team to follow through with compulsory meetings and eventually fines if attendance does not improve. This may seem harsh, but the law does state that school attendance is compulsory, and students are being disadvantaged when they have extremely low attendance. Once again, I will state, that if your child is sick please keep them at home but ring the school each day they are away to explain the absence.

Our school has registered to be part of the 2014 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, being held nationwide on Friday, 21 March.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (National Day of Action) is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools. It’s a day where school communities across Australia ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence. Gray Primary School is dedicated to creating a supportive school environment, free from bullying, harassment and violence. By working together we are sending a clear message to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, are not okay at any time.

Have a wonderful week.

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

GRAY ON DISPLAY

Preschool, Years 2-6 Meet & Greet

This afternoon 5pm-6pm

Food and drinks will be on sale

Every Child, Every Day - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody’s responsibility and everyone’s business.
Golden R

Thank you to all students and staff who donated their gold coins.

$231.85 was raised.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

MAXI MERIT AWARDS

1/T Dylan Martin 1/B David Barnes

EARLY YEARS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AWARDS

T/B Izabelle Sharples-Gardner Blade Walker
T/F Zyiera Banderson Jacob Van-Wageningen
1/B Ani Garg Chloe Martin
1/T Calvin Gunn
2/S Anthony McMahan Garling Constance Swan
2/3J Tamsin Hartley Dalsanto Lewis

PRIMARY

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AWARDS

3P Josh Martin Shenielle Jacobs
3/4B Jennifer Keightley Sarita Armstrong
5/B Terrence Noakes Shakira Shields -Corp
5/6R Raymond Bosman Bang Tran
6/B Jade Miller Josed Labayo

Our school is taking a stand against bullying and violence in 2014

Our school has registered to be part of the 2014 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, being held nationwide on Friday, 21 March.

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Gray Primary is dedicated to creating supportive school environments, free from bullying, harassment and violence. By working together we are sending a clear message to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, are not okay at any time.

Please be reminded, Parents/Guardians need to provide their own locks for students to secure their bikes & scooters in the bike rack.

The school is not responsible for stolen bikes and scooters.
Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Notice of industrial action by teachers on Friday 7th March 2014

The NT Branch of the Australian Education Union (AEUNT) has advised that its members will stop work all day on Friday 7th March 2014.

The school will have limited capacity to supervise your child during the stop work action. This means that some classes will be split for the day in order for us to cover them. The school will not be able to provide the normal school program. Although your child will be supervised during the work stoppage you may choose to make alternative arrangements for your child on this day.

Normal classes will resume at 8am on Monday 10 March 2014.

You can contact the school on 8932 1700 if you require further information. The Department of Education website (www.education.nt.gov.au) will also provide information regarding arrangements at NT Government schools.

I regret the inconvenience the industrial action may cause.

Yours sincerely

Sue Beynon
Principal
5th March 2014
BOOK CLUB—ISSUE 2
ORDERS DUE BACK
FRIDAY 14th March

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

Week 3 Highest Class Attendance

95%

Well done!

2/3 Johnston

Listening to parents and carers
Your voice in your school community

Tell us what skills and knowledge YOU want to help your children learn at home and at school

8.30am — 10.00am
Wednesday 12 March 2014
Gray Primary School
Family Centre

Transport and refreshments

Contact: Kylie Grainger on 8992 1700 or 0412 465 071

Parents Meet
Every Wednesday Morning at the Gray Family Centre
8:00am - 10:00am

Contact Kylie at the Family Centre for more information

Children are welcome

JUNIOR TRAINING STARTING SOON
New players welcome!

When Every Tuesday and Thursday, 5.15 – 6.15pm, commencing Tuesday 4 March

Where Palmerston Rugby Union Club
81 Bonson Tce, Moulden

Find out more www.palmerstonrugby.com.au, email admin@palmerstonrugby.com.au or ph. 0417 082 531
Mrs Casey’s and Barb’s class have been looking at our emotions how we feel, and what makes us feel the way we are.

**Outcome 1:** Children have a strong sense of identity.
Gray on Display 2014

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

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

PARCS

TRIALS

12 & Under Champs

PARCS Netball Trials –
Wednesday 5th of March 4pm-5pm (Palmerston Netball Courts)

PARCS AFL Trials –
Wednesday 5th of March 4pm-5pm (Magpies Oval Palmerston)

See Ms Roe for Consent Forms
### Fast Facts: Bullying in Schools

**What is bullying?**

The National Safe Schools Framework defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

In short, bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour which involves the misuse of power. Cyberbullying is bullying through the internet or mobile devices.

**Is every conflict between students bullying?**

Not all aggressive or harmful behaviour between people is bullying. While conflicts and aggressive behaviour need to be addressed, it is important to be clear when these behaviours are not actually bullying.

The definition of bullying has three critical aspects - a repeated pattern, the misuse of power within relationships, and behaviour which causes harm; all three aspects need to be present in order for behaviour to be called bullying.

**What does the ‘misuse of power’ mean?**

In a situation where there is a power imbalance, one person or group has a significant advantage over another, and if this power is misused, this enables them to coerce or mistreat another for their own ends. In a bullying situation this power imbalance may arise from the context (e.g. having others to back you up), from assets (e.g. access to a weapon) or from personal characteristics (e.g. being stronger, more articulate or more able to socially manipulate others).

**Why is the definition of bullying important?**

A clear, comprehensive and shared definition is essential to enable schools to identify bullying, and distinguish it from other types of conflicts or violence, so that appropriate strategies and interventions can be used.

**How is bullying different from violence, harassment and discrimination?**

The critical feature that distinguishes violence, harassment and discrimination from bullying is that bullying happens within social relationships, featuring repeated and harmful behaviours that stem from a misuse of power. Violence, harassment and discrimination can occur as part of bullying, but also can occur in one-off conflicts or between strangers.

It is important to know the difference as the effect on the individual or group may be different and the responses to each may need to be different.

Intervening in less serious bullying early can often prevent harassment, discrimination and more serious negative behaviours from becoming part of the bullying pattern.
Head lice and nits

What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny wingless insects (2-3mm long) that live in the hair and feed on human blood. They vary in colour from cream to brown/black. They crawl quickly on the scalp and are difficult to see. They can only survive on humans. They do not jump, hop or swim and cannot be caught from animals.

What are nits?

‘Nits’ is the common name for the small eggs that are laid by head lice. They are the size of a grain of salt, yellow-white in colour and are found firmly attached to the hair close to the scalp. Common places for nits to be found are behind the ears, the back of the neck and the fringe. Dead nits are often black in colour and are found well away from the scalp.

Life cycle of head lice

Nits are laid on the hair shaft within 1cm of the scalp and take about 7-10 days to hatch into head lice. They will only hatch in a moist, warm environment such as the scalp. If the lice are isolated from the head they die very quickly, generally within 24 hours, although in our hot environment they can live longer than in other places in Australia.

How are head lice spread?

Anyone can catch head lice; they cannot be prevented by cleanliness. Head lice are spread by direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. Head lice cannot jump or fly from head to head but may be passed on by sharing hats and brushes. They are unlikely to be spread through bedding, furniture or carpets.

Head lice are commonly found in primary school children because of their often close, personal contact with each other.

What are the symptoms?

Head lice may cause itch and irritation, leading to sleep disturbances and behaviour problems. They do not transmit any infectious diseases. Scratching resulting in breaks in the skin may lead to skin and lymph gland infections.

However, they occasionally do not cause any symptoms so it is important to look for them.

Recommended treatment

Oclusive products are now the recommended head lice treatment in the NT. Oclusive products kill lice by smothering them. The safest and most effective products are from the HEDRIN 108 range, which contain the active components dimethicone and neraloloid. The dimethicone kills the adult lice and neraloloid kills the lice eggs.

These are silicone based products and are applied to clean, dry hair. These products are effective, have no evidence of resistance, are safe and are able to be used repeatedly.

A second treatment 7 days later is recommended just in case any eggs have hatched.

Treatments should be used according to the instructions on the packet. All household members should be checked for head lice and everyone with head lice should be treated at the same time.

If a child is found to have head lice, their school, playgroup, childcare centre etc should be notified so other children can be checked and treated if necessary.

Insecticidal treatments

Previously, insecticidal products were the main treatment option. They kill lice chemically but unfortunately, these products have become less effective as lice have become resistant to them. The active compounds found in insecticidal head lice treatments include:

- Permethrin – least toxic to people
- Pyrethrin – moderately toxic to people
- Malathion – most toxic to people.

Overuse of insecticidal head lice treatments does not assist in getting rid of head lice and increases the risks of side effects. Side effects may include mild irritation of the eyes, skin, nose and throat or if alcohol based products are used, pain or irritation of open sores and cuts.

Pregnant women, people with sensitive skin and parents of young babies should consult with a doctor before applying insecticidal head lice treatments.

Care should be taken to avoid having the product come in contact with the user’s eyes, nose or throat.

The person applying the insecticidal treatment product should wear protective gloves (to avoid unnecessary exposure to the treatment).

Manual removal of head lice

Hair conditioner or silicone based oclusive products can be used with a fine tooth, head lice comb to manually remove lice. Conditioner does not kill lice but it does stun the lice (for about 20 minutes) so that they can be combed out before they lay eggs. Eggs may be removed by the combing process or can be picked off by hand. This treatment should be carried out every second day until no live head lice have been found for 10 consecutive days.

The wet combing technique:

1. Apply conditioner or oclusive product to dry hair – use enough to cover the whole scalp and all hair from roots to tips (do not use together or each sequentially as one can counter-act the other)
2. Use a normal comb to remove tangles and evenly distribute the product throughout the hair
3. Use a fine tooth/head lice comb to systematically comb hair from scalp to tips
4. Wipe the comb onto a tissue after each stroke to remove immobilised lice
5. Comb all hair at least twice
6. Wash remaining product from hair.

‘Natural’ and other products

Treatments involving t-tree oil, eucalyptus oil or kerosene are not recommended. These products have not been proven to be as safe or effective as standard treatments, are more toxic and are likely to burn the skin.

If treatment does not work

True treatment failure has occurred when live lice are found immediately after treatment.

Treatment failures may result from:

- Inappropriate treatment
- Hatching of lice from eggs since the last treatment
- Resistance of head lice to a particular treatment product
- Re-infestation from others who have been inadequately or not treated
- Eggs found more than 1 cm from the scalp do not represent treatment failure, they are usually dead or hatched eggs. Dead nits are dark/black in colour.

Suggested management:

- Change to a different category of treatment product. If you have used an insecticidal product, change to an oclusive product.
- Increase fine combing (eg twice daily).
- Seek advice from a doctor or pharmacist.

Prevention of head lice

There are no products available to prevent head lice. When lice are present in the community, simple measures for prevention include:

- Weekly hair and scalp checks
- Wet combing frequently with nit combs
- Avoid sharing brushes, combs, hats, pillows
- Washing brushes and combs once a week in hot soapy water
- Keeping long hair braided or tied back.

For more information contact the Centre for Disease Control in your region

Alice Springs 8961 7540
Darwin 8922 8044
Katherine 8973 9049
Nhulunbuy 8987 0357
Tennant Creek 8962 4259