Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents

Well it appears we are now in the Dry Season and I hope we will have a long and cool Dry Season to refresh all of us. This week your child will have the opportunity to buy a gift for their special MUM. The fundraising team have worked hard to find fabulous gifts at very low prices. The students will have the opportunity to view the gifts first and then buy on Thursday.

Mothers are a very special part of the family (as are dads). My own mum has now passed away but I still treasure the wonderful memories and the funny times we had together, the encouragement from her, the wisdom she bestowed on me and the love she had for her family. May all our mums have a special day on Sunday and may you be spoilt, valued and appreciated for the whole day!

I was reading some interesting research on the weekend about parenting styles and the impact they have on children’s behaviour. The same could be said for teaching styles also. There are four distinct parenting styles—positive parenting, psychologically controlling parenting, negative/harsh parenting and uninvolved parenting. As expected, more positive parenting, which included parental warmth, emotional sensitivity, consistency, firm and fair boundaries, was related to less aggression by the child. More negative/harsh parenting, psychologically controlling parenting and uninvolved parenting was associated with increased aggressive behaviour in the child. As I stated this is also very true for teaching styles. The teacher who is positive, firm, fair, consistent and has good relationships with their students will get much improved results from the student. At Gray School we expect our teachers, tutors and admin staff to be positive role models to the students and we expect a mutual respect between teacher/student and parent.

A letter has been sent home this week about a whole school performance on Tuesday 21st May. The cost of the performance is $4.00 and can be paid directly to the class teacher. Well worth the money.

Have a great week—Sue Beynon, Principal and Sharon Chin, AP
**FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR STUDENTS**

Reminder
All students are eligible for free check ups and treatment.

Where: Moulden Primary School
When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Contact: Jo— 89323494

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS - 03/5/13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T/F</th>
<th>Leah Power</th>
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<th>Chloe Martin</th>
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<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Connor Kogler</td>
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<td>Erin Draper</td>
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**MAXI MERIT AWARDS**

- T/F Leah Power
- T/F Chloe Martin
- 1/2S Connor Kogler
- 3/W Erin Draper
- 4/M Kelsy Beyer
- 4/M Bang Tran
- 4/M Letoya McCoy
- 5/R Naymikah Senge-Henda
- 5/6 Joseph Thompson

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS - 03/5/13**

**EARLY YEARS STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AWARDS**

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<tr>
<th>TB</th>
<th>Deejay Taylor</th>
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<tr>
<td>TF</td>
<td>Codey Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>T/1B</td>
<td>Scotte Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td>Blake Draper</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Alexandra Alvarez</td>
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<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>Oscar Russell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS - 03/5/13**

| 1/2L   | Kreisha Spicer      |
| 1/2S   | Denny Waters        |
| 2J     | Tory Walsh          |

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**FREE DRESS DAY**

Outback theme

**Friday 17th May**

( Gold coin donation )
Money raised on the day will go towards SRC funding.

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A**

**Mothers Day Morning Tea**

To honour and celebrate the Mums and other special women in our lives.

**Friday 10 May 2013**

In the staffroom, following the Early Childhood Assembly.

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**NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME 2013**

When: Wednesday 22nd May
Time: 11am
Where: Gray Primary School Hall
Come and join in the fun and help promote the value of reading and books.

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**THIS WEEK’S HEALTHY LUNCH BOX IDEAS**

- Sandwiches or pita/pocket bread with cheese, lean meat, tuna and salad
- Cheese slices, crackers and fresh fruit
- Raisin bread
- Home popped pop corn
- Salad box with cherry tomatoes, lettuce (torn up), 4 bean mix and a hardboiled egg
- Washed and cut up raw vegetables or fresh fruits with dip
- Yoghurt (frozen at the start of the day)
- You could include a “non-food” treat, drawing or special note as a surprise sometimes

Adapted by COPAL
Gray Primary School (Family Centre Building)

Good Beginnings Australia is a National charity, building better outcomes for children in vulnerable communities through a range of early intervention programs for families.

These programs include: **Play2 Learn, Family Support, Community Connections and Toy Library**

**Play2Learn**

Play2Learn 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 Play2Learn 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.

**Monday:** 9am – 11am Moulden Primary School (OSHC Building)

Play2Learn Birth—4yrs (Please bring a piece of fruit to share)

**Tuesday:** 9am—11am Gray Primary School (Good Beginnings Demountable)

Play2Learn Birth—4yrs (Please bring a piece of fruit to share)

**Wednesday:** 9am —11am Gray Primary School (Good Beginnings Demountable)

Baby Play2Learn which is run in conjunction with Maternal Health Nurse, who will answer any questions you may have in regards to your Child’s health and development Birth—12 months.

(Morning tea provided)

**Toy Library**

**Thursday:** 9am – 11am

The Toy Library aims to provide a service to families and children in the Palmerston area, by providing a mobile and outreach support service/s. Parents will be able to borrow toys from a mobile toy library that operates from at least 2 locations, including but not limited to, parks and the Gray Op Shop with the flexibility to adapt locations depending on the needs of families.

**Friday:** 9am – 11am (Dream Time Kids) A Play2learn group for Indigenous families with children Birth—4yrs

Venue: Gray Primary School Good Beginnings Demountable.

(Morning tea provided)

All Good Beginnings programs are provided free of charge

For more information please contact the office on 0889327022 Mobile 0417200170
The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back!

This community program enables **Gray School** to earn educational resources simply through the school community shopping at Woolworths.

Last year, the program provided 720,000 pieces of educational equipment to more than 12,500 schools and early learning centres. Schools selected from thousands of different items through our program, highlighting how each school’s needs are different and how critical a breadth of range is.

**From Monday 8th April until Sunday 9th June 2013**, when you shop at Woolworths you will be given a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. There'll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent, excluding cigarettes, liquor and gift cards.

Collect these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points and our school will be able to redeem these for educational resources.

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program offers products to suit students of all ages. Gray School will choose resources based on our needs, across every educational category possible, including mathematics and English resources, science equipment, arts & crafts materials, sports gear and more.

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**Junior Orienteering Program**

- Do you like the great outdoors?
- Do you enjoy solving problems?
- Do you like to know where you are?
- Are you adventurous by nature?

Then come and join the Top End Orienteers Junior Program for all this and more!

- The program is aimed at 10-14 year olds and will introduce and develop orienteering skills such as map interpretation, map orientation, use of the compass and following a set route.
- It will run during Term 2 on Wednesday afternoons from 5.15 - 6.15 pm at the following locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sunday club event - all welcome (fee applies)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Gardens</td>
<td>5 May - Innisfail</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>East Point</td>
<td>15 May - magic</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>Horne's Jungle</td>
<td>20 May - Mitchell Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Ornau's Darwin NP</td>
<td>25 May - Mitchell Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>Darwin Water Sports Reserve</td>
<td>6 June - Darwin Water Sports Reserve</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- A camp is planned in the June holiday break to further consolidate skills, and there are many opportunities at Sunday club events throughout the year to put your skills into practice.

- The program fee for members of Top End Orienteers, or $15 for non-member (which covers membership). You can also choose to use your Junior Sports Voucher (covers membership plus entry fees for all 2023 club events as well as free safety whistle)

- For more information contact Jill Bertel at jnilbert@optusnet.com.au or phone 08 8951 5941 or 0401 576564.
Why stories are important

Stories help children cope with many feelings and problems. Story time can be a special caring time with you that your children will remember all their lives. Whether they are the stories you tell, or in books, stories are one of the ways that children learn to enjoy reading. Books and the people they read about in books can become like friends. Children can also learn that books are a way to find out useful and important information. Many people look back with pleasure on their favourite stories from childhood. It is now known that reading aloud to babies and children is so important in their early years and has an impact on their overall development and future learning.

The RSG uses ‘tell’ and ‘share’ in turn. Change to suit your children’s sex.

Why read with children?

Get language is the way we communicate with others. It helps us to understand ourselves and to make sense of the world.

Reading is something that many of us enjoy and that we all need to be able to do. Every time we go out we are reading signs, labels and directions.

Letting children see you read lots of different things such as letters, cards, recipe and newsletters gives them positive messages about reading.

Children who enjoy reading are likely to become confident learners.

Reading can become a favourite hobby which children go on to enjoy all their lives.

Reading and story time can be special time for both parents and children. If it is a relaxed and happy time, it helps build good relationships between you and your child. It helps build a sense of security and good self-esteem.

Stories can help children to deal with the problems and fears that they face in everyday life.

Be patient. If you don’t enjoy reading or find it a struggle, you still need to show your children that reading is important. You can have books around the house and you can talk your children that you wish you had the chance to learn to like reading.

How books and stories help children

Books help language and thinking.

Young children can learn about the world from picture books.

They enjoy looking at the pictures in the book.

Children can learn many things from books - about size, colour, shapes, about what things look like, and about people and their lives.

Th ey learn about numbers and space. For example from ‘The Three Bears’ they can learn that there were two bears, one father bear, one mother bear and one baby bear. They also learn about such things as big and little, inside and outside.

All of this happens without any teaching – they learn it just from enjoying the story.

Stories help to develop children’s imaginations.

Tips for story tellers

- Whether you read or tell stories to your children you will be helping them in many ways. It is best if you can do some of both. Some of us don’t like telling stories very much, others don’t like reading. Do what works best for you and your child.

- You can get picture books that don’t have any words. You can make up the story to suit the pictures for your child.

- Follow your child’s lead when you are reading or telling stories so she can be a part in the reading time – read the bits that she really likes over and over again. Stop when she wants to stop, skip the bits that she wants to skip.

- Be guided by your child as to what she likes but try out a range of picture books so she has a choice to explore.

- Lots of books for your child’s age can often be found at your local council library. School and preschool libraries usually have large range of books. If you have never been to a library before it could feel strange at first. Try to go on a week day when the library is not busy. Ask the librarian to help you find your way through the children’s section.

- Librarians are pleased to show you what the library has to offer and trained to know what books children are likely to enjoy.

- Borrow a number of books each time you go. If your child really likes one and wants it over and over again, this is the one to buy and then.

- Browse through bookshops or garage sales. Often really good books can be bought cheaply as paperbacks.

- It is enjoying the reading that counts. Starting with cheap books from the supermarket is a good way to help children to have some books to own.

- Take your children to children’s play where they will see stories acted out – or go just for the fun.

- Give your child books for birthdays, Christmas, name days or just for a special treat. They are great presents.

Babies

Young babies will enjoy the warmth of your company and the sound and rhythm of your voice, long before they can understand the words.

Babies can start to learn to enjoy books from birth as you show them brightly coloured pictures and name the objects or sing a theme about the picture. They learn reading “feeling good” time.

It brings together the things they need most to grow and develop - closeness, safety, touch, seeing, hearing, and learning about sounds as well as learning gradually what they mean.
**Parent easy guide 57 - Why stories are important**

** Toddlers **
- Make story time part of your special bedtime routine every night.
- Stories need to be simple and short because toddlers have short attention spans.
- Toddlers enjoy books with colourful pictures, simple rhymes and stories about things they know.
- Very young children often want their 'favourite stories over and over again. This can be important to them as they grow and learn.
- Two year olds will often correct you if you even leave out a word. They will enjoy saying some of the words as they get to know their loved stories.

**Preschoolers**
- Let your children choose books or stories.
- Stories can be acted out by you and your child.
- Children can make pictures or models of stories.
- Ask your children to tell you a story – and listen to them. Show you are interested.
- Stories should not be too long – find books that you can start and finish in one go.
- Take your child to the library and let him select some books to read from the section for his age. He may not like them all, but he will probably like some and he is learning to use a library. Ask the librarian about borrowing tapes.
- Letting your child choose some of the books to borrow and choose the stories you tell will help him to learn that he is a partner in the reading time. He will start to think about books as something he can choose for himself.

**School beginners**
- Don't make story time a reading lesson – it is a time for sharing, relating and fun.
- Don't expect too much too soon when your children are learning to read stories for themselves. It takes a long time after children can read before they read well enough to really enjoy the stories they are reading. They will need you to read stories to them long after they can read for themselves.
- There is something special about having stories read to you at any age.
- Allow your children to choose books they like to read, even if they are not your choice.
- Help children find books about their interests, e.g. if they love dogs, cars or dinosaurs, look for books on these topics.
- Beginners need books with simple words for success and enjoyment. Books that are too hard can put them off.
- All children are different. One child might not enjoy the same books or be at the same reading level as another child, or as an older brother or sister did at the same age.

What should you look for?
The following suggestions can help when choosing books for your child.

- Books which vary the important roles - some where the prince saves the princess and some where the princess saves the prince.
- Books which don't assume that people will act in a certain way e.g. the man does not always have to be the 'bad guy'.
- Books where what happens in the story fits with the ending. Children often enjoy the endings they have been looking forward to more than surprise endings.
- A lack of trickery, humour, jumbled words people getting into trouble - children enjoy a sense of fair and justice.
- Interesting words and rhymes - as they get to preschool age children enjoy words and will like stories with some interesting or 'big' words to have fun with.
- Attention to detail e.g. the time on the clock, toothpaste on the toothbrush.
- Stories about their own hopes and wishes, e.g. a book about a child starting school or having a birthday.
- Stories about childhood and experience, e.g. stories about children of their own age.
- Books that explore the happy and sad feelings as well as good feelings, e.g. books about moving house should talk about the child being a bit unsure and worried as well as being excited about the new adventure.
- Books for young children with happy endings.
- Fairy stories and folk tales - they have been around for so long because they are important for children. They are usually not too scary for children because they are about 'long ago and far away'. They deal with some important life problems, e.g. moving away from home and family, people dying, feeling unsure of yourself. After a scary bit in a story, stop and let your child talk about it. Don't read stories that your child doesn't like. Follow your child lead about the stories she wants.

**What parents can do**
- Try to make time to read to your baby and your child every day even for a minute.
- If you have more than one child you can also read or tell stories that they all like together, e.g. family favourites or stories about your own childhood.
- Make a life story book for each of your children to show how where they have been, what they have achieved and important milestones. Have things like photographs of special events, a look from the first haircut, the first word, the first day at school.
- Talk to your children about the things you read so they can see that reading is important for you.
- Visit the local library for story telling sessions.
- Find toys or puppets that are like the people in your child's favourite story to encourage him to remember and play out the story.
- When your child reads the words on a sign or food packet let him know that you're proud that she is reading.

Reminders
- Books can be children's friends and can be a pleasure to them and their lives.
- Books can help children cope with problems and fears.
- Reading and telling stories to children are wonderful opportunities to contribute to their development and learning.
- Make story time a special time in your child's life every day, even for a few minutes.
- Try to show your child that you enjoy reading and you think it is important. Have books around.
- If you don't enjoy reading, try making up stories for your child, telling stories about when you were young or using the pictures in a book to make up stories.
- Encourage grandparents to tell stories about when they were young.

**For more information**
Parenting Help: 1300 364 100
Parenting SA
Children, Youth and Women's Health Service
PO Box 8500, Adelaide
SA 5001
Internet: www.parenting.sa.gov.au

Revised 09/10
Parent Easy Guides are free in South Australia