Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

EXPO!
Can you believe that it is time for Expo this weekend! There has been wonderful excitement and busy activity at school this week in preparation for Saturday’s event. Meetings, fancying up gift baskets, sorting secondhand books, delicious baked goods being delivered... All shows the generous and supportive nature of our families and friends.

Families who have shown their support of this major school event should be proud of the spirit it has brought to our school and I have no doubt that the day will be a success in the wider Hamilton community. I look forward to seeing you all out and about on Saturday working for and with each other for the benefit of your children.

Final Expo Newsletter being sent home today! Lots of news and information to help you support our event and an updated Volunteer Roster.

My heart begs for this as my Advent prayer today.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT!

Lord, Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker in my own life, and in the world. Let me pray especially for this difficult world and those who are so in need of an end to violence.

IMPORTANT DATES

December

- Christmas Expo!!!
  - Sat 5th
  - Whole school Transition Day
  - Transition Meeting for parents
    - Grade 1/2 – 6.30pm
    - Grade 3/4 – 7.00pm
    - Grade 5/6 – 7.30pm

- Sun 13th
  - End of School Year mass @ 10.30am
- Tues 15th
  - Last day of classes
- Wed 16th & Thurs 17th
  - Numeracy Testing
- Fri 18th
  - Last day for staff

January 2016

- Wed 27th
  - Staff day
- Thurs 28th & Fri 29th
  - Literacy Testing

February

- Mon 1st
  - First day of classes
- Sun 14th
  - Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year @ 10.30am
Expo Parade Arrangements
- All classes are eagerly preparing for the Expo Parade. Students should arrive at Gray St Primary School between 10.00 - 10.15am to meet with their class teachers. Please make sure that students come dressed in their costumes ready to parade (or as instructed by teachers).
- Following the parade students will remain with their teachers outside the PAC until collected by a parent. Please make sure that you collect your child promptly and notify their teacher before they leave the area.

If you are rostered on to help at Expo before or during the Parade Miss Bond will meet your children at the front of the PAC just before 10.00am and walk the group down to meet their class group at the start point.

Planning 2016
- On Tuesday 8th December all students will experience a taste of 2016 when they work in their learning groups for next year. Our new Prep students will be with us on this day and everyone else moves up a grade for the day. Grade 6 students spend the day at Monivae. Slips indicating grades and teachers for 2016 will be sent home on Monday 7th December.
- Classroom teachers for 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Wolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Ms Tania Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miss Annie Forrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Mrs Sherree Gallagher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Lisa Schurmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Miss Elise Couchman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Jamie Ferguson</td>
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- Over the next couple of weeks teachers will be spending some time planning the teaching and learning program for 2016. This may mean that your child will have one of our visiting teachers at some stage during this time.

End of Year Mass
A reminder that our mass to celebrate the end of the school year is Sunday 13th December starting at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church.
All students are expected to attend this special occasion in their correct school uniform. Students will sit with their class in the church and all parents and friends are invited to join us.
Our Grade 6 students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates during the mass.
Your support of all that we do in terms of our liturgical celebrations throughout the year is appreciated and is something you agree to when you sign your enrolment application form.
Mass will be followed by a cuppa in the gathering space to which an open invitation is extended. Could Grade 5 families please bring along a plate to share for morning tea?

A few reminders
- In the past week I have noticed that there are a number of students arriving late to school on a regular basis. In order to support your child in their learning it is important that they arrive before the 8.55am bell to allow them time to prepare themselves for learning. Any students arriving after the learning day has started must be signed in at the office by the adult dropping them off.
- There are a number of students wearing incorrect uniform items at the moment. This includes the right coloured socks.
- The lost property basket is overflowing with a variety of items. It would be a good idea to check if any of the clothing belongs to you before the end of the school year when it will be washed and sent to St Vincent de Paul.

Numeracy and Literacy Assessments
Timetables for these appointments are currently being prepared. We have been very pleased with the response from parents this year indicating time preferences which allows us to support all involved.
- Letters to indicate appointment times for Numeracy Interviews will be sent out with the newsletter on Friday 11th December.
- Letters to indicate appointment times for Literacy assessments will be given out at the Numeracy Interviews and a reminder posted in mid-January.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you ☺
Jo-Anne
Parents and Friends

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be open on a Monday from 3.35 – 4pm for the rest of the year - If you are unable to make it for that time but wish to make a purchase you can place an order with the school office or I can arrange another time to meet you. Please note: Payment in full must be made before items can be picked up.

Thank you for your support,
Kellie

Canteen
No Canteen this week. Thank you so much to the wonderful ladies who keep the school canteen going on a Wednesday. We also appreciate the canteen staff at Monivae working with us to let this service happen.

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10.30am, Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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As Advent once again approaches, the children in all grades will participate in Kris Kindle within their own class group.

Each child will be given a Kris Kindle name whom he/she will be treating in a special way during the Advent season. It is a fitting way for us all to be preparing for Christmas.

On Tuesday 15th December each class will have a Kris Kindle time when all the children will bring a small gift and card to give to their Kris Kindle. If you have any queries regarding this tradition please let us know.

We look forward to the Christmas spirit that Kris Kindle creates!

School Fees
School Fees were sent home with last week’s newsletter. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Helen at the office. Thank you.

Artroom Splashes!!
😊I am still very happy to receive any donations of exterior paints, in a variety of colours, if you have any sample pots at home that you no longer need. White undercoat would also be lovely.
😊A Christmas ‘Giving Tree’ will soon appear in the middle of the Learning Street! To continue our mission beyond Mission Day students are invited to write down an act of kindness they could show to others during the special season of Advent. These will be written on card ‘baubles’ and hung on the tree.

You are also invited to help make the Christmas of a child less fortunate brighter by purchasing a gift to leave under the ‘Giving Tree’. This is not compulsory, but if you wish to do so, wrap the gift, label it ‘boy’ or ‘girl’ and the appropriate age group, then leave it under the tree to be distributed. A basket will also be under the tree for any donations of food for the Grade 3/4 Christmas Hampers.

Thanks so much, Shelley
Sports News

Little Athletics Region Relay Championships
On Sunday 29th Nov, some Hamilton Little Athletics children went to Horsham’s Kannamaroo Event.

Results:
U7 Girl
Imogen Fitzgerald – 1st in long jump, discus, 70m, 100m and 2nd in 60 hurdles.

U9 Boys
Hugh Fitzgerald - 2nd long jump and 100m. 1st in discus, 200m and 60 hurdles
Justin Hawker - 7th in long jump and 100m. 3rd in discus, 5th in 60m hurdles, 8th in 200m.

U12 Boys
Jason Hawker - 1st in discus, 100m, 200m, 400m and 3rd long jump.
Jason won his age group 100m so therefore qualified for the Kannamaroo gift for U12-16 mixed sexes, 100m sprint, where he came 4th.
Heaps of fun and good sportsmanship, was experienced and shown by all involved.

South West Eagles Hockey Team
On the 21st and 22nd of November I played in the south west Eagles hockey team at Footscray
We had a shocking start to the comp by losing 10-0. We fought back in the second game but still lost. On the Sunday we kicked the day off with a draw which boosted our confidence but we still lost our last game of the weekend.
Then on the 28th and 29th of November I went off to Bendigo for the second half of the comp. We lost our 3 games on Saturday so we went back to our accommodation and relaxed (we finished at 7ish!)
On Sunday we came in with a bang...and lost! But in our last game on Sunday and the Victoria GJ Gardner Zone Challenge we came in and fought and just missed a goal after the siren in the first half which made the score 0 all at the end of the first half. In the second half, bang WE GOT A GOAL! Which led us to win our last game 1-0(sorry Gippsland). Overall I had a great time and held the 2015 hockey World Cup won by Australia.

MotoX presentation night
Maddison and Nicholas Cotten and Seamus Byron had their MotoX presentation night on Saturday and all came away with a trophy. No one was expecting it, including the parents, so it was a lovely surprise. Maddison came 2nd and Seamus came 3rd in the 50B class and Nicholas received an encouragement award in the 50A class. We are very proud of them as this was their first season.