Appin Park News



12th November 2020

Save the Date

November

- 20 Book Club Due
- 30 Student Free Day

December

- 17 Last day of School for students
- 18 Student Free Day

Hi Everyone,

The weeks are flying by now and life at Appin Park is almost back to normal. Classrooms have been busy with assessment this week and it has been pleasing to hear that many of our students have continued to show growth in their learning even under the unusual conditions that we have had.

At School Council on Monday we had a conversation around observations from parents of their own children and what the return to school has looked like. The overwhelming response was that their children were tired at the end of the day and that this might be leading to some behaviours that they wouldn't normally exhibit. It also might explain why when asked, 'what did you do at school today?' or 'how was your day?' the response may be nothing or very brief. It might be worth rewording the guestion to one that is less broad.

For example:

- What made you smile/laugh?
- What made you think?
- What were you most proud of?
- ♦ What challenged you?

Yesterday our school captains presented a Remembrance Day message to our students via the P.A. The captains researched what was appropriate for their presentation and spoke confidently when delivering their words.

This week we have had some student gardeners help plant and mulch the garden beds in front of the library. It was hot but rewarding work and the students were very proud of the end result.

Have a restful weekend.



Fiona Carson - Principal



ICY POLES ARE BACK!

50 cents each From the canteen every Friday lunchtime.



Book Club orders due Friday 20th November. Please note we do not accept cash orders. All orders need to use "Loop" - Book Club's online ordering system.



Appin Star

Annelise Nash

For being a caring student who enjoys helping those in need.

Annelise is also very respectful towards others and takes responsibility or her own learning by being well organised.





APPA Christmas Rafficy

Our annual Christmas Raffle is on again. Lots of hampers to be won. To be drawn at school in the last week of term.

Due to COVID this will be APPA's main fundraiser for the year!

We kindly ask for donations towards our hampers - these can be sent with your children & left at the school office.

Keep an eye out for tickets being sent home soon.





SPORTS NEWS

Year 4 student Lacy Solimo has her eyes still set on going as far as she can with her chosen sport, equestrian riding. Last weekend Lacy represented our school at the Albury Interschools equestrian challenge where she competed in the preparatory primary dressage event on her mount Filou Lane Rainman (aka Harry). There were a large number of entries in the event and Lacy was able to show her skills and understanding of her horse to claim the Winning Champion sash.

Congratulations Lacy.

NAIDOC Week

This week is NAIDOC week. NAIDOC week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islander's Day Observance Committee. The theme for NAIDOC week 2020 is 'Always was, Always will be'. At Appin Park Primary School we have celebrated NAIDOC week with stories, art and researching the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The poster for NAIDOC 2020 features The Rainbow Serpent. It came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. *Pixie Dalton*



Tip and Tricks for Online Safety

At Appin Park we are focussed on improving the emotional health and wellbeing of our students in all contexts.



It is my job as Chaplain to often manage how your kids mange friendships and the way they interact with each other in different situations.



One area which is consistently at the bottom of issues amongst our kids are the interactions they have while online.

Each week we are faced with multiple incidents which involve online discussions which have gone sideways. Or often the impact of chats which take place while gaming and then manifest themselves in a negative way in the playground.



There are lots of apps out there that our kids know about, that maybe we don't. Some seem innocent enough, and they are in the context of stranger access and online grooming.

However, there are many games and apps which allow our kids to chat to one another, send pictures, or share videos where there is **no record** of the interaction. This is usually the place where problems arise.



The damage is done, in private, without moderation, and often without understanding the consequences.

We understand how hard it is to keep on top of what's new and how these apps, games and social media work. However, it is crucial that we all gain a better understanding of what's helpful and what is not.

I cannot help but remind our school community, as I do our kids on a regular basis, that the majority of these games, and certainly social media, are not age appropriate in a primary school.

Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook, YouTube, Fortnite, Discord and Instagram are all rated from 12+, but mostly 13+. Technically that should mean that none of our students have access to them at all. Unfortunately, I often hear of children as young as 6 playing Fortnite, and 8 year olds being on TikTok.

Can I encourage you to consider the platforms your kids are using, and how we as a community can manage their use for a better outcome for our kids?

If you want to find out more, there a lot of places you can go to get a factsheet, or read some detailed information about what they do, who they are for, and the pros and cons of each app, game or social media platform.

My top 3 are:

- www.carlyryanfoundation.com/resources/fact-sheets read Carly's story and check out the factsheets.
- <u>www.commonsensemedia.org</u> this is great to see reviews on pretty much anything you can watch on a screen.
- <u>www.esafety.gov.au</u> is an Australian government site which provides information specifically for parents and kids. I you have time step your kids through the basics of ESafety at www.esafety.gov.au/kids/be-an-esafe-kid







Reminders for Parents & Carers

If children are away for any reason please notify the office using Compass or a phone call before 9.30am. Please call the office if you are having trouble logging onto Compass or adding absences. Class DoJo should not be used to report absences.

Parents are reminded that due to covid safe practises, schools are still not able to have visitors onsite. We ask that parents/carers do not come into the school grounds unless necessary. We are happy to meet you at drive through if you need to drop something off or collect children. Just call the office.

If you borrowed a laptop during remote learning and haven't returned it, please do so ASAP.

There are still a few chocolate boxes outstanding. Please return chocolates and/or money. Please contact the office if you are unsure if you have returned these.