Hi everyone…

It is great to be back and to see all our students happily settling into their 2013 grade groups. Our new Preps have hit the ground running and appear to have all enjoyed their first day at school.

WELCOME: We had a number of enrolments late last year and in the holidays. I would like to welcome Liam Suter (34F), Brock (56A) and Declan (56K) Meloury, Clara (34A) and Matilda (34B) Forster-Paxford, and Tyson Geue (1S). Along with our 41 new Preps and their families, we hope you enjoy being at Appin Park Primary School. Our enrolment at this stage is 320 students.

WELCOME ALSO: Jaimie Leerson is returning from Family Leave to take up a part-time position in our Library. Celine Forster will provide our Music & Performance program for Grades 1-6 during the year. Children in Grade 3-6 will have a Friday session with Celine, while the Grade 1/2 students will work with her during an afternoon assembly each Monday. Wendy Moore, who worked for us occasionally in 2012, will be working in the Prep area as a classroom aide.

ONGOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION: You may have seen in the media that the Australian Education Union and the Victorian government are yet to reach a negotiated settlement. The union has recommended a number of actions to its members. A ban on attendance at school camps and out-of-hours excursions is one of these. While members at APPS strongly support the union in its negotiations, they have informed me that our major camps for Grades 3/4 & 5/6 will continue as planned, with all appropriate teaching staff attending. There may be a re-scheduling of the junior school sleepovers.

PLEASE NOTE: it is very likely that we will again face the situation where class teachers are absent on the next planned state-wide stop-work day - Thursday, 14th February. I urge all parents to make tentative plans for the care of their children on this day, in case the negotiations, due to resume today, have still not reached a conclusion.

SCHOOL RULES: At our Monday morning assembly I will be reminding students about our 6 school rules. These rules are straightforward and based on common sense. Please remind your child of them and talk about how they help to keep all our students safe, happy and ready to learn. YOU’RE INVITED - parents are very welcome at assembly each Monday at 9.00am.

1. Show consideration and respect for others
2. Work out problems calmly and sensibly
3. Move, work and play sensibly
4. Respect your own, the school’s and other people’s property
5. Obey the directions of all teachers
6. Stay within the school boundaries

QUESTS TERM 1: The teaching teams spent some of the past two days planning Quests for their unit. In Grade Prep, children will focus on ‘All About Me’ as they get to know each other, their teachers and how to be a real school kid. Grade 1/2 students will learn more about our climate in ‘Whatever the Weather’, Grade 3/4 will be designing and constructing bridges during their quest this term, while Grade 5/6 will explore the differences between ‘Marvellous Melbourne & Wonderful Wangaratta’ in the lead up to their major camp in the last week of term.

CONGRATULATIONS: To our past student, Amanda Roberts, who was recognised for her outstanding community involvement through the Wangaratta Young Citizen of the Year Award (Australia Day Awards). Amanda has distinguished herself as a student at Wangaratta High School also and we wish her every success in the future.

AND FINALLY… Thank you to Allan Woods who has spent many hours over the holidays watering and watching over our school grounds.
Appin Park Primary School Music Program 2013

Hello and welcome to another exciting year ahead at Appin Park Primary School. Science tells us that by stimulating musical intelligence, it in turn stimulates all the other intelligences and helps extract the best possible results for children in all areas of education and life. So it is with great pleasure that we introduce the commencement of formal music education for all students this year. My name is Céline Forster and I have been teaching Kodály based classroom music, instrumental, vocal, choral and preschool music as well as performing arts and drama in schools for over 15 years.

The program for Years 1 and 2 will include the exploration of group and solo singing, beat, rhythm and rhyme, with songs and games aimed at establishing a strong musical culture and appreciation within each child. A junior choir with its related skills could be incorporated in and developed during these sessions.

Years 3 and 4 program will focus on developing their ‘foundation in music studies’ with the use of songs, chants, rhythmic work and musical activities as well as learning to read, write, compose and play music with the recorder and class-composed recorder books.

Years 5 and 6 program will develop music appreciation with a concentrated course in musical studies and elements as well as exploring music history and the genre of music theatre. Students will go through the processes of putting on a musical theatre performance to be presented as the headlining act at The Appin Park Primary Whole School Concert later in the year.

The Appin Park School Choir will include students from years 3 to 6. The choir will explore songs from various styles including jazz, popular, musical theatre, classical and folk with a high level of skill and commitment required from each participant so as to warrant confident and proud public performances later in the year.

Information regarding the Crystal Valley Music programs (private and small-group tuition) and enrolment forms will be available at the school office. Time and numbers will be limited so families will need to be quick to secure a position and students continuing on from last year will need to fill out a new enrolment form for 2013. Returning and older students will be given priority placement with the first influx of forms returned in the first week of school.

May the music resonate within us all this year as we work together to be the best we can be and offer the best we have to offer each other.

Celine Forster

PICTURED: Joel & Zac, Gabe & Liam, Hannah & Charlotte adding the Grade 5/6 camp dates into their new school diaries this morning.

CAMPS, EXCURSIONS, SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Please note that our major camps, PE programs like Swimming and Gymnastics, and all excursions are considered ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS. Parents are required to meet the costs of their child’s participation. The school is not funded by the Government to provide these programs.

Please contact Sandra or me if you would like to arrange a payment plan to ensure your child is able to be included in these events that enrich our curriculum program.

REMINDER: Education Maintenance Allowance claims for eligible Healthcare Card holders must be filled in before 28 February 2013.

Wendy Larcombe