Hi Everyone

STUDENT VOICE: On Monday, I announced the students who will be part of the Student Voice Team this year. These students will attend a number of Wangaratta Learning Community forums. A major part of their role will be to do research and collect data from our students across the school, on issues relating to our teaching & learning programs and students’ feelings of connectedness and engagement.

SRC: Elections were held for the SRC class representatives last week. This group has a different focus to the Student Voice Team, but their role can overlap in providing feedback to School Council around suggestions for improvement to our learning environment. The SRC works with Craig Kerlin to organise fundraising events so that we can meet our commitment to Jacqueline (World Vision sponsored child) and to support other causes that the children select. Once a month, the SRC nominates a student to receive the Aussie of the Month Award.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS: On Monday evening we had the final General Meeting for our current Council. Nominations are open until 4.30pm today for parents who would like to be part of our next School Council which will form following the 2012 Annual General Meeting on 18th March (6.30pm). Two current Councillors have indicated that they will not be seeking renomination for another term.

Peter Thrum has served for two years; working very hard to upgrade our school grounds and to make the entrance to the school more attractive. Peter has also been a great asset in organising our BBQ events during the past two years.

Kendall Beattie has been on Council since 2007 and has filled a number of executive positions as Treasurer and Vice President. Kendall has also contributed actively at regular working bees and has given his time on sub-committees and in preparing submissions for grants.

Peter & Kendall worked tirelessly before and at the fete - gathering prizes and planning the BBQ, spinning wheel raffles and turning sausages. THANK YOU both for your generous contribution to our school.

Council formally approved the staff and parent helpers on our Grade 5/6 Melbourne Camp. Susan Christie and Stephen McDonald will accompany the staff team of Craig, Jenny, Fiona, Wendy M, Helen and Nicole. Heather Foster and I aim to get down to Melbourne on one day each to participate in the exciting itinerary offered to the students.

GROUNDS: We also discussed the sad state of some of our gardens. The hot, dry weather is taking its toll! We will hold a working bee to do general maintenance and to replace some lost plants as soon as things cool down a bit. Watch this space!

### February/March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>28th Feb</td>
<td>Closing for EMA applications</td>
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<td>11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>25th March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Urban Camp</td>
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<td>4th March</td>
<td>APPA Meeting - 6.30pm in the staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>School Council AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th March</td>
<td>Last day of Term</td>
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PICTURED LEFT: 2013 SRC
Tessa Oates, Angus McLean, Samantha Grady, Alice Townsend, Chantal Magee, Mitch Carson, Brock Melourey, Paige Elliott

PICTURED RIGHT: Student Voice 2013
Nicole Shiels, Gabe Watson, Brady O’Connell, Glen Lovett, Alana Cruikshank, Ashley Stubbs, Nathan Bell
OTHER HAPPENINGS:
It is lovely to see a growing number of parents arriving in the grounds just before dismissal time and sharing the ‘waiting’ with each other. I still often catch up with acquaintances whose child was in the same Prep year as my 20-year-old son, Tom. Over the school years you see each other’s children grow from being gap-toothed Preps into young adults, alongside your own child. You also find that many events in and out of school involve the same group of parents. Sitting in the shade and having a chat before pick-up time is a good way to start building friendships amongst parents you will see regularly, probably for the next 12 years!

AND FINALLY…Congratulations to our Chaplain, Beth Davies. Beth celebrated the birth of her second granddaughter on Monday.

Wendy Larcombe

From the Chaplain… GOOD MENTAL HEALTH HABITS FOR KIDS
Sadly, mental health issues are affecting an increasing number of children even in primary schools. The following are a few suggestions which you may find helpful in ensuring that your children have the best chance of developing sound mental health along with their physical health.

1. **Make sure that your children get enough sleep.** Ten to twelve hours is normal for a primary school aged child.
2. **Exercise.** Turn off the TV and the electronic games for at least an hour a day. Exercise releases chemicals that improve mood and release the stress that build up over the day. Free play is an essential ingredient of a healthy childhood. Don’t have your child’s days so organised that there is no time for them to ‘chill out’ and play.
3. **Have some personal time with each of your children each day.** This special time lets your child know that you have time for them and they are more likely to share anything that is worrying them. It may be as you share doing a chore, as you drive them to their sport, after you have read a story or as you share a hobby.
4. **Model good mental health habits.** Children learn what they see, so if they see you stressed and anxious and not doing anything to counterbalance it they will often unconsciously follow your pattern. Counterbalance the stress with some exercise, plenty of sleep and planned relaxation times.

Chaplain Beth

Nihongo News

Last week, we looked at Setsubun, a JP festival that celebrates the change from winter to spring. Our students learnt that during the festival, JP kids chase their ogre mask-wearing Dad/Pap/Teacher around, throwing beans at them and shouting *Oni wa soto, Fuku wa uchi.* (Ogres outside, Good luck inside.) Over the next few weeks, the focus for all grades will be the hiragana syllabary. Students from any grade who are interested in developing their hiragana skills should think about sitting for the level tests. See me in the JP room for more information.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips
No one answered our very easy first nazonazo. The name of the JP festival held in the first week of February that celebrates the end of winter and the coming of spring is, of course, Setsubun. For this week’s nazonazo, a hiragana theme. Tell us what *tenten & maru* do. The first correct answer to me, or the main office will be the winner.

Sayōnara!

Working with Children Checks
Anyone over the age 16 must have a current Working with Children Check to assist in the classrooms, attend excursions or camps. Applications are available at any Post Office. Please bring your card to the office as we need a copy for our records.

Scooters & Skateboards
Please make sure all scooters and skateboards are marked so as to ensure children take the right one home. We have had a few incidents recently where the wrong one was taken as many are very similar. A pink scooter has been left at school for several weeks. If not collected by tomorrow night it will be donated to charity.
Artists of the Week

Clara Forster Paxford
For fitting in so easily to our Art classes. Clara has displayed great work ethics and lots of enthusiasm in Art and Maths Art sessions.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Appin Park Community congratulates you.
Students will be awarded their certificates at Monday’s Assembly.

PB  Jack Gambrell for his enthusiastic approach to all his learning tasks. Keep up the great work, Jack.
PV  Shyanne Cook for her enthusiastic singing in our classroom. Well done, Shyanne!
1S  Tyson Geue for trying hard to do his best in all areas of his learning and for his lovely manners. Well done!
1/2M  Denvey Harris for the great enthusiasm he is showing for all his learning.
2E  Fern Cox for the confident way you have started the year. Your excellent organisation has helped you make a smooth transition to Grade 2. Well done.
2F  Logan Zylstra for the wonderful recount he wrote about his weekend. He used lots of detail and made sure he used full stops, capital letters and paragraphs. Great work, Logan.
3/4A  Regan O’Brien for the fantastic start he has made to grade 4 by always completing his learning tasks to a high standard. Congratulations, Regan!
3/4B  Remy Addae for being a friendly and caring student who works hard and is always willing to help others.
3/4C  Caitlin Fountain for being a terrific classroom helper and for showing a keen interest in her role as ICT monitor. Well done, Caitlin.
3/4D  Layla Elliott for working really well in the classroom. She has been on task and listens carefully when others are speaking.
3/4F  Brayden Sadik-Hardwidge for being a thoughtful and caring class member who looks out for others. Keep up the great work.
5/6A  Gabe Watson for the wonderful way you have started your Grade 6 year. Your enthusiasm and organisation are to be commended. Well done!
5/6C  Paige Elliott for the outstanding way she has approached the Writers Workshop and willingness to have a go at all writing tasks. Keep up this great attitude!
5/6K  Declan Meloury for the excellent start he has made at Appin Park. You have settled in nicely to 5/6K, Declan! Well done.

SPORTS AWARD

Angus Mclean
For his continual efforts to perform at a very high standard during fitness activities. He displays skills of a high level and encourages others during team activities to do the same.

Icy Poles

Zooper Doopers - 50c  Frozen Yoghurt - $2

Volunteers:
Friday 22 Feb:  Allison Sessions & Robyn Delahunty
Monday 25 Feb:  Susan Christie & Cheree Konkoly
Wed 27 Feb:  Susan Pacla & Jill Britton
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