Hi Everyone

APPIN PARK PLAY GROUP - We had a very happy group of preschool children and their parents at the Play Group’s first 2014 session on Tuesday. Beth Davies, our school chaplain, facilitates this play group setting out the equipment and planning activities. The morning is an opportunity for parents to use our facilities, to have some fun playing with their children and to enjoy meeting up with other parents. The group meets in our Multipurpose Room at 9.30am. Please tell your friends and family who have preschool-aged children.

A VERY SMOOTH START TO THE YEAR… Despite the hot weather, we have had a very smooth start to the school year. Children have settled quickly into their new classrooms; making the transition easily due to common teaching approaches through the school, and the fact that so much of our teaching language is consistent from P-6. They are also enjoying the range and quality of our specialist programs as the timetable begins full operation this week. With PE, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Japanese supplementing our core curriculum areas, APPS students really do have the chance to shine in their areas of learning strength and to develop their skills across the curriculum.

February/March

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>17th-19th</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 C &amp; D 15 Mile Creek Camp</td>
<td>26th-28th</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
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<td>19th-21st</td>
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<td>18th -26th March</td>
<td>Somers Camp</td>
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STUDENT LEADERS 2014

On Monday, senior students elected the School Captains and House Captains. These students will be presented with their badges at assembly on MONDAY, 17th FEBRUARY:

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS:** Mitchell Carson  Emma Christie  
Edward Sessions  Grace Watson-Long

**HOUSE CAPTAINS:** Sam Beattie  Heidi Parkinson  Clarke (Red)  
Rhys Delahunty  Bianca Fleming  Freeman (Yellow)  
Flynn Wright  Tessa Oates  Fraser (Blue)  
Dominic Bedendo  Amy Henderson  Bradman (Green)

Again, we were very impressed by the calibre of the speeches given by students who nominated for these positions. Congratulations to those who have been elected, and also to those who missed out - disappointment is a natural reaction to missing out, and it is heart-warming to see the way those children handled that. Parents can be very proud of the way all students went about this process.

**STUDENT VOICE TEAM:** I will be speaking to students in the next few days about this. The team will be announced at the assembly on the 17th. SRC class reps will also be selected during the next few days.

**PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS:** We will have our first Parent Teacher Interviews during the week of 3rd-7th March. At these meetings, teachers will work with you and your child to set learning goals for this term. It is a great chance to share information about your child and for you to better get to know the class teacher. Prep students will be having their interviews during the assessment appointments arranged with Sarah Foster on Wednesdays.

Notes will come home with the newsletter next week, asking you to indicate your preferred times and days. If you have a pressing need to speak to the teacher before this, please call into the office and make a mutually convenient time to get together.

**DEVELOPING SAFE RISK-TAKERS:** While in NZ, I saw a current affairs program that received coverage here too. It showed two Auckland schools that ‘ditched the rules'; un-banning those games and activities deemed too dangerous as OH&S compliance has increased. The research project, by Auckland University, found that most children at these schools are now more active, attend more regularly and are better behaved in class than previously. One of the lead researchers says:

> The great paradox of cotton-woolling children is it's more dangerous in the long-run….Children develop the frontal lobe of their brain when taking risks, meaning they work out consequences. Society's obsession with protecting children ignores the benefits of risk-taking when children are young. You can't teach them that. They have to learn risk on their own terms. It doesn't develop by watching TV, they have to get out there.

One girl was asked by the reporter if she got hurt playing Bull Rush (NZ’s British Bulldog). She said that yes, that happened, but if you couldn’t handle the rough & tumble, you shouldn’t play the game. Her principal noted the improvement he had seen in children’s ability to resolve petty playground squabbles, and to negotiate rules and expectations of each other, as they became more independent in their play. He commented that children usually work out a better solution for themselves than may be reached if adults get involved.

Learning your own physical limits, by falling off a scooter early in life or taking a bump at footy, apparently leads to less chance of teenage risk-taking, which can have dire consequences. Looking back, most of us would remember the childhood mishaps that taught us valuable lessons about the consequences of our actions.

I remember a rope swing, over a very dodgy pond filled with old motor parts and rubbish. The children who walked home that way used to stop and play on it. Despite the obvious danger, none of us ever fell in as we knew it would HURT, and we certainly didn't want to be the one who caused removal of the rope swing and ruined everyone else's fun!!

Please note: we will not be throwing out the rule book or installing rope swings at APPS. In our school grounds there are active play spaces not available in many other schools. I also encourage you, in your family time, to find opportunities where you can stand back and allow your children to take some calculated risks and get dirty through play; building a cubby, making a billycart, climbing a tree, having some wrestling and physical play etc. Organised activities and play dates develop children’s talents and friendships but can be too controlled to allow them to develop life skills, problem-solving strategies and to just be kids.
SCHOOL COUNCIL 2014: The final meeting of our current School Council will be on Monday, 17th February. Between that date and the Annual General Meeting on 17th March, we will call for nominations for four Parent Representative positions and three DEECD employee positions. Positions on School Council are for two-year terms. This year, Andrew Lovett (current President), Lisbeth Long, Leon Newton and Ashley Clough will complete their 2-year term. They may choose to re-nominate or withdraw from Council. A ballot will be held if nominations exceed vacancies.

There will be more information about this and the election timeline in next week’s newsletter. If you are interested in being part of our Council, please contact me for further information or speak to one of our current members: Tanya Camplin, Kel Vincent, Jeff Gosbell, Kay Andrewartha, Paul Carson, or the four members listed above.

LIBRARY MATTERS: Even after lots of hard work by Jaimie Leerson, chasing up non-returned books at the end of the year, there are still 50 books unaccounted for. PLEASE look around the house for these if you have received a note about a lost or overdue book. Replacing these books could cost us about $600 - better that we can spend that on some new titles! If your child has more than one missing book, they will not be able to borrow from the library until the books are returned or a payment made.

THANK YOU! Thank you to families who have promptly returned the large white envelopes with all forms completed. This really assists us ensuring our records are up-to-date. Please remember that all Grade 3/4 camp forms and money need to be returned this week.

Wendy Larcombe

We’re ready to learn in Prep!!!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

PF Jorja Wells for the wonderful way she has settled into Prep. Keep bringing that beautiful smile.

1/2S Abby Weeks for a great start to the school year with lots of beautiful work and great reading. Well done, Abby!

2B Karla Balfour for her positive start to the year. Keep smiling!

3/4A Hannah Snowdon for the warm nature and leadership she has brought into 3/4A. Congratulations, Hannah!

3/4B Luke Grady for helping with our Grade 3 students during the online assessments.

3/4C Tanika Cook for the interesting way she began her story from her “10 Best Things” list.

3/4D Hailie Keogh for making a wonderful start to the school year. Well done!

5B Luke O’Connell for the great start he has made to the new school year. He has been a polite class member and is considerate of others.

5S April Twyford for being a great classroom secretary. She is very well organised.

6C Naomi McGowan for the beautiful way she has settled into 6C and her ability to quickly understand the classroom expectations. Well done, Naomi!

6K Josh Bell for having a go and being prepared to take on the role of official class photographer. Great initiative, Josh.

Just Kids has a few vacancies left for after school care in 2014. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact Gina on 5721 4799. Vacancies are filling fast.
From The Chaplain...

Because there are some parents who are new to the school I would like to introduce myself again to the school community.

I am married to Milton, a 'mostly retired' builder and we have four adult children and two grandchildren who we delight in.

Prior to 2011 I was an early years teacher for over 20 years – a role I loved. For part of that time I was a Reading Recovery teacher and found great satisfaction in seeing these children learn to read.

In the classroom, children's emotional well-being was always a priority for me and over the years I trained in several programs designed to help children work through two of the big issues affecting children today – grief and loss resulting from family breakdowns or death, and anxiety. I also gained an advanced diploma in counselling. Last year I completed a certificate in Sandplay Therapy and Symbol work, and I use this constantly in my work as a chaplain to provide emotional release for children in a safe and natural play setting.

After my retirement in 2011 I lived in England for a year completing another course and travelling – a wonderful experience.

I commenced as Chaplain here in September 2012 and have loved meeting children and their families in many different settings.

My time is spent running small groups, facilitating our playgroup and chatting individually to children and parents.

Please ring me at school on Monday or Tuesday if I can be of service.

Chaplain Beth

Art Room Treasures!

Here is a list of items we could use in the Art Room. If you send something in with your child please remind them to drop off their donation before school starts! I want to thank the many families that generously donate items!

- Magazines, old cards, wrapping paper bits; unloved scrapbooking papers and embellishments; meat trays for mixing paint; cardboard rolls of any kind but not toilet paper rolls; yarn, yarn, yarn - any kind or colour - for weaving; fabric pieces both large and tiny; wallpaper books; plastic dishes with lids (butter/margarine); coffee cans with lids; plastic bottles; zip-lock storage bags; unscented baby wipes (scented acceptable too); aluminium foil, wax paper, paper towels, facial tissues; wood scraps - interesting shapes - small wood scraps; corrugated cardboard; crochet/embroidery threads (warp strings for weaving); beads; ribbons; old calendars with neat pictures; old coffee table art books; old animal books or animal magazines; old jewellery; canvas boards; sponges; odd socks suitable for puppets; bottles; old silk flowers; old vases and glasses for still life drawings; "how to" art books for our classroom library

**If there is a remote possibility we can do something with it, then send it in...we are VERY creative. If we can't use it, we'll either find someone who can or toss it lovingly. Thankyou to those families who already send in treasures for us to use.

Ros Janas

Icy Poles ... back by popular demand!

Zooper Doopers - 50c  Frozen Yoghurt - $2

Icy poles will be sold from the canteen each Monday, Wednesday and Friday - Volunteers Needed

APPA will again be selling icy poles from the canteen as a fundraiser this term. Volunteers are needed to staff the canteen each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Helpers are needed from 1.15-2.30pm. If you are able to assist, please complete the form below and return it to school as soon as possible, or contact Kay Andrewartha on 0409 179 528. Volunteers will be notified of their shifts as soon as the roster is finalised.

With thanks,
APPA

ICY POLE SALES VOLUNTEER RETURN SLIP

Name: ................................................................. Contact No: ...........................................

Student's name: ................................................................. Class: .................................

Dates you are available: ..........................................................................................................................
Community Notice Board

YMCA Aquathon
The annual YMCA Aquathon will be held on Sunday 16th February. This event caters for primary students, short course distance and long course distance as well as for individuals or teams. Over the years we have had good representation in the primary school event, with some students entering as teams and others taking on the challenge of completing the event by themselves. The event consists of a 1 km run, 100m swim and finishes off with another 500m run. Check in time is 9.30 with the race to start at 10.00am. Entry fee is $10.00 per individual or $15.00 per team. For further details and entry forms please see customer service at the YMCA. Hopefully we will have a number of students participate in this event.

Wangaratta Fun Run
On Sunday 23rd February the Wangaratta Fun Run is to be held. This event is attracting more and more participants in the various runs that are offered. There are 5km, 10km, half marathon and marathon events along with a 2km Primary School challenge. This year we would like to see more of our students participate in this fun event. There is a trophy awarded to the school that has the highest percentage of participants; we certainly have many keen and physically active students so get on board and head down to the Wangaratta Showgrounds Sunday morning and enjoy the festivities that are on offer as well as having a run. Entry forms can be collected from our office, filled out and deposited, with the entry fee, into the box on the bench at the office.

District Swimming
This year the district (formally zone) swimming championships will be held on Thursday 27th February. Unfortunately our Grade 5/6 students will be on camp, however if there are any Grade 4 students who are interested in this event and have appropriate swimming times could they please see Mrs Martin by the end of next week.

Netball
Some early notification to let all families know that next Thursday, entry forms to participate in Saturday morning netball will be distributed to any interested girl or boy (please note that boys are unable to play after turning 12). This year, the Wangaratta Association is introducing an extension to their Net Set Go Program by including students from Prep upwards. Please remind your child to collect a note if they are interested in participating.

Surf Lifesaving
Congratulations to Elena Stone who participated in the Mornington Peninsula Surf Life Saving Nipper Program over January. She competed in three events to put her skills into action; The Grand Mornington Nipper Swim, The Portsea Classic Nipper Swim and the MMAD Mt Martha Nipper swim. She placed 3rd in the Portsea Classic, a consistent competitor, having placed second in last year’s event. Well done Elena, it’s terrific to see you so passionate about developing your life saving skills.

Fall in Love with your wetlands this Valentine’s Day
This Valentine’s Day it’s time to fall in love with your wetlands and appreciate Wangaratta’s natural spaces. Bring the kids to join in the picnic and some evening fun Friday 14th February 6pm–8pm at Wareena Wetlands, Swan St Wangaratta. A BBQ dinner will be provided and RSVP would be appreciated for catering. Waterwatch bug catching & kids craft activities. To RSVP for this Free BBQ event, contact Councils Environment team on 5722 0755.

Coffee Craft and Childcare
At the Wangaratta Uniting Church Hall Rowan St (next to King George Gardens). The program runs Feb 13th, 20th & 27th 9am-11.30am. Cost $5 – includes morning tea, craft requirements and childcare for pre-schoolers. This is an all age program – bring a friend.
Crafts offered this Term – Suffolk Puff, Mug Rug, Pincushion, Embroidery Stitch Sampler, Kimono Card Making - you will get to choose 3 of the 4. Ring Eileen on 5721 2252 for registration and further information.

Positive Parenting Telephone Service
This Program is offered to parents, grandparents & carers of children aged 2–10 years
Our ten week program aims to assist you to:
*Develop a stronger and more positive relationship with your child/children
*Manage everyday behaviour problems
*Set rules & limits
*Teach new skills
*Developing behaviour strategies
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