**Hi everyone**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Ice Age 4-Continental Drift**
21st March - Tickets on sale now from the office
$20 per family group (2 adults + up to 4 children) $5 per single ticket

School Council is proud to present this major school community fundraising event
Proceeds from the evening will go towards construction of a new shed on the oval
We thank our major sponsors for their generous support:

**Stockdale & Leggo Real Estate**  **Nolan Media & Events**
A BBQ tea will be available for purchase from 6.30pm
Popcorn, slushies, cold drinks and other items on sale
Show starts 7.30pm  BYO chair, beanbag, rug
Come and join in the fun of watching a great family movie under the stars.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION:** At close of nominations last week, we had four parent representative nominees for four positions. Therefore, a ballot will not be necessary, and we congratulate

ROSS MOORE, KEVIN FELDTMANN, ANDREW LOVETT, & ASHLEY CLOUGH
who have been elected for the next two-year term of Council. Ross has two sons (Thomas, Grade 6 & Harvey, Grade 3) at school, while Kevin’s sons Ben & Mitchell are in Grade 1 & Prep. Both Ashley (Thomas, Grade 5) and Andrew (Cameron, Grade 4, & Miles, Grade 1) have been on Council previously, and both have filled the President’s chair.

CHRS VESCIO, HEATHER FOSTER & CRAIG KERLIN are re-elected as the staff representatives on Council.

The Annual General Meeting is on Monday, 17th March at 6.30pm, and this will be followed by our new Council’s first General Meeting.

**WORKING BEE: THURSDAY, 13th MARCH - 5.00-7.30pm  ALL WELCOME**
We will give the gardens a good clean up, spray the weeds and have a general tidy-up at this evening Working Bee. Please come along with some gardening tools, a back-pack sprayer, gloves, wheelbarrow and/or whipper-snippers. Many hands make light work. We do ask families who have opted not to pay the Grounds Levy to attend at least one working bee each year.

A sign-in sheet will be near the office, along with a list of tasks.

**CARPARK REMINDERS:** While we are lucky to be away from main roads and traffic, our location does mean that parking spaces are limited during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The drive-through seems to be operating pretty smoothly at the moment. However, some parents have raised concerns about the car park area at the end of Appin St. PLEASE think of others when you are parking in this area. There is a map attached to today’s newsletter to remind all parents of how we can maximise the number of cars able to use this space, and make it as safe as possible.

If your children are expecting to meet you at the car park, PLEASE remind them to stay within the school fence until you collect them - reversing drivers may not see a small child moving around the car park behind their vehicle.

Also attached are the most recent guidelines available on the use of booster seats and other child restraints, for your information.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Emma Christie (Gr 6) has been accepted into the National Youth Jazz Academy and been granted a very generous scholarship. This a wonderful accolade, and Emma can be very proud of herself!!

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**March**

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PO Box 227  (Appin Street)  WANGARATTA  3677
PRINCIPAL:  Wendy Larcombe
EMAIL:  appin.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
SCHOOL:  www.appinparkps.vic.edu.au
Ph: 5722 1326
Fax: 5722 2524
Grade 5/6 students, staff and I had a great time at Sovereign Hill last week. We enjoyed a range of learning activities including an activity where children had to work in teams to mine a shaft, face the risk of capture and fines during ‘licence hunts’ and negotiate a fair price for their gold at the assay office. A number of them spent time in jail! They also marvelled at the sight of a gold ingot being poured, tasted the delights of the lolly shop, experienced the drama of Blood on the Southern Cross and caught gold fever when panning in the diggings. It is a wonderful learning opportunity due to the fact that we ‘live’ on site.

THANK YOU to Fiona Carson, Andrew Storer, Jo Beattie, Craig Kerlin, Sam Brendel, Helen Millar & Susan Christie. Thanks also to Wendy Martin for the preliminary work.

EVERY DAY COUNTS: You may have heard in the news that the Victorian Government has passed a law enabling fines to be levied against parents of children who are absent from school for lengthy and unapproved periods. A campaign to raise awareness of the value of regular attendance is currently being launched by the Dept. of Education. At APPS, our students achieve better than average attendance rates, due to their high levels of engagement and because our parents value learning and achievement. We also appreciate the fact that most parents promptly follow up any absence with the required notes or phone call - thank you!

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. This has a huge effect on their educational success and life chances. It also makes it hard for children to maintain their social group and their ‘place’ in the game if they regularly miss days at school.

Myschool website: This national online school reporting system is now open to parents. The information available includes a description of each school, NAPLAN results, information about the financial inputs and other demographic data.

To access the site, visit: www.myschool.edu.au

Once you have located a school that you wish to have a look at, some of the most useful data can be seen by looking at the ‘Student Gain’ (or value-add) graphs. These show the learning progression of students across the two years of NAPLAN—in other words, how a group of matched students has progressed from Grade 3 to Grade 5. Our school’s data sets in this area are very good; showing that students at APPS are making better progress than students in similar schools, and better progress than students who scored the same ‘starting score’ in Grade 3 (in Reading & Persuasive Writing). Our Numeracy results indicate that we are doing as well, if not just slightly better, than other schools with similar cohorts of children.

This ‘screen shot’ gives you an indication of the sort of graphs available on the site. You can see that our school’s results (the dark blue line with diamond ends) show that our students achieved at a higher standard than those in similar schools in Grade 3, and have continued to make very good growth in their learning as they moved into Grade 5. Our results certainly stack up very well against fee-paying and independent schools.

If you have any questions about this information or the website, please give me a call.

Wendy Larcombe
**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
The Appin Park Community congratulates you.
*Students will be awarded their certificates at Monday’s Assembly*

**PF** Corey Marjanovic for his excellent behaviour in class and for the positive way he approaches all his learning tasks. Keep up the great work, Corey.

**1E** Felicity Camplin for working independently in the Writers’ Workshop. Well done.

**1/2S** Denver Teiffel for being a helpful and kind member of our class and for trying very hard with all his learning. Well done!

**2B** James Thewlis for the great effort he is putting into his number fluency tasks. Keep up your fantastic enthusiasm, James.

**3/4A** Paige Cox for the persistence and confidence she has shown to improve her reading. Congratulations, Paige!

**3/4B** Bella Weimer for her focused independent work, sharing her ideas in class discussion and friendly smile in class.

**3/4D** Janie Patton for being a responsible classroom member, who is always happy to help others. Well done.

**5B** Brayden Zylstra for being a well organised student. He is always ready to begin his learning tasks promptly and always puts in 100%. Well done.

**5S** Mia Baillie for the pride she takes in the presentation of her work. It is becoming very neat and tidy.

**6C** Emily Kay for being a supportive and friendly camp buddy. Emily made the most of her camp experience and the smile on her face really showed her enjoyment. Well done, Emily!

**6K** Caleb Whitehead for his great behaviour on camp and the amount of information he was able to learn about life on the Goldfields. Damien Witting for always paying attention and being a tremendous learner during the 5/6 Ballarat camp. It was a pleasure to have you in Group B, Damien.

**SPORTS AWARD**

**Abbey Waide** for her positive attitude and good listening during PE sessions. She attempts all tasks to the best of her ability as well as encouraging others to do their best.

**Demi Johns** for her confident and positive manner when approaching all PE sessions. She is willing to always do her best, never taking an easy way to complete activities.

**Musician of the Week**

**Ari Fletcher Blake** for singing with all your heart in music and working hard to learn your music. You have a beautiful voice and sing like an angel. Keep it up!

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Book Club has gotten off to a great start with hundreds of dollars in orders being placed from the first issue for 2014. Every book you buy earns reward dollars for our school which we are then able to spend on buying fantastic new books for our library. **So thank you for supporting our Book Club!** Brochures for Issue #2 are out now. If you would like to order anything, please place your order in a named envelope along with your payment (cash/credit card slip/cheque made out to Scholastic Australia) and then place the envelope in the box marked “Book Club Orders” on the bench in the library right beside the ‘out’ door. Please don't leave them loose among the books on the bench as they may get lost or overlooked. If you are unsure of the date that orders need to be in by, this will be marked on a note on the order box and can also be found in the newsletter. It is important to get orders in by the due date as we place them all together as one bulk order. There is also a chance of disappointment if late orders are placed and books have sold out.

We have an enthusiastic group of new library monitors who have begun their training and are working busily away in the library at lunchtimes. Their help is much needed and greatly appreciated. Monitors will be presented with badges soon.

**Help Needed!**

Are you skilled at covering/contacting books? Is there anyone out there who can spare an hour or two (or even more!) to come in and help to cover some new books for the library? We have a stack of fabulous new books that are just waiting to get out onto the shelves and be enjoyed by everyone..... Please contact me at school on Tuesdays or Thursdays or send a note in with your child if you are able to help out. Thank you.

**Jaimie Leerson**
Victorian Track Cycling Championships
Last weekend Naomi, Riley and Jack McGowan represented the Wangaratta Cycling Club, competing at the Victorian Junior Track Cycling Championships. This event was held on the velodrome at Northcote. Both Naomi and Riley competed in the Flying 200m Sprint event, the 500m Time Trial as well as a Scratch race. Jack raced in the Flying 200m Sprint and the 500m Time Trial.

For each of them it was the first time that they had competed on the velodrome - a very scary thought, considering the angle of the track, and riding up high just to swoop down, at speed, to race on the lower parts of the track. Although not placing in the top three in their events, having the courage to undertake such an event at a high level, to be prepared to pit their skills against the best in the state, displays a great level of character. The experience they gained from this event will give them the encouragement to undertake other daunting tasks that they may face. Congratulations to each of them.

Colour Run
Grade 6 student Jack Findlay participated in the Colour Run, held in Melbourne on Sunday. This event is a 5 km fun run established as a fundraiser for the Good Friday Appeal, supporting the Royal Children’s Hospital. The run was held on the Grand Prix track around Albert Park Lake. Jack and his Mum, along with 16,000 other participants began with clean white shirts but by the time they had finished they were covered in a rainbow of colours. Volunteers sprayed a variety of coloured powders the masses of participants as they ran past certain points on the course.

A great deal of fun was had by Jack, his Mum and all the participants. This event is not about a winning time or how fast you run, but about joining in and having as much fun as you can, knowing that your support and entry fees go to a fantastic cause.

Basketball
Isaac Folino and Flynn Wright competed in the Maryborough Basketball Tournament on the weekend. After spending three days away on the Grade 5/6 Camp the boys knew that they had to be very mindful of not being over tired and to make sure that they looked after their bodies both on and off the court. In their pool of four teams, they won two of their three games, going down to a Division 1 team. Although they played strong defensive games and were able to run the ball in many attacking moves, they were unable to hold out the more accomplished Maryborough team.

Congratulations to the boys and the rest of the team. It’s been a very hectic couple of months of travelling around to a variety of basketball tournaments. Enjoy a short break before getting back in to the rigours of basketball at the next level.

Attention Prep Parents
On Wednesday 19th March at 5:45pm there will be an information session on how you can assist your child with their learning, particularly reading, at home during their Prep year. The session will run for approximately an hour and there will be babysitting available free of charge. Further details will follow.

Sarah Foster

Nihongo News
This week, all classes learnt about Hina Matsuri, the Dolls’ festival. It is celebrated on the 3rd of March, which is known as Girls’ day. Japanese families set up sets of dolls representing the Emperor and Empress. Grades 3 ~ 6 made a dolls display of their own to take home. I hope yours made it in one piece.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips
The animals that like to eat the following sorts of food are, 1. Ninjin = Rabbit. 2. Kusa = Cow. 3. Mimizu = Bird. For this week’s nazonazo, tell us two uniquely Japanese musical instruments. The first correct written answer to me or to the main office will be the winner.

Sayōnara!
This year, funds donated by school communities will be used to fund The Royal Children’s Hospital Telehealth Project. This project enables children who reside in rural and regional areas access to video consultation, reducing patient travel time, time away from school and disruption to family life. Donation envelopes have been sent home to all families with this newsletter.
You can't prevent an accident, but you can have peace of mind for only $29 per year. StudentCover Student Accident Insurance is the most affordable way to protect your child - at school and elsewhere, and is underwritten by one of the world's leading insurers. Applications for StudentCover are only accepted online at www.studentcover.com.au.

VicRoads recommends parents and carers use this test to ensure their children's safety at all times.

More information
Child Restraint Evaluation Program: crep.com.au
TAC: howsafeisyourcar.com.au
Kidsafe: kidsafevic.com.au
RACV: racv.com.au

Student Accident Insurance
You can't prevent an accident, but you can have peace of mind for only $29 per year. StudentCover Student Accident Insurance is the most affordable way to protect your child - at school and elsewhere, and is underwritten by one of the world's leading insurers. Applications for StudentCover are only accepted online at www.studentcover.com.au.

TAKING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Wangaratta High School invites you to our 2014 Expo.
Monday March 24th
Lots of events and displays. See classrooms in action and talk to teachers and students.
A great time to ask questions and find out more about the wonderful opportunities that your local High School has to offer.
Wangaratta High School is an innovative, flexible learning community ready to support your child in their learning.

Daytime Tours at 2:30pm
(Booking essential)
Evening information session and tours 5:30pm start

Book your tours now on 57230500
APPIN PARK MEGA MOVIE NIGHT

When: Friday 21st of March 6.30pm

Where: On the oval Appin Park Primary School

Cost: $20 family (2 Adults up to 4 kids)
      $5 single

Tickets are available at the School office or on the night.

BBQ, popcorn and light refreshments available.

Bring your chair & picnic rug
and enjoy a movie under the stars!!