Hi everyone

OUR FIRST-EVER MOVIE NIGHT IS ON TOMORROW. Members of School Council have worked hard to get this event organised. We have also had very generous support from Nolan Media & Events, Stockdale & Leggo Real Estate and Hume Building Society, along with other sponsors from our school community. The weather forecast has been revised and there is a chance of showers. We are optimistic and plan to go ahead at this stage. However, the screen cannot be set up if there is a serious chance of wind and rain, and we may have to postpone. We will let the children know before they leave school tomorrow if there’s any change of plan… All going well, we hope to see everyone here at 6.30pm - ready to enjoy a family night out. Tickets will be available on the night from 6.30pm. There will be a ticket booth at each of the main entry points to school (near the oval car park and at the front gate). Wristbands will be issued on purchase of a ticket (green wristband - $5) or family pass (one yellow wristband covers 2 adults and up to 4 children - $20). The movie will start at 7.30pm.

There could be long queues at these booths so you may prefer to send along the money tomorrow to the office, and Nicole will issue your family pass wristband before students head home.

Available for purchase, from 6.30pm, will be:

- Sausage sizzle $2
- Soft drinks $2
- Popcorn $2
- Slushies $1
- Glow sticks 2 for $1

BYO chair, rug or beanbag. Seating will be as for Family Night, with chairs on the slope and upper level of the oval near Big M, and rugs or beanbags down on the oval. SEE YOU THERE!

THANK YOU - TO OUR FRESH FRUIT SPONSORS: The generosity of some members of the school community has meant that we can continue this program for our junior school children well into Term 3 at this stage. The following families or businesses have contributed: Sessions Asphalt Services (Alison & David Sessions), Nicole & Andrew Brereton, Tanya & Ben Camplin, Lesley Johnson, Quantech Design (Kevin & Rebecca Feldtmann), Wangaratta Vet Clinic (Jo & Adam Williams), Promech (Murray & Mary Townsend), Andrew Lovett, Silent Range Estate (Lisbeth & Tim Long), Margie & Ross Moore, Fiona & Paul Carson. If you would like to be part of this, please call Nicole at the office to register your interest.

WORKING BEE - THANKS: We held an after-school working bee last week and it was great to see a number of parents and children here helping to make our school grounds more attractive. Thank you to the following for your participation: Fiona Carson, Andrew Lovett, Kel Vincent, Lisbeth Long, Ash Clough, Kim O’Brien, Tracey Clough, Tamoko Suter, Kay Andrewartha, Jeff Gosbell, Kevin & Bec Feldtmann, Rachael Taheny, Melanie Martens, Vanessa Luscombe, Mandy Mullens - along with a helpful group of children and Heather Foster. Thank you, all, for your time and hard work.

PREP INFO EVENING: Unfortunately there were very few parents able to attend the information session, about reading and the ways you can help your child’s early learning, on Wednesday evening. Sarah Foster had prepared a very comprehensive package and the four parents who did attend were able to speak to her and other teachers about this important area. If parents would like us to offer a second session, please contact me.

AND FINALLY… Congratulations to Andrew Lovett, who was re-elected as School Council President for 2014. Andrew will be supported by Vice President, Jeff Gosbell and Treasurer, Ross Moore. We thanked Lisbeth Long and Leon Newton for their contribution to School Council. Leon has served as a Parent Rep and Vice President for a number of terms and Lisbeth was Treasurer during the last term of Council. The Annual Report was presented at the meeting, along with the President’s Report. A summary of the report is included, along with Andrew Lovett’s report. A full version of Annual Report to the School Community is available at the office and will be on our website soon.

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FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - 31st March 5.30pm, staffroom—all welcome!

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March/April

| 21st March | Movie Night |
| 28th March | Grade 1/2 Sleepover |
| 4th April | Last Day of Term |
| 22nd April | Term 2 commences |

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Appin Park is a school of 318 children (2013 census) drawn from residential and semi-rural areas to the north and west of Wangaratta. It has a caring, skilled and dedicated staff team. Students demonstrate very high standards of behaviour and school connectedness. A commitment to continual improvement in Literacy and Numeracy is evident through the teaching and learning programs and provision of student support.

Ensuring students achieve success and are able to extend themselves in their learning is a priority in our current Strategic Plan. Improving teaching of Writing, and developing a consistent instructional model in core learning areas have been focuses for development in 2013. Teacher-Leaders from within the staff are supporting the work towards achieving our targets and goals through modelling, coordinating professional learning team meetings and ensuring appropriate resources are provided. Documenting the Whole School Curriculum Plan and establishing shared beliefs about key elements of effective literacy and numeracy lessons were major pieces of work. We continued to work closely with the other schools in the Wangaratta Learning Community, in whole staff professional learning and building teacher-leader capacity, in embedding the strategies of the Readers’ & Writers’ Workshops in our classrooms, as well as working with expert coaches in Literacy & Numeracy.

The school’s parent body has high expectations and is very supportive. Students are motivated to learn and classrooms are calm, respectful learning environments. Children are encouraged to be resilient, competent learners who can work both independently and collaboratively. They are taught to set challenging personal goals, reflect on their learning, celebrate progress and achievement, and to recognise their own and others’ strengths across curriculum areas.

The Sports and Arts Academies, along with a Japanese Academy and the Choir allow students to extend their learning and demonstrate special talents. Introduction of a Performing Arts/ Music program rounded out the school’s specialist offerings and resulted in a highly successful whole school concert and senior production in October.

In 2013, a staff of 22.94 equivalent full-time staff. 2 Principal class officers, 15.4 FTE teachers and 5.54 FTE support staff, worked as a highly effective team.

### Achievement
The School Performance Summary indicates that our students continue to achieve outcomes in their learning that are comparable to or significantly better than students in schools with similar demography across Victoria.

Teacher assessments against AusVELS provide on-balance judgement of students’ progress over time, and indicate that, compared to these similar schools, more of our students are achieving at or above the expected levels in English. Comparable levels are achieved in Mathematics.

Grade 3 NAPLAN results indicate that the student achievement score is slightly below the state median in Reading and Numeracy. This is an area for improvement and we must continue to provide targeted remedial programs (Bridge, Talk to Learn) in the Early Years to assist identified students, who enter school with lower levels of pre-school learning, to catch up during their first three years of school.

The Relative Growth data shows that students have made very solid gains in learning between Grade 3 & 5. In 2013, students achieved excellent results in Reading and Writing with 80% of students making medium-to-high gain during that two years. The four-year trend data for Year 5 Reading remains outstanding.

Significant change in teacher practice during the past five years has led to consistency across classrooms; supporting children to transition from year to year with confidence. This work is being continued into 2014, with an emphasis on embedding the improved practices in Reading and Writing. In teaching Mathematics, we will focus on providing students with a solid foundation, not only in the area of Number, but in the other areas of Maths, and in solving real life problems.

### Engagement
Data sets in this area of the report indicate that students are connected to school and want to be there. Students are recognised through Awards for 100% Attendance. There are large numbers of these handed out each term and semester; with growing numbers of children being in receipt of Outstanding Attendance Awards for the whole year.

2013 data sets indicate continued high levels of attendance with an average attendance rate of 94% across the school. This replicates data from 2012 when average absence rates were around 11.5 days per student. Individual students with high levels of absenteeism in Year 1 and Year 4 (2013) contributed to the lower average level of attendance for those cohorts. The school worked hard with these families to improve the attendance of the identified students.

Overall, the average attendance rate significantly exceeds that of similar schools.

The Student Voice Team, in analysing the 2013 Student Attitudes to School survey, commented that orderly, respectful and calm classrooms are the norm at our school. Children and staff at APPS have very high expectations of each others’ behaviour. Students also speak very positively about the school’s Quest problem-based curriculum and identify their high level of enjoyment and engagement in day-to-day class activities as a key reason for our high levels of attendance.

### Wellbeing
2013 Student Connectedness variables indicate that the school’s performance is at the same level as like schools. Student Safety and Classroom Behaviour variables in both Parent and Student Surveys indicate satisfaction in these areas, however, the Classroom Behaviour variable is one that the Student Voice Team has identified as an area for improvement in 2014.

The team plans to work with their peers and teachers to affirm what makes for a positive learning environment. Last year, students identified the following aspects as conducive: quiet working conditions, the ability to work with peers or small groups on specific tasks, having time to talk to the teacher about your learning, and having practical hands-on learning activities as a regular part of the program. The team’s work will contribute to the upcoming review of the school’s Engagement & Wellbeing Policy.

In 2013, 14 students were eligible for funding from the Program for Students with a Disability. These students were enabled in their learning, and their active participation in the curriculum, by regular Support Group meetings, by the positive home-school relationships developed, and by the culture of high expectations that is reflected across the school. We are fortunate in the calibre and dedication of the Education Support staff who support these students and their teachers.

A small number of other students, considered ‘at risk’ in their learning, attendance, or social/emotional wellbeing were also supported in this way, with individual learning plans developed. Referral to support services where necessary, short term goals and regular monitoring of progress against these, and regular home-school contact all contributed to the success of these plans.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
http://www.appinparkps.vic.edu.au
This is my first report as Appin Park Primary School's School Council President. It is a great honour to be able to help our school in this way. I would like to start this report by acknowledging the many parents, friends and staff who help our great school in a range of different ways.

I would like to thank all members who served on the last School Council, and particularly recognise those who are not standing this year, Leon Newton and Liz Long, who have done a great job in supporting the school. It has been a pleasure working with you. Likewise, thank you to the outgoing APPA president Susan Christie, for your dedication to the school.

2013 saw the continuation of many successful activities, the introduction of other new and exciting ideas and some areas that we need to address. In no specific order I would like to acknowledge the following:

The school staged its first “all of school” musical production; this was held at the PAC and was heralded as a great success. A wonderful effort from all students, teachers, parents and friends. Additionally our music programs have been enhanced with dedicated resource in the shape of Celine Muir conducting lessons and driving forward the APPS choir which sung with distinction at several community events throughout the year.

Fund raising:; another strong year of fund raising by APPA and the School council, as the need for fund raising increases it is wonderful to see many people stepping up to support these efforts, special mention for our school car boot sale and to Kel Vincent and the end of year Cubby House raffle that was a great success. As always APPA’s ongoing support with a wide range of fund raising throughout the year was invaluable.

Work in our grounds has been ongoing, since the correction of our drainage systems we have been able to do more ground improvement works. There is no doubt we can do much more and this is already in planning for 2014. To see participation in working bees from families we might not have seen before was very encouraging and contributes to building the school community spirit we are striving for at APPS.

Academic results and continuing development of APPS staff; it is important to recognise continued strong performance in this area. Ultimately enabling all students to achieve to their maximum potential is a key goal for any education system. One way this is highlighted is by the consistently high number of APPS students who progress to the WHS SEAL program. Of course this is only one marker and APPS consistently produces rounded students ready to tackle the next level of the compulsory education system. Additionally if is pleasing to see continued success for our APPS staff in pursuing further learning to support our students, some examples being Jo Beattie, Nicole Godde and I am sure there are many others.

Enrolments have decreased this year and while much time has been spent considering causes and corrective actions I would encourage everyone to focus on our strengths, great students, excellent teachers and a supportive learning environment. If every person involved in the school (parents, staff, friends and relatives) advocates for the school in our local community this is best message we can possibly send.

Website and Social media: the school website has been updated and sincere thanks to those involved; additionally we have a presence on social media. These tools are aimed at building better connections between the school and the community as a School Council we are constantly looking at ways to enhance these connections so if you have any suggestions please pass them on through the office, or our website.

School fees, once again although there have been small increases in our school fees, increasingly these fees are not covering the costs of providing a good education to our students. While some fees are listed as voluntary on our school fees forms it is these fees that supplement government funding and allow such things as ICT resources for students. The school actively fund raises to generate further income but I would encourage all those that can, to continue supporting their children by paying these fees.

Camps and Academies, 2013 saw great school camps across the different year groups with Grade 5/6 going to Melbourne, Grade 3/4 going to camp Wyuna and the junior school camping in our own wonderful grounds. Thanks to all the staff and parents who gave their time to make these camps possible, they continue to be a valuable element of the school curriculum.

In closing, another strong year for our School, a final thanks to our school leadership team of Wendy Larcombe and Heather Foster and my fellow School Councillors. I look forward to continued success for Appin Park Primary School in 2014.

Andrew Lovett
School Council President
March 2014
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
The Appin Park Community congratulates you.
Students will be awarded their certificates at Monday’s Assembly

PF  Reagen Harris for being a brave writer and attempting to write some letters and words. Keep up the great work, Reagen.
1/2S  Samia Meloury for using excellent techniques in her reading to develop her understanding. Samia also makes positive contributions to class discussions.
2B  Tyler Lack for showing great enthusiasm during our Writers’ Workshop. Great work, Tyler.
3/4A  Kieran Taheny Congratulations on a fantastic week of learning. You have shown persistence and most of all, resilience! Keep it up!
3/4B  Jackson Stringer His peers have often mentioned Jackson as a good friend and helpful classmate. He is taking more responsibility for his learning, making wise choices and developing self-control. Keep up the great job, Jackson!
3/4C  Chenoa Nash for her excellent attitude and the quiet way she goes about all her learning tasks.
3/4D  Sheridan McDonald for the excellent effort she puts into all areas of her learning. Well done!
5B  Pearl Neary for the quiet way she goes about all her learning tasks. Her camp reflection was very detailed and enjoyable to read. Well done, Pearl!
5S  Liam Suter for showing great writing stamina when writing in his journal.
6C  Noah Barling for the outstanding newsletter he wrote and published about his experiences at the Sovereign Hill Camp. Fantastic work, Noah!
6K  Marcus Battin for the great improvement he has shown with his handwriting, which is looking much neater. Keep it up, Marcus.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK
James Long for his great work cutting and pasting his painted frog and Brown Bear

SPORTS AWARD
Abby James for her positive attitude and happy nature when completing PE activities. She always attempts tasks to the best of her ability and is willing to challenge herself.
Kira Geue for her quiet and sensible manner when participating in PE activities. She is a positive role model in the class.

MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK
Sienna Fuller for writing such a beautiful poem about our ANZACs going to war. It was perfectly metered and very moving. Well done, Sienna!

GRADE 3/4 CELEBRATION
On Friday 4th April at 1pm, Grade 3 & 4 students will be presenting their Quest musical items in the BER. This term, our students have been celebrating and exploring the elements that make up who they are and what makes them so special. It would be great to see lots of you there to help us celebrate!

APPA HAPPENINGS
Hot Cross Bun orders are due back Friday 28th March, delivery will be on Friday 4th April from the canteen (if you have elected to pick up) between 1.30 & 2.45pm. Please note late orders cannot be accepted.

The next APPA meeting is on Monday, 28th March at 6.30pm in the staffroom. All parents, carers and grandparents are welcome. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to be involved with APPA, please contact Tracey Clough on 0407 224 667.
Fruit Roster 24th March:
Bec Feldtmann, Kylie Gavin, Sonia Kajcinovski, Lynn Best & Nicole Snowdon

Icy Pole Roster:
Fri 21 Mar: Robyn Delahunty & Lorraine Prior
Mon 24 Mar: Rebecca Feldtmann & Kim O'Brien
Wed 26 Mar: Jill Britton & Lis Long

Nihongo News
This week, all grades worked on JP greetings. They revised the vocabulary and are learning songs to help them remember a variety of expressions, such as, “Good morning”, “Are you well?” etc. Gr3–6 have also started work on self introductions, including basic information about themselves. Emma C, Ebony G & Mitchell C (6C), Sam B, Charlotte M, & Zac S-D (6K) showed good analytical thinking skills in deciphering a JP self introduction.

Monoshiri Şensei’s Culture Tips
Japanese months don’t have names, as such, they are simply numbered. Therefore, for last week’s nazonazo, March is Sangatsu (3rd Month). For this week’s nazonazo, tell us, in JP, what day the Appin Park PS newsletter is published. The first correct written answer to me or to the main office will be the winner.

Sayōnara!

From The Chaplain… Playgroup
This week I thought I would update everyone on how our playgroup is progressing. Each week we have around 12–13 children, ranging in age from a few weeks to four years old. Our lovely group of mums are getting to know each other now and it is lovely to see them interacting and sharing anecdotes and ideas together. Some have children at Appin Park, but others do not.

Each week the children have a choice of inside and outside activities. Inside there are a range of activities including a craft table, construction materials and cars, a ‘home’ corner, playdough, puzzles, books and baby toys and each week there is a different activity or game to add to the mix. Outside there is our wonderful sand pit with playgroup’s own giant Tonka trunks and lots of sand toys as well as some ride along bikes and cars. After we stop for fruit we enjoy some songs and a story and sometimes a game before we sing our special goodbye song together.

If you, or someone you know has a pre-schooler who may like to join us we meet from 9–11 each Tuesday morning. There is no cost to parents.
Have a great week
Chaplain Beth

Fruit Roster 24th March:
Bec Feldtmann, Kylie Gavin, Sonia Kajcinovski, Lynn Best & Nicole Snowdon

Parent’s pre-school children are most welcome at the book signing.
**Kris Elliott Painter**
404 Boweya Road, Killawarra 3678
A/H: (03) 5726 9014
0418 131 695

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