Hi everyone…

Well, the year really is quickly coming to an end. The new Prep students were very settled and happy during their last transition session on Tuesday morning, and a number of our families with 2015 Preps came back to school that evening for a relaxed family BBQ. The children have made friends very quickly and enjoyed having another chance to get together and play in the sandpit and on the play equipment.

On Monday evening, students, parents/grandparents & staff enjoyed the Grade 6 Graduation Dinner. This is an annual event and each year I am so impressed by how grown up the Grade 6s suddenly are. Our job is to support your children to be successful learners so that they can confidently make that next step in their education. While proof-reading the Grade 6 students’ reports, I have been very impressed at the academic progress being made and the high levels of achievement attained across the curriculum.

At the dinner, we announced the recipients of the Mary Baldwin and Walter Bob Harris Awards. Mitchell Carson and Amy Henderson received the Mary Baldwin Award for outstanding academic achievement and effort. Edward Sessions and Charlotte Mullens received the Walter Bob Harris Award for commitment and contribution to the school. Mitch & Amy, Eddie & Charlotte will accept their certificates at Family Night on Tuesday. Also at that time, Wendy Martin and Ros Janas will announce the Sportsperson of the Year and Artist of the Year awards. Another Grade 6 student will be presented with the Oasis Club ‘Jim Hansen Memorial Scholarship’. This is a one-off award being provided by the Oasis Club (ex-Apex club members). It is to be awarded to a student who always puts in their best effort and has made the most of the opportunities offered at school. Another award that we have to offer is the Ian ward Memorial scholarship which is donated on behalf of a past Rotarian (also husband of an ex-APPS office manager, Heather Ward).

STORMY WEATHER!! Like many homes around this part of town, the school was a bit the worse for wear after the dramatic hail storm last Saturday afternoon. The large hail gathered in the gutters, blocked the downpipes and caused water to enter the ceilings of a number of our rooms, and in the admin area. I have been without a place to call home all week, due to very wet carpet in my office. Rooms 3, 4, 8a, Art Room, 17, 18 along with the office area were all affected and we have had to cope with noisy fans and the smell of wet carpet for the past few days. However, repair works are now underway. Unfortunately all these tasks are handled by a company contracted by the Department and their processes move very slowly!

A HUGE Thank You to Heather Foster, Jo & Kendall Beattie, Tracey & Hannah Clough, Fiona & Mitchell Carson, Leonie Bourke, Collette Suter, and Heather Thrum who responded quickly and cleaned up all the surface water, moved furniture, located soggy paperwork and generally managed the situation. Ash Clough, Andrew Lovett and cleaner, Bill McCormack also arrived on the scene to offer help. By the time I got here, it was under control. It really shows what a wonderful staff and school council we have at the school.

FAMILY NIGHT: Tuesday evening - BYO picnic tea to school from 5.30pm. The show will be staged on the oval, with families seated on the edge of the oval near Big M. If you are bringing chairs to sit on, please leave the lower areas nearer the stage for those who will be on rugs or blankets. The performances will start at 6.30pm. Prep children should be ready to be called up just before that as they will open the show.

OPEN DAY & MORNING TEA: It was wonderful to see so many of our parents and grandparents here on Friday for morning tea. The school captains spoke on behalf of the other students; expressing thanks to volunteers who have helped out in a whole rage of ways through the year. Thank you again to all those parents who commit their time through Council, APPA, icy pole sales, reading assistance, library/book club, excursions & camps, swimming, gymnastics, keeping the sickbay clean….. You make our school a better place, and your children LOVE seeing you actively involved in their school life.

See you all on Tuesday evening….  Wendy Larcombe

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**Upcoming Events**

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<td>16th Dec</td>
<td>Family Night</td>
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<td>18th Dec</td>
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<td>Students return for 2015</td>
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From The Chaplain...

Building Christmas Traditions into Your Home

Many parents lament the over commercialisation of Christmas and would like to create a meaningful Christmas tradition for their family to practise as the children grow. Here are a few things to consider:

- Discuss with your partner the most meaningful or memorable traditions from your own family of origin and decide together which of those you would like to include in your own family’s celebrations.
- Find some of the old family favourite recipes from parents and grandparents’ Christmas celebrations and include some of them in your own menu over the Christmas season.
- Include a reading of the real story of Christmas. There are some beautiful picture story books available to help you, or you could read it from the Bible in Luke Chapters 1&2. It’s a great story, but use a modern translation.
- How about incorporating some gratefulness into your Christmas routine? Ask each person to tell what he or she is most grateful for or ask them to say something kind about a family member.
- Keeping memories alive is a great way to pass on a Christmas legacy. Spend some time recounting your own memorable childhood Christmas traditions. (don’t forget to include grandparents in this part). Children love hearing stories from the past, and when they hear them year after year they’ll begin to treasure them as if they were their own.

So, in this hectic season of buying gifts and attending breakup parties, take a few moments to think about what kind of Christmas legacy you would like to leave your children. Then start to make it happen this Christmas season.

Chaplain Beth

Calculators (Whole School) and Ear Buds (Grades 3–6)

Calculators  A “Texas Instruments TI-108” calculator is provided for your child as part of their book list supplies when they commence Prep. These calculators are durable and are solar powered so will never need the batteries replaced. They are passed on each year and, if looked after, will last for at least seven years. We have a number of children who have misplaced their calculators and require new ones. You will be notified early next week if your child has lost theirs. We would prefer students in Grades Prep–2 purchase the same calculators as used by the rest of the school as it makes whole group instruction so much easier. Our preference would be for Grade 3–6 students to purchase the same calculator but any will do. Our preferred calculators are available in the office for $14.00 any time and will also be available for purchase when you collect your child’s stationery pack on Book Collection Day, 23rd January, 2015.

Ear Buds  Grade 3 students are provided with high quality “Philips” earbuds as part of their booklist. These come in re-sealable bags, are clearly named and will last until the end of Grade 6 if looked after. You will also be notified if your child has lost their earbuds. Can you please ensure that your child has a set ready to go next term? Our “Philips” brand is also available at the school office for $9 a pair.

ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS

Several of the Appin Park shirts were not returned to school after the last performance. Please check at home and return washed shirts to Mrs Martin.

ICY POLE ROSTER

Mon 15th Dec:  Alison & Vanessa
Wed 17th Dec:  Vanessa & Kay

Slushies will be available 17th December.

CELEBRATING LEARNING: Children really enjoyed the chance to show their family members what they have been working on over the past term when we held the Open Classroom session last Friday.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

PF  PF for the fantastic year we’ve had together. We are very proud of you all. Best wishes for next year.

1E  Jack Gambrell for his great poem about “The Storm”. You are really learning how to use words in an interesting way. Well done, Jack.

1/2S  Mitchell Vincent for his wonderful reading practice all year, for trying harder with his writing skills and for being a great friend. Well done!

2B  2B for the great year of learning we have had together. Good luck in grade 3 next year. You will be awesome!

3/4B  Cameron Lovett for his greatly improved behaviour in class by waiting patiently, contributing to discussions intelligently and showing self-control. Excellent, Cameron!

3/4C  Samuel Mullens for his excellent attitude and enthusiasm for all his learning this year.

5B  5B for the fantastic effort you have all put in this year. Best wishes for grade 6.

6C  Congratulations to all of 6C on completing primary school at Appin Park. Thank you all for the valuable contributions you have made and the good times we have shared together.

6K  Marcus Battin for the excellent work he has put into his portfolio this year. It’s looking great, Marcus.

APPIN STAR AWARD

Ryan Sull for the outstanding year of learning you have had. You have become an independent, mature and happy student who has attempted all that has come your way. It has been a privilege to watch and guide you in becoming such a valuable member of our class. Congratulations, Ryan.

Casey Campbell for the polite and caring attitude she shows to all classmates and the positive attitude she displays every day at school.

Dylan Stubbs for always making wise decisions, being organised and having a great attitude towards all his learning. Well done, Dylan.

SPORTS AWARD

Xavier Pitt for the attitude he shows when participating in all sporting activities. His effort is always 100% along with encouraging and supporting his peers.

Ailie Witting for her positive manner, efforts and support of her classmates that she attends each session with. An excellent and reliable student to have in the class. Thank you, Ailie.

Nihongo News

Prep~Gr2 learnt a little bit about New Year celebrations in Japan. They’ll continue that theme next week. Gr3/4 did hiragana word maker races. The winning pairs were: 3/4A Millie & Holly + Alex & Josh. 3/4B Jackson & Brayden S-H, 3/4C Sarah & Chenoa, & 3/4D Sheridan & Ben. Kids in Gr5/6 finished off their kimono pictures, some of which went home. They look great and, I hope, were fun to make. The Japan Foundation has uploaded the Video Matsuri winning entries. Sadly, Appin Park PS did not win a prize, but there are a lot videos available for viewing online. Just google Video Matsuri hall of fame and you’ll find it.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips

Grace W-L (6K) knows her architecture. She also knows that the tallest tower (not building) in the world is the Tokyo Sky Tree at 634 metres. For our last nazonazo of the year, tell us the meaning of Joyanokane. The first correct written answer to me or to the main office will be the winner.

Sayōnara!

APPA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

First prize in this year’s raffle is an Apple iPad Mini!

Tickets are $2 and need to be returned by Monday 15th December.

Donations for the Christmas Raffle can be left at the office.

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