Hi everyone...

Another year comes to an end, with the annual events that are special to Appin Park PS. It was great to see SO many families at our Family Night on Tuesday, even despite the blustery conditions and threatening smoke. The children’s performances were very entertaining, and I especially enjoyed watching the whole school joining in the Que Sera dance.

We held the Grade 6 Graduation Assembly this morning and presented the students with their certificate and pen from APPA, their self-portrait album that they have worked on in Art each year, their portfolio and their Grade 6 photo folder. Their Grade 1 Buddies escorted them into the assembly and also presented them with a hand-made card.

This year we presented a special award to Heidi Parkinson. This Principal’s Award recognised Heidi’s determination to always do her best, and her friendly, responsible, happy manner around our school. Heidi joins our other special award winners that were announced at Family Night: Emma Christie was selected for the Ian Ward Memorial Scholarship (donated by the Rotary Club of Wangaratta), Hannah Nish received both the Artist of the Year Award and the Jim Hanson Scholarship (donated by the Oasis Club), while Liam White was presented with the Sportsperson of the Year Award (donated by The Athlete’s Foot).

GRADE GROUPS 2015: The children in Grades P-5 visited their new classrooms this morning and spent time introducing themselves to their 2015 teacher.

THANK YOU: Thank you so much to all parents/grandparents for your support and contribution to our school through the year. There is overwhelming evidence that children, whose parents take an active part in their school life, achieve much higher levels of connectedness and academic progress. By keeping up with what’s happening at school, and by coming to school events whenever possible, you send a clear message to your child of the importance of being their best and making the most of their time here.

A very BIG THANK YOU to the parent reps on School Council who have been so generous with their time; by attending meetings and sharing their ideas and views, cooking BBQs, packing up after events, attending working bees and helping out with fix-it jobs. Kel Vincent and Kevin Feldtmann, in particular, have given a number of hours of their time recently. They installed special shade blinds on some of the BER windows (materials donated by FitWeld Engineering) and re-attached the repaired sandpit shade sail recently, along with other maintenance jobs.

Andrew Lovett, School Council president, provides great leadership & support and has been a regular at school; helping out with the BBQs and working bees and attending our special assemblies and events. Tracey Clough and her APPA committee are also very dedicated helpers around the school and make our programs and events run smoothly due to their efforts.

MORE THANKS: Charlotte, Samuel & Mandy Mullens, along with Steve & Emily Doig, helped out at the most recent working bee prior to Family Night - thank you!! Thank you also to Jason & Sandra Ackley (North Eastern Hotel) for a second donation of ice that we used on Family Night.

AND FINALLY... Farewell to Leonie Bourke, Julie Sands, Bill McCormack, Nancy Cole and Tian McDonald. We recognised their contribution and presented gifts from the staff and school community to them on Tuesday evening. Tracey Clough will assume a new identity in 2015, as our new school cleaner.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holidays. To our Grade 6 children - dream big and take every chance to shine at high school! To the families who have their last child at APPS finishing tomorrow - thank you for your time with us and best wishes for the future. Merry Christmas, everyone!

SCHOOL FINISHES 1.30pm TOMORROW

Wendy Larcombe

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1.30pm dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd Jan</td>
<td>Book Collection Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th Jan</td>
<td>Students return for 2015</td>
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From The Chaplain... COPING WITH GRIEF AT CHRISTMAS

This is not a happy thought for my last note for 2014, but sadly, Christmas is not a happy time for some in our community. Perhaps these thoughts will help you, or they may give you some ideas to pass on to someone you know who is grieving.

For those who are grieving, it is a time to take care of yourself. Some like to keep busy to distract themselves but others like to withdraw to their memories and reflections. There is no right or wrong way to act or feel. However, here are some safeguards to put into place:

- Don’t make any big decisions over Christmas time – don’t add to your stress.
- Make plans to be around people who you trust and who understand that you may not want to join in all the time.
- Give yourself time to think about the person you are missing. Listen to music, look at pictures, cry if you need to. This might mean you are less likely to be overwhelmed or caught off guard by Christmas ‘triggers’.
- If a family has been through as divorce or separation, the Christmas season may become a logistic struggle for children who now have two places to be. Make this easier for them by including them in plans ahead of time and making the transition as smooth as possible. It is important to avoid competition over time spent with the children or size and expense of gifts.
- Let yourself have fun – it does not mean you are forgetting the person who is not there.

May I take the opportunity to wish everyone in the Appin Park School Community a happy Christmas and a fulfilling 2015.

Chaplain Beth

Nihongo News

The next big event on the JP cultural calendar is the New Year Oshōgatsu. This week, all grades learnt about how Japanese people celebrate it. The children made nengajo, New Year cards that are sent out in their millions by Japanese families. The end of year also means that the Preppie who is the outstanding hard worker in Japanese is given the J-Star award. Congratulations to Cameron S (Prep F), our J-Star for 2014. Oops! At assembly, I named our previous J-Stars and missed Aaron G, the 2009 winner & Jordan G (3/4D), the 2011 joint winner. I trust that their lawyers will be satisfied with this correction and public apology.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips

Brayden S-H (3/4B) cracked last week’s nazonazo. He discovered that Joyanokane refers to the bells that are rung 108 times at Buddhist temples in Japan from midnight on New Year’s Eve. That was our last nazonazo for the year. Keep your eyes and ears open over the holidays for JP facts to share next year.

Sayōnara!

Thanks!

On behalf of the APPA committee I would like to thank the school community for their continued support throughout 2014. It is because of this that APPA are able to supply additional resources for the children to enjoy.

To the hardworking APPA committee who give up their time each and every year cooking sausages, organising raffles, selling icy poles, selling hot cross buns and much more; thank you, this would not be possible without you. Merry Christmas, have a safe and enjoyable holiday. See you all in 2015.

Tracey Clough

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas raffle:

1st Prize: Robyn Dykes;
Hampers: Kelly Roberts, Jesse Hurley, Snowdon family, Kelly Hirschman, Tracey McGeehan and Susan Benedyka.

Outstanding Attendance for 2014 - Whole Year Awards

| Karla Balfour | Thomas Clough | Jordan McDonald | Seth Saunders |
| Bailey Ballard | Noah Gambrell | Sheridan McDonald | Charlie Townsend |
| Thomas Ballard | Jesse Hurley | Riley McGowan | April Twyford |
| Eliza Best | Tahlia Hurley | Naomi McGowan | Mitchell Vincent |
| Isabell Best | Trinity Hutchins | Harvey Moore | Flynn Waring |
| Millie Carson | Tahlia Hutton | Thomas Moore | Brodie Watson |
| Mitchell Carson | Boniah Johns | Ella Nelson | Zack Watson |
| Flynn Cawood | Darcy Kennedy | Heidi Parkinson | Liam White |