Hi everyone…

CONGRATULATIONS: Carol Mata attended a special ceremony in Melbourne on Monday to mark her 40 years of service to the Department of Education. This is a real achievement and there are only a small number of people recognised each year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS: At our meeting on Monday night, Council agreed to start work on the initial stages of our new play area near BigM. The plan is to get some trees in as soon as possible and to work on providing the requested ‘soft grass area’ that students wanted. There will also be some climbing (and possibly sliding) structures to come.

DATES: Some dates for your family diary are:

- FRIDAY, 17th July: Trivia Evening
- FRIDAY, 28th August: School Production
- SATURDAY, 5th September: Car Boot Sale

SOME VERY GOOD NEWS FOR HEALTH CARE/PENSION CARD HOLDERS: The most recent bulletin from the Department of Education announced a new payment (Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund - CSEF) that is available for the next four years to families who hold a Health Care Card or a Pension Concession Card. Once parents complete a very simple application, each eligible primary school child will be allocated $125 to be used by the school to offset the costs of camps, excursions and sporting programs. Secondary students will be eligible for $225. The money is sent directly to the school during Term 3 and then credited against the family statement. This payment replaces the EMA program which ended last year. There is a copy of the application on our website for you to download and bring back to school, or you can call into the office and Nicole will have a form available for you. We will need to copy your card.

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term two or term three. Application forms should be completed and lodged with schools before the end of term two each year as payments are made each year during term three. However schools will be able to accept and process applications up until the end of term three each year.

This payment will be of great benefit to families in supporting all children to participate fully in extra-curricula programs at school. More information is available on the Dept. of Education website: www.education.vic.gov.au.

CROSS COUNTRY: The annual Cross Country run was held in perfect conditions today. Children followed a different route for their 2km or 3km run this year; utilising the new tracks and suspension bridge that link Collyndale estate with the new Arlington Park estate. Thank you to APPA who organised the sausage sizzle lunch, and to Wendy Martin for her coordination of the event. Students who qualified to go to the Zone Championship on 5th June are encouraged to keep up their training so that they can give their best effort as they represent the school. We wish them every success. (Pictured are students who were first past the post in their grade level).

Well done to all students who completed the course!

REMINDER: PUPIL FREE DAY NEXT FRIDAY (29th May): Teachers have been collecting assessment data and making observations of your child’s current achievement level, preparing for the end of semester reports. Next Friday, there is no school for children as teachers use this day to get started on these. Just Kids is open and has vacancies on this day. Reports will be issued on Thursday, 18th June.
Stepparents
Being part of a blended family can be challenging for everyone in the household. The stepmother often has the unenviable job of being a mother figure and yet not a mother to her stepchildren. Her role requires her to balance active involvement when required with peripheral involvement at other times. Some basic tips:

1. Don't expect your stepfamily to work like a biological family for the reason that a stepfamily is a family built on loss. There are a number of current and past relationships to be negotiated and possibly baggage from the past that can intrude.

2. Don't expect close loving relationships between all family members. This may or may not happen. Instead, encourage an atmosphere of respect and understanding.

3. Don't expect a stepfamily to run smoothly from the beginning. It takes time to develop common goals and to develop a family history and traditions.

4. Work with your partner to enforce rules and discipline.

A strong couple bond is essential to the success of a stepfamily. Spend time alone as a couple on a regular basis so that you develop a strong relationship.

Taken from the Stepfamilies Australia website which is a great resource for those in a stepfamily.

Chaplain Beth

SATURDAY MORNING NETBALL

Just a reminder to all parents that Appin Park teams are on duty in the canteen this Saturday morning. They require parents to be on duty from 9.00am. Hopefully parents can offer their time, doing half hour shifts. The more that offer their help, the less time that you may be needed. Please don’t leave it up to the same few families who offer assistance every time.

GRADE 5/6 BIKE RIDE

Ninety Grade 5/6 students, teachers and many parents and helpers (including our local parliamentarian Tim McCurdy) were blessed with a brilliant day for their annual bike ride. After weeks of preparation, the morning presented us with the sun ready to shine. This ride allows each of the students to be challenged over a variety of distances, anywhere between 35 - 65kms. Apart from the students learning road rules and bike skills, more importantly they continued to develop their resilience and persistence. There were many times that they had to make a conscientious effort to persevere when their bodies started to feel tired or sore, however, at the end of the ride, the look of satisfaction and pride at achieving such a task was obvious. A very big thank you to all the parents who keenly assisted this event. Without the support from our families, these activities would not be able to be conducted. Also thank you to all the teachers and support staff that joined in on the day. A great effort by all.

CROSS COUNTRY

Today saw the annual running of our cross country event. The school community converged on the walking paths along One Mile Creek to participate, encourage and show support to everyone. Congratulations to all participants for their efforts, not only during their race today, but in the lead up training sessions. Thank you to our APPA members who supported this event with orange pieces at the finish line and a sausage sizzle for lunch. Hopefully team results will be announced at tomorrow’s assembly and a full report will be included in next week’s newsletter.

TENNIS HOT SHOTS PROGRAM

A special announcement will be made at tomorrow’s assembly regarding the Tennis Hot Shots program. We have received funding from Tennis Australia to implement a program into our school.

NIHONGO NEWS

Prep~Gr2 continued their work on animals this week. They’re learning lots of animal words and also lots of adjectives that they can use to describe animals. Gr3~4 are developing their kite-related vocabulary by working on a hiragana word search. Flim J & Toby C (both 3G) are both doing impressive work for new boys. Flim has only been doing Japanese for 4 weeks and it looks like he will be one of the first to complete the task. JP is so easy for kids who are prepared to apply themselves to their work. Gr5~6 learnt new sentence patterns that allow them to ask and answer questions about JP geography and what makes certain places famous. Bailey H (6C), Sarah H & Cheyenne G (6M) did a good job for relatively new kids to JP study. Charlie T (6M) did very well, too, but he’s an old hand at this JP stuff.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips

For last week’s nazonazo, kami (paper) and take (bamboo) are two materials used to make JP kites. For this week’s nazonazo, tell us which JP prefecture (sort of like a mini state/shire) is the closest in size to The Rural City of Wangaratta. The first correct written answer to me or to the main office will be the winner.

Sayōnara!

FRUIT ROSTER

Monday 25th May

Kellie Robinson, Kirsty James, Nicole Snowdon & Margie Moore

JUST KIDS will be open from 8am to 6pm on Report Writing Day - Friday 29th May. Places are still available. Please contact Gina on 5721 4799 for bookings.
P/1S  Reagen Harris for using counting on and count back strategies when solving additional and subtraction equations. You have shown so much improvement, Reagen. You should be very proud of yourself!

1B  Charlotte Marshall for the fantastic effort she has put into her learning this term. Keep up the great work!

2E  Skye Leatham Pirret for her great reading practice at home. I am beginning to notice a difference. Well done, Skye.

Sam Mitchell for his improvement in reading at home and for contributing confidently in class discussions. Well done, Sam.

2M  Riley Cottee for the challenging questions he asks to explore an interesting topic.

3G  Tayah Martens for being brave and resilient when she hurt her leg. Tayah hasn’t let her injury stop her from having a go.

4R  Tahlia Hurley for the excellent argument and vocabulary she used in her writing about why we shouldn’t have shark nets. It was a very persuasive piece. Way to go, Tahlia!

4V  Josh Sgario for being a wonderful help during our ICT sessions. Josh is always happy to share his vast knowledge to assist others. Thank you, Josh!

5K  Ryan Still for enduring rainy conditions during his bike ride but continuing on with a big smile. A great effort, Ryan.

6C  Regan O’Brien for the commitment and enthusiasm he has shown towards attending Art Academy this term. Regan has worked incredibly well when creating a clay model house. Congratulations, Regan.

6M  Kayla Phillips for her great effort when completing the 50km bike ride. Her persistence and perseverance were very evident, especially as she approached the climb into Glenrowan. Well done, Kayla.

Ashlee O’Neill for undertaking the challenging 60+km bike ride. Her effort to persist throughout the day was fantastic and she did so with a smile on her face and encouragement for those riding around her. Well done.

Anthony Greco for the honest and humorous manner he demonstrates when undertaking all tasks and for the unselfish behaviour he displayed when working with younger students. He made sure that they had their work nearly completed before completing his work.

Morgan Byrne for being such a strong role model for all students at Appin Park. Morgan always gives 100% to every learning task she is presented with and takes pride in her work, no matter how great the challenge.

Sheridan McDonald for her excellent behaviour, her willingness to take on challenges and for always being a happy and helpful class member.

Musician of the Week

Faith Mayer Young for being an exceptionally well behaved student who always dedicates 100% of her energy to every task. You are a great team player and can always be counted on.

Brodie Ross Hamilton for always showing respect, consideration and commitment in every music class. You have a wonderful natural talent and are a pleasure to work with.

Senior Art Academy

Senior Art Academy is busy at work this term creating either a Bobble Head or a Slab House from clay. They are working on their pieces every week, so we are really looking forward to the finished results. This term the students had to put in a written application if they were interested in being part of the academy group. They were aware that the medium being used was clay and that they had to be fully committed to the group to be able to participate as an active member.

Pangerang Community House

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Tuesday – White Street Church, Cnr. White & Burke Streets
Wednesday – West End Rotunda (off Lowe Crt)
TIME:  8.00am – 8.30am
A community breakfast 2 mornings a week for anyone who would like to come along.
PHONE 0357213813 FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Students from Italy, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Spain, Sweden, France, Canada and the U.S.A., arriving in July for 3, 5, & 10 month exchanges. Become a volunteer host family and benefit from the experience. Students are aged between 15 and 18 years and are enrolled in a local school. They arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover. Host families choose their exchange student. Australian students are welcome to apply to become exchange students.

For more information contact local co-ordinator Jan James – 5765 2395 or www.scce.com.au