Hi Everyone:

8 sleeps until Christmas (and NO shopping done!!!)

AND A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL... Family Night was such a wonderful way to end the year. The students’ behaviour and performances were excellent; with all children giving their best dance moves and effort. Thank you to all the families who were able to be there— the crowd seemed HUGE this year. It was lovely to see those who had settled for ‘Friday night roast’ (aka takeaways) and enjoyed a family picnic under the trees.

THANK YOU to our APPA & School Council volunteers who again helped out; with assistance from past students Glen Lovett, Hannah Clough, Eddie Sessions and Mitch Carson. The staff team have also worked hard with the children; practising their items. The speeches and farewells were a moving and special part of the evening.

OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2015: Each year a very difficult decision is made by staff as we select award recipients. It was again made very difficult this year due to the calibre and personal qualities of our Grade 6 student cohort. I often hear from the local high schools that APPS students stand out in Year 7 due to their work ethic, respectful behaviour and attitude. This is due to the care and high expectations all staff have for children at this school, and the work you do as parents in supporting them as they journey through their formative years.

Mary Baldwin Award: Aaron Gregory & Sienna Fuller
Walter Bob Harris Award: Sarah Long & Mitchell Nolan
Ian Ward Memorial Scholarship (Wangaratta Rotary Club): Ebony O’Donohue
Artists of the Year: April Twyford & Regan O’Brien
Athlete’s Foot Sports Person of the Year: Morgan Byrne

RAFFLE DRAW RESULTS: The major raffle was drawn during the evening, and the lucky winner of the Cubby House was there. Linda O’Donohue is now the proud owner of this prize which was donated by GOTafe, with the assistance of Kel Vincent. The hamper prizes were won by: Kim O’Brien, Kellie Fursdon, Ruby Snowdon, Chris Edwards, Anna Lyons, Sandra Makin, Liz Zeinstra. THANK YOU SO MUCH for the support for this fundraising effort that has been a joint APPA & School Council project. Thank you also to our hardy band of parents, students and staff who have volunteered as ticket sellers at the markets, and to Kel & Kevin Feldtmann who have towed the cubby around the district. The raffle raised over $2800 for our school, which APPA will allocate to items, requested by the staff, that enrich your children’s educational programs.

The Grade 6 students had another special farewell today when a large crowd of parents and family members watched them accept their certificates and pens from APPA, along with their ‘self-portrait album’ and portfolio from Ros Janas and their teachers. This afternoon they had the traditional water fight—it seems that the water pistols get bigger and more menacing each year.

ASSEMBLY tomorrow morning—9am. Attendance awards for the term, semester and year will be handed out then, along with certificates to recognise our student leaders for the year. All welcome!!!

School closes 1.30pm tomorrow.

On behalf of the staff team, I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas. Best wishes for the future to those families leaving us, and we’ll see the rest of you on 29th January for the first day of the 2016 school year.

Wendy Larcombe
**Last note from the Art Room**

This week sees my teaching career draw to a close. My first year of teaching was at Yackandandah with a prep grade and I have enjoyed every moment of teaching since then. I began at Appin Park in 1990 and over the years have held many roles. I taught keyboard when I first started here in the good old days when we were so fortunate to have several specialist teachers.

I moved on to teaching Computer in a lab we had set up near room 1, and then I had several years levels of classroom teaching. Lastly I am finishing doing the job that I still have lots of passion and love for. I love teaching art to children. My philosophy is quite simple: To engage, inspire and teach art with age-appropriate techniques and subjects.

Teaching art to young children is a real joy and privilege; watching them grow and develop has been one of the most rewarding parts of my teaching life. Also I have been fortunate to have worked alongside many amazing people and made some wonderful lifelong friends.

Thankyou to the many parents who have always been there when I have put a call out for goods and recyclables that I need in the art program. Special thanks also to the grandparents who have also stepped in when asked.

I will miss greeting the children as they walk past and say good morning to me with such happy smiles and a positive attitude. Even the mischievous ones hold a special place for me. I hope they still say hello when they see me in the streets, even if I lose my memory and can't remember their names. As one parent calculated on Tuesday night I have touched the lives of well over a thousand kids so forgive me if I forget your name, but not that you painted a great Monet Bridge!

I leave with many great memories that I will always treasure.

Now is my time for a new adventure. I'm planning on doing many things I didn't have time to do before - travelling, reading, sewing and craft work, playing with and enjoying my grandchildren, catching up with friends on a more regular basis and participating in volunteering in the community.

Many thanks

*Ros Janas*

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**Nihongo News**

All grades made *nengajo* this week. *Nengajo* are cards that celebrate the New Year. The cards usually depict the animal year sign of the coming year, so our kids made cards with monkey pictures. All students took their Japanese workbooks home this week. I hope the kids keep those books and have fond memories of their JP studies. Many of our students have shown great aptitude for language studies. I hope they have the chance to do so again soon.

**Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips**

April T (6C) showed impressive research skills to come up with 8 JP words that are be put after a person's name to be polite. The obvious ones that all our kids should have known were -*kun* & -*chan*. Congratulations, April, you have the honour of winning the last ever *nazonazo.*

*Sayōnara!*

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To all students, staff, family and friends of Appin Park Primary School.

Thank you for another fantastic year in 2015, Good Luck to our grade 6 students moving on to secondary school in 2016, and on behalf of the School Council I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

*Andrew Lovett*
The Lunch box sessions
Today is our final School newsletter article. The year has flown by, your children are now 6 inches taller and we are all hot, exhausted and looking forward to afternoons by the pool/river with a cold glass of water (occasionally tainted with a little bit of “mummy juice”!!) and the arrival of Santa. Yippeee!! Sophie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time out of your busy week to read our articles and we sincerely hope you have learnt a few easy tips to try at home. We wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas and wish you a Healthy start to 2016. We look forward to writing more interesting articles for you in the New Year. If there are any topics you would like us to cover please don’t hesitate to let us know and we will do our best to include it. nenaturalhealthcentre@gmail.com
Merry Christmas, from Sophie and Belinda.
