Hello everyone - almost the end of Week 4 already!

**CYBERSMART KIDS:** As children turn into ‘almost teenagers’ in Grade 5 & 6, many of them are eager to be part of the Instagram, FaceBook and SnapChat ‘community’. While these tools have lots of good uses, they are generally restricted to people over the age of 13 or 14. Children under that age are vulnerable to suggestion, and to getting caught up in unsafe or bullying behaviour. It is very important that parents set house rules around use of the internet, enforce these rules and monitor their children’s online interaction.

If you do allow your child to have an account with a social networking site, please ensure they have privacy settings in place and that they know how to respond to any unwanted or odd contacts. They should ONLY ‘friend’ people they actually know in the real world. There are some excellent resources to help you talk to your child about online safety—google ‘ACMA Cyber Smart’. You are able to set codes on your home broadband to limit children’s access. AND, most important of all, you are the person who pays the bill so you get to say when and how children access the internet at home. Bullying incidents online are very rare amongst our students and any time they have occurred, the posts have been done at home, not at school.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS:** Please log onto Compass and book your parent-teacher meeting for either Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon/evening using the simple system available. If you are unable to access Compass, please call Nicole or Julie at the office and they will book you in. These meetings are a great opportunity for you to share information with your child’s teacher and to set learning goals for the semester.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Nominations for parent representatives on School Council close this afternoon at 4pm. If you would like to nominate and have not filled in a form, please email me (larcombe.wendy.w@edumail.vic.gov.au) today to express interest. School Council meets twice a term (currently on a Monday evening), and there is the opportunity to be part of a subcommittee as well.

**INFORMATION EVENING:** All Welcome! This session will be hosted by our Prep teachers but all parents are very welcome to attend. The topics covered will be: how to make reading at home enjoyable and valuable for your child’s learning, expectations and classroom organisation matters, lunchbox choices, helping your child to manage friendships. It’s a great opportunity to hear how the year has started and to understand more about your child’s day at school. I highly recommend that all Prep parents attend the session on 3rd March (6.00-7.00pm). We will have supervision for children if necessary - please let Fiona or Jo know if you need your children supervised during this time.

**FUN IN THE SUN:** Grade 3/4 & 1/2 children enjoyed their weekly sport sessions yesterday in much cooler weather. In addition to the weekly specialist PE lesson, the junior, middle and senior units get together once a week to play ‘major games’. These sessions build on the sportsmanship, strategy and games skills that are introduced during PE sessions—plus, they’re fun!

**AND FINALLY...** Children have settled into their new routines and relationships very quickly. This is due to the teamwork and planning of their teachers, and the consistency of practice across our school. The children know what to expect, and are confident and excited about their learning.

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**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>Playgroup - 9.30-11am in the Multipurpose Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Feb</td>
<td>Gr 3-4 Harrietville Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>3rd Little Duck Lunch Orders available</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Mar</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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Wendy Larcombe
From The Chaplain… Helping your children to be responsible

The following is an excerpt taken from the parenting blog of Michael Grose. It contains practical tips and strategies on what it takes to be a great parent. It can be found at [http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Blog](http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Blog)

I’m often asked by parents how to develop responsibility in kids. The answer is simple – give responsibility to them! Let them feed the family pet, empty the dishwasher, clean up the living area at the end of the day. Most kids rise to a real challenge when it’s sincerely given, and backed by realistic expectations. It makes sense for parents to work hard to provide opportunities for kids to contribute to their family so they feel valued for what they bring to their family, rather than for what they take. Here are four practical tips to promote a sense of responsibility in your kids:

1. **Start early:** Children as young as three are keen to help and take some responsibility but we often push them away and say, ‘You can help when you’re older.’ Train your kids from a young to help themselves and others.
2. **Make sure the responsibility is real:** Setting the table, making beds, tidying rooms are jobs that others benefit from. Jobs for the sake of jobs just don’t cut it with kids.
3. **If a child forgets then no one else does the task:** If a child doesn’t empty the dishwasher then it still there when they come home from school. Sounds tough but that’s how the real world operates.
4. **Place help and responsibility on a roster:** The use of rosters has the advantage of placing responsibility on kids – remind them to check the roster, not to do their jobs!

Until next time,

Chaplain Dave

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University of NSW International Competitions for students grade 3 to 6

Once again this year we are offering to hold these tests for students at Appin Park Primary School if parents choose to enter them. ICAS provides an opportunity for all students in Years 3-6 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. The subjects tested are: Mathematics, English, Writing, Spelling, Science and Digital Technologies. All students who enter receive a certificate and an individual Student report.

Certificates are awarded for each year level as follows.

- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 25% of entrants
- Participation to all other participating students.

Entry forms are available from the school office. Online practice tests are available at [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au).

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Clean Up, Fix Up!

The Grade 5/6 Quest this term is about cleaning up and fixing up the space behind the BER building. Hence the name, “Clean Up, Fix Up!”.

At the moment, the area is unloved, unused and very dirty. Our job is to turn it into a much loved, used and eco-friendly area where teachers can take their classes to work and relax.

To help us fix up this space, we need the school community’s support. If you have any unused materials that may come in handy, like old tyres, pot plants, buckets or paint, please leave a message at the office for either Caitlyn Delaney (6G) or Lily Donald (6A) and we will get back to you. Thank you!

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Music News

Grade 6A performed at assembly in Friday, giving a great demonstration of the Gallopede Bush Dance.

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Community Notice Board

**Playgroup for Children with Additional Needs**

We are a small Playgroup which meets every Wednesday morning, between 9.30am – 11.30am, at Yarrunga Primary School in The Hub, Burke St (opposite the Burke St shops). Catering for children from 0yrs until they are ready to go to school, siblings are also welcome. The playgroup is free and caters for children with additional needs, diagnosed or undiagnosed, All interested families are most welcome to attend and can either contact us through WDSS by phoning 5721 7424 and asking for Roberta or Suzanne, or just turn up at The Hub any Wednesday between 9.30-11.30am. We look forward to welcoming you to the group.
**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

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

PC  **Zeah Nelson** for listening carefully to conversations and working calmly in our classroom. Well done, Zeah!

P1B  **Abbey Mayer Young** for being a helpful class member who is always looking out for others and helping where she can. Great work, Abbey!

1/2E  **Reagan Harris** for coming to school every day with a happy smile. He enjoys challenges and is excited about his learning. Well done, Reagan.

2R  **Clara Rocchiccioli** for the great story she has written for the Preps. Clara always adds a little extra and her illustrations are very detailed. Well done, Clara.

3/4G  **Lily Knox** for producing beautiful pieces of work during writing time.

3/4S  **Felicity O’Connell** for the marvellous way she has settled into Grade 4. She has been well organised and is able to stay focused and on task.

3/4V  **Aaliyah Haugh** for being a caring and kind classroom member. Well done!

5K  **Hailie Keogh** for her excellent writing. Hailie writes with vibrant adjectives to describe her characters and creates entertaining stories.

5S  **Samuel Mullens** for being a positive role model and someone who has helped change the attitude of many, simply by following his positive attitude. You should feel very proud of this feedback, Samuel! **Nominated by his peers.**

Mason Espejo for the outstanding start to the year you have had. You have shown a mature and positive attitude towards your learning and it’s been a pleasure having you as part of our class. It’s great to see you come to school with a smile on your face. Well done, Mason

6A  **Tessa Watson Long** for her great attitude toward her peers, teachers and work. Tessa always has a smile on her face and continues to bring a positive attitude and perspective to the classroom and school. Keep up the great work, Tessa.

6G  **Matilda Paxford** for being an avid reader and for expressing her passion and love for reading through sharing her “History of a Reader” to the class.

**SPORTS AWARD**

**Riley White** for showing a great understanding of the rules when learning a new game and displaying some very good thinking when discussing a variety of strategies.

**Brady O’Keefe** for displaying excellent team work and consideration for those around him. His awareness of others is a great characteristic and makes him an asset to his team.

**Connor McIntosh** for taking care and showing thoughtfulness before completing his kicking and running task.

**APPA HAPPENINGINGS**

**Hot Cross Buns** – APPA is once again running a Hot Cross Bun drive just in time for Easter. Order forms will be sent home with next week’s newsletter.

**Icy poles** – Zooper Doopers (50c) are available from the canteen at lunch-time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Slushies ($2) on Fridays only for the remainder of Term 1.

**Volunteers Needed to sell Icy Poles & Slushies**

Volunteers are needed to staff the canteen each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.20pm -2.30pm. If you can help please phone return the slip below to the office.

Name: ......................................................... Contact No: .........................

Student’s name: .................................................. Class: ..............................

I am available:  Mondays Wednesdays Fridays

Or dates: ........................................................................................................