Hello everyone…

HARMONY DAY: Monday was a really harmonious day at school with children enthusiastically trying new activities, learning new songs and dances and getting along with each other in multi-age groups.

The junior children created colourful ‘friendship hands’ which are hanging on trees in the school grounds, made a very bright Rainbow Snake which is on display in the library, played team games, cut out and decorated special headbands and enjoyed sharing the big morning tea on the asphalt.

Students in Grades 3-6 enjoyed using pois (a traditional polynesian dance tool), learning songs and dances from other cultures, cooking Japanese Okonomiyaki (pancakes), testing their coordination with Ti Rakau (a Maori stick game), doing some meditation exercises, playing international games on the oval, and also sharing the morning tea. Have a look at the school’s FaceBook page for some photos and video clips.

Skyle Blake, one of our parents, performed with her special pois at our ‘showcase’ in the afternoon. Following her skilful display, students provided snapshots of the things they had learned during the day. It was great to see a crowd of parents there to be part of the audience.

GRAND OPENING: A.P.P.L.E. The Grade 5/6 students and staff have done a magnificent job in working towards their Quest this term. The area behind the BER is an absolute visual feast with bright planters, landscaping, new seating areas and plenty of eye-catching artwork. The planning process has really paid off, with the thoughtful design and creative solutions to some of the challenges they faced. Today at 12.30pm, the ribbon was officially cut on the Appin Park Positive Learning Environment (APPLE). Thank you so much to parents and friends who have offered donations and labour towards the project. The students have really enjoyed their learning this term, and it has been particularly engaging for those who just like getting their hands dirty!

Please note family statements were sent home with your child today. If you have any questions please contact the office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS: We had the Annual General Meeting for School Council on Monday evening. Congratulations to Andrew Lovett (President), Kel Vincent (Vice President) and Ross Moore (Treasurer) who were re-elected as office-bearers. Welcome to new members: Lisbeth Long & Blair Webb (parent reps) and Carolyn Hicks & Fiona Carson (staff reps). We farewelled Ashley Clough who has been on Council for 10 years and who served as President prior to Andrew’s term. We also thanked Chris Vescio & Craig Kerlin who have each served two two-year terms as staff reps. The other parent reps on the current council are: Kevin Feldtmann, Thom Knox and Romany White (APPA rep). Heather Foster and I are on council as well.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th Apr</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Apr</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.30-11am in the Multipurpose Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Apr</td>
<td>APPA Meeting - 6.30pm in the staffroom, all welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th Apr</td>
<td>Prep-2 Gymnastics commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd May</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>Grade 6 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY: This accountability document was tabled at the AGM and accepted by Council. However, there have been some system-wide issues with the information contained in the template, so I am not able to publish the final report yet. It will be available on our website and through the office once school resumes next term.

PUPIL FREE DAY—Thursday, 26th May has been approved by School Council as one of our four pupil free days for the year. Teachers will use this day to moderate assessment data and prepare students’ mid-year reports. Just Kids will be open on this day.

THANK YOU!!! Adam & Jo Williams (Wangaratta Vet Clinic) have sponsored four weeks of the Fresh Fruit Friday program for our junior school. If you, or your business, would like to donate towards this project, through the tax-deductible Building Fund, we will gratefully acknowledge your donation in signage on the equipment. Please contact me if you are interested. APPA funds purchased the play equipment.

We have submitted an application for a shade sails’ grant program to shade this new play equipment as well as the Grade 1/2 blue slide structure. We await the response—fingers crossed!! We are also awaiting the outcome of an application for some additional maintenance money from the Department to repair/replace sections of the veranda around our main building. This structure is in need of some major refurbishment. There should be some news about this early next term.

HEALTHY FOOD POLICY: There will be further information about this early next term, as we are looking for some parent input into a new Healthy Food policy. If you are interested in being part of a focus group, or being on the subcommittee to draft this policy, please drop into the office or contact me by phone or email (larcombe.wendy.w@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Another topic at our meeting was a discussion about the school’s ability to offer a Languages other than English program. We have missed the Japanese program this year and we do aim to replace it. However, this is an opportunity for some consultation and review of what language we aim to offer. School Council will be considering this next term. We will provide the chance for parents to offer their opinions once we get into this review process.

NEW PLAYGROUND: As mentioned last week, following discussion and ‘think time’, we have ordered a new piece of adventure play equipment which will be located on the new grass area near BigM. The structure is a ‘climbing cube’ and it will be aimed at all age groups. We are looking for funds to ‘soft fall’ the area around this equipment with bright coloured rubber mats. If your business, or you, would like to donate towards this project, through the tax-deductible Building Fund, we will gratefully acknowledge your donation in signage on the equipment. Please contact me if you are interested. APPA funds purchased the play equipment.

We wish Beth all the best as she moves to her new position in Wodonga. There will be further information about this early next term, as we are looking for some parent input into a new Healthy Food policy. If you are interested in being part of a focus group, or being on the subcommittee to draft this policy, please drop into the office or contact me by phone or email (larcombe.wendy.w@edumail.vic.gov.au).

AND FINALLY...It has been another hectic term, with some VERY long, hot days. It seems that even when it is a shorter term, we still try to pack everything in! However, despite that, children have settled really well into their class groups and had lots of learning opportunities. We will be back for more of the same on Monday, 11th April. The Term 2 Quests are - Grade 5/6: Strike it Rich (history of the gold rush), Grade 3/4: Bound for Botany Bay (history of the First Fleet) Grade P-2: Stop the Press (something captivating to do with dinosaurs).

Have a safe and happy holiday break.
From The Chaplain...

The many benefits of Playgroup in a child’s life.

There was an article in the SMH last week with the headline ‘Children who don’t go to playgroup fall behind at school’. The article, which was based on research from the Telethon Kids Institute, found that children who didn’t attend playgroup were twice as likely to be developmentally behind those who did by the time they started school.

With this in mind, here are some benefits that attending a playgroup offers:

- Free play where children have choices
- Painting
- Outside play
- Practicing new skills and having new experiences
- Learning to play with others
- Meeting new friends
- Experiencing books
- Learning to share, problem solve and take turns
- Learning to socialize; so important as it builds their self-confidence
- Preparation for school
- More independence from parents
- A little more structure to play

In addition to the many benefits that playgroup offers children, parents and grandparents can benefit too. It’s a place to:

- Make new friends
- Reduce isolation
- Share concerns, ideas and experiences
- Learn from other parents

Here at Appin Park, we run our own playgroup of a Tuesday morning during school terms from 9.30am to 11am. This is a great place where children have the opportunity to play with many different toys, experience new activities, and learn valuable social skills interacting with other children. In addition, the parents and grandparents who bring their children or grandchildren enjoy the social interaction with other parents and grandparents. There is no cost to attend, and everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact the school.

Until next time,
Chaplain Dave

Holiday Collecting Bags

Over the holidays the children in Prep C and Prep/1 B will be taking home a special holiday collecting bag. They will be looking for special pictures, drawings, shells, a book or photos to put in the bag and sharing their items with the grade when they return next term. A big thank you to Heather Thrum for making these bags for us. The bags will be returned to be used again and again. Happy Holidays!

APP HA HAPPENINGS

Mothers’ Day Raffle – Raffle books will go out first week back in Term 2. First prize is a fantastic KitchenAid package from Inside Living valued at $1,500!

2nd Hand Uniform Shop
Fridays 8.45-9.00am in the canteen.

Auskick at Greta beginning Sat 16th April 8:30-10am for boys & girls prep-grade 6, Greta Recreation Reserve, 448 Reserve Road, Greta. Register at www.aflauskick.com.au or contact: Andrew Wheelens 0417 303623 or David Lloyd 0429 382623

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