Hi everyone…WEEK 9 ALMOST DONE & DUSTED!!

THANKS!!! Thank you so much to Morris Bros Real Estate, the Webb family, and the Lovett family for your generous donations to our Fresh Fruit Friday program. This will enable us to offer platters of fruits and vegetables to our junior classes for the remainder of the year.

CAN YOU HELP?? CLEAN OUT THE TOYBOX BEFORE CHRISTMAS…
Our Play Group would really appreciate any donations of toddler/pre-school age toys (in good condition, with all pieces attached) to add to their store of activities. Ride-on toys, puzzles, sorting shapes, duplo, buckets & spades etc would be gratefully received. Please drop any items at the office.

THANKS IN ANTICIPATION!

SO MUCH GOING ON!!! Please ensure you are keeping track of all the events coming up in the next two weeks. Children will be bowling, swimming, finding their way around a maze or watching movies at the cinema. If you have any questions about these dates, check your child’s ‘unit newsletter’ or the calendar below.

HELPERS’ MORNING TEA: We hope many of our volunteers can make it to our special morning tea in the BER building next Wednesday. We really appreciate the support of our parents and grandparents during the year, and although you also get benefits in terms of this involvement with your children’s school days, it means we can offer a wide range of learning opportunities to all students through the year.

2017 GRADE STRUCTURE: In 2017, we will again prioritise maintaining small class sizes and grouping children for effective instruction. Teachers are currently placing students in the grade groups. We put lots of thought into this and take a range of factors into account, including friend requests. The structure is outlined on Page 2.

THE MAD HATTER’S TEA PARTY
Prep-2 children, teachers and family members enjoyed a delicious morning tea on Tuesday as they celebrated the end of their Fairy Tales Quest. During the term, children have enjoyed hearing and reading these traditional tales and creating their own responses through art, drama and writing. The costumes were creative, and the food delicious.

It was lovely to see such a large group of parents and grandparents here to share the fun with the children.

Upcoming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>5th Dec</td>
<td>Graduation Dinner 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-Dec</td>
<td>6-8th Dec Step-up - WHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Dec</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Ten Pin Bowl</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Dec</td>
<td>Prep &amp; Year 7 Transition Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Dec</td>
<td>Helpers’ Morning Tea 11.00am</td>
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<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>Grades 3-6 Pool Party</td>
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2017 SCHOOL STRUCTURE: Our Specialist areas will again be Visual Art (Heather Foster), PE/Sport (Wendy Martin), Performing Arts/Music (Cazz Hicks). Children (Grades 1-6) will learn Chinese via a weekly skyped program with language tutors in Beijing. Grade 6A has trialled this program during the last term and found it to be engaging and highly interactive. School Council has carefully considered this and recommended a 12 month trial.

PREP C—FIONA CARSON
GRADE 1E—ROBYN ELLIOTT
GRADE 3V—CHRIS VESCOIO
GRADE 4G—JACKIE GARDNER
GRADE 6MF—WENDY MARTIN/HEATHER FOSTER
GRADE 1B—JO BEATTIE
GRADE 2G—ANDY GRANT
GRADE 34S—ANDREW STORER
GRADE 5S—RENEE SAYERS
GRADE 6K—CRAIG KERLIN

STAFFING INS & OUTS: Carol Mata will take long service leave for semester 1 and then retire mid-year. Carol has been at APPS since 2008, and last year chalked up 40 years in the teaching service which is a wonderful achievement. Andy Grant has been offered a position for 2017 in our junior school, and we are delighted to be able to keep him as part of the staff. We are very disappointed that Richie Arnold will not be on our team next year. Richie has completed a great first full year of teaching and has really added to the strength of our Grade 6 program. Unfortunately, our budget is ruled by enrolments and we are unable to fund any other positions at this time.

Dave Reeks, our School Chaplain, will also finish his stint with us at the end of the year. Bec Lanham is our new Chaplain. She will join us on Tuesday to meet the Play Group families and to introduce herself to our incoming Preps and staff. Bec will officially take up the role on 30 January 2017.

BOOKLISTS 2017: Children were given their 2017 ‘booklist’ today. These itemise the expenses for the following year. There are a number of ways you can manage this—please read the cover sheet attached to your child’s booklist for further information.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: As a government school, the costs of actual classroom instruction are paid by the government through teacher salaries. The government also provides a ‘per head’ grant to the school that pays for things like cleaning, power bills and building maintenance. However, the costs of providing access to computers, or purchasing up-to-date resources are not included in this grant. This is why we fundraise so actively and also why we ask parents to contribute through the ICT levy. Other local schools expect parents to provide their child’s computer. We do not want to go down this track.

School Council has approved the change to the way we ask for these amounts. On the booklist, you will see a spot where you can indicate how much you can contribute to this. It will cost, on average, $100 per child, per year, for our new computer lease payments. These new laptops and desktop computers will be in classrooms at the start of next year. Your child has regular access to whichever device is most suited to the task. Please consider your contribution to this cost and mark the amount on the form before returning it to school.

TRANSITION EVENTS: On Transition Day (6th December), our students in Grades P-5 will take part in special transition activities. They will spend 2 hours working in the area of the school where their classrooms will be next year; not in the class group they will be in, but with the teachers who will make up that teaching team. This is just one of the ways we prepare children for the next stage in their journey through the school. Our current Grade 6 children will attend their 2017 high school for the day (WHS students will have three days of ‘Step Up’). Our new 2017 Preps will be here at school between 9.00-11.00am, working with Fiona Carson in Room 1 and meeting their 2017 Grade 5 buddies.

AND FINALLY... We have our Grade 6 Graduation Dinner on Monday evening. This is always a wonderful event as children share a special evening together, and with their parents. Many staff also attend this event and take great pride in seeing the maturity and growth of our Grade 6 students. I hope children and parents enjoy the night and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Grade 6 teachers who voluntarily organise this special occasion, in the middle of what is always a very busy time at school.

Wendy Larcombe

Could everyone please check at home for library books and return them to school ASAP. We need all books back by 9th December.

Fruit Roster 2nd December
YuChing Chang, Jacinta Hutton & Annette Blanchfield

Slushies are available at the canteen every Wednesday until sold out.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

PC Aiden Garraffo for trying hard to form the letters of his name correctly. Well done, Aiden!
P/1B Emily Martens for the fantastic effort she is putting into her writing. She wrote an informative recount of our Mad Hatter’s Tea Party. Well done, Emily!
1/2E Gypsie Swain for continuing to help with classroom chores and for working with others in the class who need a little extra help. Thanks, Gypsie.
2R Tom Whitehouse for working positively with all his classroom activities.
3/4G Ruby Snowden for always coming to school with a smile on her face and a positive approach to her learning. Keep up the great work, Ruby!
3/4S Dylan White for the care and effort he put into our Maths Art activities.
3/4V Denvey Harris for showing great teamwork and consideration for others while working on his Quest board game. Well done!
5K Briana Roberts for her excellent effort this week. She has worked hard in writing, asked good questions in maths and pushed herself during PE. Well done, Briana.
5S Tristian Fletcher Blake for the amazing descriptive writing piece he created. You worked hard on this piece of writing, Tristian, and should be very proud of the final piece. Well done!
6A Braeden Marjanovic for modelling a fantastic approach to his schooling for his peers. Braeden has an enthusiastic attitude toward his work and his interactions with his peers which often helps put everyone in a positive frame of mind. Thank you for being such a great asset in the classroom, Braeden.
6G Aiden Tracey for continuing to shine in the classroom and showing his happy personality through the preparation of the dance and performance activities that have been undertaken this term. Awesome work, Aiden.

APPIN STAR AWARD

Sarah Henderson for the leadership and maturity she has shown this year and being able to use these qualities to conquer the goals she set herself this year. Congratulations, Sarah!

SPORTS AWARD

Riley White for showing a great understanding of a new game, Never Out Bases, and for his commitment to the endurance running that was required during the game.

Cameron Lovett for the quick and strong thinking that he displays when participating in new activities and games. He displays very strategic thinking which enables his team to perform at their best.

Artist of the Week

Lizzie Moffat for her amazing work on her Christmas decoration. Lizzie created a unique and well thought out art piece which will look great on her Christmas tree.

APPA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Donations are needed for the annual Christmas Raffle to be drawn at Family Night on 13th December. Items can be left at the office.

Are you using Compass? By logging on to Compass you can:

- Tell us if your child is going to be away
- Access school reports
- Read the newsletter
- Book Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Give permission and pay for excursions

Please contact the office for more information or login codes. You can also access Compass through the Compass App on your phone.

https://appinparkps-vic.compass.education/
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This training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government Funding. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to access government subsidised training.