Hello to our Appin Park Community
Welcome back everyone, and what a wonderful start to the year we’ve had. Our preps know what school is all about and have settled in quickly and happily. They look like they’ve been doing it for years. Other classes are ready and eager to learn and our grade 6s are gearing up for the leadership challenges that are offered to them.

School Chaplain: Welcome to Bec Lanham, our new Chaplain, who will be working with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Bec comes with great credentials and a wide range of both life and counselling experiences. She is available to support students who need additional pastoral care and can be contacted through the school office.

Playgroup: Will commence with Bec Lanham as convener, this Tuesday 7th February from 9:00am – 11:00am. Any preschool age child and their parents or career are most welcome to attend. For further information, please contact the school office.

FAMILY POOL PARTY and you’re invited!
We would love see our Appin Park Community celebrate the start of the year together at the Olympic Outdoor Pool from 5:30pm – 8:00pm on Tuesday 14th February. This year, the water slide and pool inflatable will be in action and your entry cost will cover unlimited access to these facilities. Come and meet your child’s friends and their parents and have a chat with their teachers. The pool will be open until 8:00pm for Appin Park families and School Council will be selling BBQ sausages and drinks from 6:00pm.
Entry costs will be: Adults $4.50, Children $3.50, Non swimmers & spectators $2.50. You can pre purchase wrist band tickets at the office from tomorrow (Friday). It is fine to use your outdoor pool membership pass if you have one, or pay at the gate on the night. So, bring a chair and picnic rug and come and cool off and have some fun.

Attendance Certificates: At our meeting on Monday, the staff decided to change the way we acknowledge regular school attendance. We will no longer have termly and annual attendance certificates and will, instead, be looking for other ways to reward students for being at school regularly. We know that some students want to come to school when they are unwell and we want to acknowledge that there are times, during illness, that the best place for us is at home in bed. In the mean-time, we know that regular school attendance leads greater school engagement and better student outcomes so let’s keep up the great work. Stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th Feb</td>
<td>Playgroup in the Multipurpose Room</td>
<td>9.30am-11am All Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Feb</td>
<td>Pool Party 5.50-8pm</td>
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<td>15th Feb</td>
<td>Assembly for Wendy Larcombe 10.45am</td>
<td>Morning Tea - 11am</td>
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<td>6th-9th</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp</td>
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PO Box 227  (Appin Street) WANGARATTA  3677
ACTING PRINCIPAL: Heather Foster
EMAIL: appin.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
SCHOOL: www.appinparkps.vic.edu.au
Ph: 5722 1326
Before & After School Safety: Most of you are familiar with our after school drop off and pick up routines and the school drive-through works very well. Just a few tips for families who are new to the school:

- Please be aware that we have a shuttle bus which pulls into our drive-through at about 3:15pm. This bus must be at Wangaratta High School by 3:30pm so it is important to allow it access to our drive-through and to not to park in front of it.
- The drive through is for quick pick up and drop offs. If you child is not there when you pull in, please do a lap around and come back into the drive-through so you don’t hold up traffic. You would be aware that Appin St can be quite busy just before and after dismissal time and it’s important that we clear the traffic as quickly as possible. Our drive-through is supervised until 4:50pm each day.
- Pedestrians must not use the drive-through gate to enter or leave the school. As adults, we need to set an example to our children and use either the front gate entrance, the entrance next to the special school or the gate at the bottom of the school ground at the car park near the creek. These gates have no vehicular traffic entering and leaving and are much safer for students to use. The staff car park is also not for use by pedestrians, so please, no cutting in between staff cars.
- Parents wishing to park their car must use the street or public car park at the bottom of Appin St near the creek. Please don’t use the staff car park as we wish to promote the idea that it is out of bounds to our students. These rules are in place to ensure the safety of everyone. Please help us to make our school the safest place it can be.

School Council 2017: Next week, we will be calling for nominations for parent representatives on our School Council. This will be a two year term and will start form 20th March at our general meeting immediately after our Annual General Meeting. School council has a special role in government schools; providing a voice in policy development and implementation, supporting the principal in financial management, maintenance of the school’s resources, planning and providing a forum for parents views and input. There are monthly meetings, along with involvement in special school community events and major fundraisers. We are very fortunate with the level of commitment shown by our current and past councilors. If you are interested in being part of Council, there will be a number of vacancies to be filled. Please contact Andrew Lovett, (current President—0458175951) or me if you would like any information about the roles and responsibilities of being a school councilor.

Free Fruit: For several years we have provided free fruit to our Prep - 2 classrooms once a week and I would like to acknowledge the generosity of many of our parents and local businesses in sponsoring this program in the past. We are currently looking for new sponsorship for 2017 at a cost of $40 per week. It is fantastic to see students try fruit and vegetables they normally wouldn't try and the program is a great promotion for healthy eating. If you or your business would like to assist us, please contact our school office.

Staff Changes: By now, most of you will be aware that we have had some staffing changes at Appin Park. Wendy Larcombe has a new position within the Department of Education and Training and commenced as a Senior Education Improvement Leader on January 16th this year. Wendy will be back for a final assembly and presentation on Wednesday 15th February at 10:45, when the students will have an opportunity to make a presentation to her. Parents are most welcome to attend and will have a chance to catch up with Wendy in the BER at 11:00am for morning tea. For catering purposes, can you please let the office know if you will be attending the morning tea?

With Wendy’s departure, I have been acting principal and will most likely continue in this role for the remainder of first term. As I had been planning to work in the art room and grade 6 this year, Richie Arnold has stepped in to fill that vacancy. We welcome Richie back and are thrilled to have him working with our senior school team again in 2017. Wendy Martin is completing our “Portrait Unit” in the art room and continuing in her Physical Education role.

The Selection process for our new principal will take place throughout first term and it is expected that our new principal will commence at the beginning of term 2.

Looking forward to another year of learning and good times at Appin Park

Heather Foster, Acting Principal

APPAN HAPPENINGS

The first APPA meeting of the year will be held on Monday 6th February at 6.30pm in the school staffroom. Parents, carers and grandparents are all welcome.

Notes Sent Home Today: Please check your child’s bag. They will have brought home contact details to check, update and return to school, Student Permission Form for 2017 and if you are new to the school a letter with your log in codes for Compass.

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/