NEWSLETTER: Term 1 Week 6
From the Principal’s Desk

P&C Executive: Last week Appin P&C held their Annual General Meeting. We had fantastic attendance! Many thanks to the 17 parents who attended the meeting. All P&C Executive positions were filled. Congratulations to the following officer bearers:
President: Sharon Rochaix
Vice Presidents: Jennifer Hawke and Kellie Osgood
Treasurer: Sandra Hale
Secretary: Natalie Shearer
Uniform Shop Coordinator: Kirsten Martyn
Fundraising Coordinators: Melissa Lovelee and Samantha Richards

Many thanks to our outgoing executive, Kerrie Withers, Heidi Beaton, Kellie Osgood, Michelle Ross, Chris O’Reilly, Jean-Marie Morris and Kirsten Martyn for your valuable support in 2013.
It’s not too late to be part of P&C, all parents are welcome. P&C usually meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Library at school. Meetings are a great opportunity to meet other parents, learn more about what is happening at school and to assist with raising funds for new equipment and resources.

Aussie of the Month
An AUSSIE OF THE MONTH is someone who:
- Consistently obeys the school rules.
- Is helpful to students and teachers.
- Is caring to other class and school members.
- Is a good friend.
- Always gives of their best and tries hard to improve.
- Displays a wonderful attitude to school.

The ‘Aussies of the Month’ for February are: Infants - Killara Hughes   Primary - Kynan Smith

Awards
Gold: Jemma Still, James Booth
Silver: Jemma Still, James Booth, Charlize Beattie, Savannah Corcoran, Kiara Lewis
Bronze: Jemma Still, James Booth, Charlize Beattie, Savannah Corcoran, Kiara Lewis, Rachel Woods, Bridget Shearer, Evlyn Booth, Maddiline Crompton, Samuel Hodges, Gloria Barber, Izabella Brierley, Sharna Dewar

Student of the Week: KB Rhys Perrett   KS Elyse Stonebridge   1M Emily Harrington
5/6C Blake Nonenmacher   5/6M Ryan Kitson

Meet the Teacher: Thank you to those who attended our ‘Meet the Teacher Night’ last Tuesday. We are currently reviewing the need for this event. We are considering replacing it next year with workshops on how to help your child at home with reading or projects etc. If you have a suggestion please pass them on to the office.

Bike Safety: Last week I received a call from a concerned member of the community that had witnessed a student almost hit by a car while riding their bike home. We have spoken to students about the importance of making sure they are wearing a correctly fitted helmet and ensuring they stop at drive ways and intersections to check for cars and pedestrians. Please help keep your child safe by reinforcing these messages at home.
Play Group: I met with representatives of the Benevolent Society this week to discuss the establishment of a free Play Group for preschool aged children. We are hoping that the group will be up and running, in the canteen hall, before the end of the term. More information will be provided when arrangements are finalised.

Protective Behaviours Workshop: A Family Support Worker from the carer and parents support group is going to provide a free workshop to all students at Appin PS about protective behaviours on Tuesday 11th March. This is an early intervention initiative, aimed at trying to prevent a child feeling like they are unable to talk about something that is happening that is making them unsafe. As we are all aware abuse does come with an element of secrecy and this is what workshops like this aim at counteracting. The sessions look at:

(1) identifying safe and unsafe feelings, when we feel safe/unsafe and the different situations we might feel this in, as well as identifying how we know we feel safe and unsafe – looking at the early warning signs our bodies give us (like a racing heart, butterflies in the tummy etc) to tell us when we are feeling scared or anxious etc. We do this through group discussion and brainstorming with the older kids (year 3-6) and through a storybook with the younger kids (K-2). We also have a colouring in worksheet that we hand out or an outline of a body where they can draw the different early warning signs the body may demonstrate.

(2) The second part is how we deal/cope with these situations and feelings. We look at safety networks – who is in our children's lives that can help them stay safe (we look at home, school and the community) this is done through a brainstorm and then they get a safety network hand to fill out. we also practise the 'no, go, tell' rule which is something they can do if they feel unsafe – say NO, GO somewhere safe and TELL someone on the safety network.

These concepts align with our Child Protection syllabus. If parents do not want their children to participate, please contact the school.

School is Important: Student attendance not only promotes good learning and social outcomes, it is the law that children attend school every day unless they are sick. I am concerned about the rise in absences for non-essential reasons. Teachers have already noticed that the students in their class who are struggling are often those with poor attendance. If you are having difficulties getting your child to school please let me know so we can work together to support your child. I have included an extract from the Department of Education and Communities Attendance Policy on the issue of leaving school early to attend private lessons.

9. Students Attending Lessons Outside School During School Hours
9.1 Involvement in private lessons, such as ballet and music classes,...Students’ involvement in extra-curricula activities will usually be limited to outside school hours. 9.2 Where attendance at a private lesson during school hours is of exceptional importance such as sitting examinations, principals may use their discretion in granting short leave. This provision must not be used on a regular basis. 9.3 If parents withdraw their children from school for private lessons, an unjustified absence should be recorded and dealt with in the usual manner.

Tree Safety: Following the tragic death of a student who was crushed by a falling branch from a large tree, DEC is asking all schools to engage an arborist to conduct a risk assessment of all trees on their site. An arborist has already visited our school to undertake this assessment. I will keep you up to date about any work that needs to be done when I have the report.

Baby Bonus Claim: An accountant has provided me with information that parents with children born between 1st July 2001 and 30th June 2004 may not have claimed the baby bonus – as this was not paid as a lump sum. Parents with babies born in this period needed to claim the baby bonus through the tax system. Parents who believe that they may not have claimed their entitlement are advised that, if they wish to make a claim, they need to do so before the end of 2014.

Multicultural Program: We are hoping to be able to run a multicultural creative arts program called Cultural Infusion at our school next term. Parents are reminded to return their ‘expression of interest note’ (sent home last week) as soon as possible so we can gauge the level of community support for this program before booking it. Please return this note as soon as possible.
Ambarvale High School Tour: Parents and students interested in attending Ambarvale High School are welcome to attend their ‘Ambartour’ on Tuesday 18th March at 5.30pm in the school hall. Come along and see what Ambarvale High School has to offer!!

Zone Swimming Carnival: 22 students met the qualifying time set by Zone and will take part in the Zone Swimming Carnival at Bradbury Pool next Wednesday 12th March. Please ensure that permission notes and money are returned to school by Monday so that organisation can be finalised. Thank you to those parents who are able to assist with transportation. I would like to wish all those competing the best of luck. I know you will display the behaviour and sportsmanship that we are so proud of at Appin School.

K-2 and 3-6 Disco: To help raise money for the Year 6 Farewell, we will be holding an Infants and a Primary social disco for students of Appin Public School. We hope you can all enjoy the great night and help support our fundraising efforts! The disco will be on Wednesday 9th April

**Time:**
- K - 2: 4:00pm – 5:30pm
- 3 - 6: 5:45pm – 7:45pm

**Tickets:** $5.00 per child for entry and a bottle of water (Payable at the Door)

Where: Appin School Hall

Theme: 80’s and 90’s

For sale on the night: iceblocks, chips, glow sticks.

**Hot dogs are available to order for the disco.** If you would like to order a hot dog, please return the order form below to the office by Friday 21st March. If you are able to assist in any way, please return the note below or contact the school office.

**Important:**
- This disco is for CURRENT students at Appin PS. Pre-schoolers and siblings may not attend the disco.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the hall once they arrive. Parents must collect their children from the hall.
- After School Care will operate from the small (Canteen) hall on the afternoon of the disco.
- School rules and standards of behaviour will apply.

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**Hot Dog Order Form ($3.00 each)**

**Name:**_____________________________**Class:**________________

I would like to order ______(number required) hot dogs.

I have enclosed $________ as payment. (Hot dogs $3 each)

**Please return Order form by Friday 21st March 2014**

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**CALLING FOR PARENT HELPERS**

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE DISCO? If you can, please fill your name in the job position that you can do and return to Mrs Corcoran or Ms Mozayani by 21/03/2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>Your name and contact number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase hot dogs, hot dog rolls and serviettes before the disco.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase drinks and chips before the disco.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help set up &amp; decorate the hall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare the hot dogs at the disco.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sell food at the disco.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help pack up the hall.</td>
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Thank you for your support!

Mrs K Corcoran and Ms V Mozayani

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**Book Club:** Issue 2 of Book Club was sent home last week. Please return all orders to school by Wednesday 12th March 2013. Thank you for your continued support of Book Club at our school.
**P&C News:** Easter falls during the school holidays this year. P&C will still run their annual Easter raffle. P&C are requesting donations for the Easter Raffle. If you are able to donate an Easter Egg, Choc Bunny etc towards this raffle please have your child take it to their class teacher. The class that brings in the most donations (by weight) will receive a reward of 15 minutes free time at the end of a lunch break and an ice block from the canteen. The raffle will be drawn the last day of term (11th April) during our ‘Kids Matter’ launch. (Details will follow). Tickets will be sent home shortly. They are $1 each or 3 for $2. Please return them to school by Wednesday 9th April. Thank you.

**School Song:** The ministers have come up with an idea for a school song. They are holding a competition for the lyrics. All you need to do is write the best lyrics to an Aussie tune (ie: Kookaburra sits in an old gum tree or True Blue). The best lyrics, decided by Mrs Walsh will become our school song. Please give your ideas to Ms Mozayani by Week 10.

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**CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2014 SPONSORSHIP PERMISSION NOTE**

I give permission for my child/ren:

____________________________________ of class ______

____________________________________ of class ______

____________________________________ of class ______

...to participate in the adidas Fun Run Sponsorship program to raise funds for Appin Public School. I understand that it is my responsibility to adequately supervise my children’s out-of-school fundraising. I have agreed to return my child’s sponsor sheet forms along with all proceeds raised.

Signed ______________________________________________________ Date ___________________

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**School Photos Thursday 27th March 2014**

Each child needs to have their own envelope on the day to have their photo taken. Please take advantage of the online payment system now available. If paying by cash, correct money must be placed in the envelope or a note to say that the money is in oldest child’s envelope. Packages are available from $34.00. Family photos (students at school only) will be taken upon request. Family envelopes are available from the office. Please make every effort to ensure that children wear correct full SUMMER school uniform on this day. Our new green school shirts should arrive shortly!! Grey skorts will be fine to wear on photo day.

Please note class photos will have names of children as they appear in the photo. If you do not wish your child to be included in the class photo or to have their name included, please let the office know.

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**Reminders and Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th Mar</td>
<td>Campbelltown City Challenge Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival (Campbelltown Pool) + Expression of interest note due for Cultural Infusion Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Mar</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival (Campbelltown Pool)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th Mar</td>
<td>School Photos – All students must have returned their envelope</td>
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<td>28th Mar</td>
<td>ICAS University competitions entry due + Aussies of the Month presented at assembly</td>
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<td>3rd Apr</td>
<td>Mufti Day - Kids of Macarthur</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th Apr</td>
<td>School Disco – Details in newsletter (Hotdog orders due back 21st March)</td>
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<td>10th Apr</td>
<td>Year 6 T-shirt order due</td>
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<td>2nd May</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival and Fun Run</td>
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<td>16th May</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Camp deposit and note due</td>
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