10th February 2015

NEWSLETTER: Term 1 Week 3
From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome to Week 3 where the smile continues to grow bigger on my face as I am learning more and more about this fantastic school. I’m remembering a few more names of students and thoroughly enjoy my visits to each classroom during our busy school days to see the quality learning that is taking place.

Kinders start to “big school”: We extend a very big thank you to Heidi Beaton and her P&C colleagues for their terrific morning tea for parents of our new Kinder students last Monday. Thankfully, even though tissues were offered with this friendly cup of tea, none were required and both parents and students were happy.

School vegetable garden: Our school is very grateful to Mr Dewar who has done a magnificent job weeding and rectifying our large vegetable plots that had become very overgrown during our summer holidays. We look forward to planting some new vegetable seedlings with his guidance.

Welcome to school barbeque: Staff is eagerly anticipating our first opportunity to formally welcome all of our Appin families this year with our “Welcome to School” barbecue on Tuesday 24th February 2015 from 5-7pm in our school grounds. This will provide a relaxed and friendly opportunity for parents and teachers to meet each other and parents to get to know parents of other classmates. Below you will find a section to complete to give us an idea of how many sausage sandwiches your family may be likely to purchase at a cost of $1 each, to assist us with catering. Please return this slip to the office by Friday 20th February.

‘Welcome to School Barbeque RSVP’
My family will be attending the school welcome BBQ on Tuesday 24th February.
Family Name____________________________
We will need to buy ____________(no. of sausage sandwiches)

Parent-Teacher interviews: Later this term on Tuesday 24th March 2015 (Week 9), we will hold formal Parent-Teacher interviews where parents can meet with their child’s teacher on an individual basis and discuss how they have settled in to their new class and new learning. Another formal opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s teacher will take place in Term 3. Written reports will be provided to parents in Term 2 and Term 4. This means that in each of our four school terms there will be an opportunity for parents to receive up-to-date information about their child’s learning progress. Of course if you have a concern at any time during the year, you are most welcome to make an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher.

Student achievements: I would like to congratulate all of our 238 students on their settled start to our school year. It is wonderful to visit each of our 10 classrooms each day and view the learning that is taking place. It is also gratifying to see our two stage three classes of Burton and Western Front becoming great role models for our younger students. Well done!
I have been visited this past week by a number of students who have already completed their first class star or stamp chart demonstrating their good listening skills and exemplary behaviour. Congratulations to Killara, Hayley and Ayla in Throssell class, Ava, Charlotte, Sophie, Ethan and Elise in Canakkale class and Amelia, Joel and Lucas in Dardanelles class.

Assembly this week: This Friday we will be recognising our students who received a place overall at the swimming carnival. We will also be handing out the senior badges to our Year 6 students. We hope to see you at assembly at 2.20pm for a 2.30pm start.
Sport: Each week in every public primary school there will always be a time set aside for sporting activities whether it be learning new skills or practising these skills in team games. It is up to each school to set aside this time when it best suits student and school needs and timetables. This year, in order to accommodate K-2 teacher professional learning, teachers’ Release from Face-to-Face (RFF) planning time and our weekly school Assembly, **K-2 students will have their sport time on Wednesdays**. Having it on a Wednesday breaks up the week nicely for our younger students and also for parents as there will be two days of school uniform, then sport uniform and then two more days of school uniform. **Primary students (Yrs 3-6) will continue to have sport on Fridays.**

Playgroup: I had the pleasure of meeting Margaret from the Benevolent Society yesterday who runs a free playgroup for parents and pre-schoolers of any age from 9:30-11am every Monday in our school Canteen Hall area. I urge all interested parents to take up this wonderful opportunity to meet other parents from our Appin community. Many of us form lasting friendships that have endured the test of time that began at a playgroup such as this! Our school will work with this friendly playgroup to provide quality school readiness activities as the year progresses which will assist in the transition to “big school”.

School safety: I thank all of our parents who safely drop off and collect our students each day here at school. It is also great to see so many families walking to and from school or riding their bike which is a definite plus for our clean country environment. Just a gentle reminder, that it is not safe to walk your child through the staff car park nor is it safe to drive into the staff car park to drop off or pick up your child.

High school forms – (All forms must be returned please): Today, all Year 6 students have been given an enrolment form for High School. Parents are asked to complete this form and return it to our school office as soon as possible. **All students are required to return this form.**

- If your child will be attending their local Public High School (Ambarvale High for most students) simply sign in section B and return.
- If you do not require a placement at your local Public High School (Ambarvale for most students), simply sign in section E and note the high school your child will be attending.
- If your child will be attending an alternate Public High School (ie: Campbelltown Performing Arts or an out of area Public High School) fill out section C on the form.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Hunt in the office for clarification. Thank you.

Campbelltown City Council – Free online homework
Campbelltown Council is offering a free homework service for students in Year 3 to Year 12. Students can access YourTutor at home or in the Library from Monday to Friday between 4pm and 8pm. Students need their library card number to log in to Your Tutor from the library’s website. Contact Stephanie for further information on 4645 4451. (Youth Librarian Campbelltown City Library)

Band instruments: Band members are reminded to return their Band instrument to school tomorrow for stocktake and servicing. Instruments will be re-issued to those students continuing in Band for 2015. Thank you.

Uniform shop news: Please be advised that the uniform shop is open every Friday afternoon from 3pm to 3.30pm. Please contact Kirsten Martyn on 0411 166339 or Heidi Beaton on 0417 049323 for further information.

Appin Dogs rugby league club: Appin dogs rugby league registration dates are as follows: Saturday 14th February 11am-3pm and Friday 20 February 4:30-7pm Wonson Oval, Appin Road (cinema under the goal posts - flyers will be sent out shortly)

Appin waratahs netball club: Appin Waratahs Netball Club is looking for more players aged 5 – 9 years to join our Junior teams. Also, any mums or ladies who are interested in having some fun and exercise, please consider joining our Senior team. Please contact Heather Brown - Mb: 0405 441997 or Karen Foreman – Mb: 0423 095 495 this week please. Details are also on the Appin Waratahs Netball Facebook page.

Whooping cough: We have been advised of a case of whooping cough in the community. Please see your doctor if you are showing signs of persistent coughing.
Reminders and Diary Dates

12th Feb  - Book Club Orders due
13th Feb  - Swimming Carnival Assembly (Ribbons given out)
24th Feb  - Meet the Teacher Family BBQ 5pm to 7pm (Details in today’s newsletter)
10th Mar  - Zone Swimming carnival
12th Mar  - Selective High School Test
17th Mar  - Regional Swimming Carnival
26th Mar  - School Photos

Visitors to Mrs Harrison’s Office