NEWSLETTER: Term 1 Week 8
From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome to Week 8 where I say thank you to all those parents who wave, smile or say hi to me each afternoon at our front gates as they leave our school grounds with their children happily chatting about their day at school. Yes, I am thoroughly enjoying my days as Appin’s Principal and yes, I am definitely settling in. If I’m not out the front it means I am at a Principal conference or meeting as I was last Wednesday and Thursday and will be this Wednesday. I truly enjoy this part of my day and it gives me an opportunity to learn and remember student names.

Student achievements: Congratulations to Western Front class last Friday at our weekly assembly where they presented an entertaining dramatic portrayal of the song “All Quiet on the Western Front”. Their item certainly reflected the learning they have been engaged in about their class name. Interesting writing that engages the reader through original ideas or well-sequenced thoughts, quirky endings or descriptive language is a dedicated focus for our school this year. Finn in Hamilton class wrote a well-thought response to a book his class had been reading. Sharna, Holly and Cody in Lone Pine class have shown great improvement in their ability to express their oral responses in writing. Well done to Lone Pine students Nick, Alexis, Georgie, Bridget, Cooper, RJ, Jemma, Nick and Lucy for their terrific work using the IT program of Mathletics.

Congratulations to all students who are truly focussing on being more respectful of each other. It’s vitally important that our students understand that whilst it is okay to not like every one they come across at school or in life, it is certainly not okay to say mean things to or hurt those they don’t like. We encourage our students to always treat everyone the way we would like to be treated ourselves.

Stamp Chart Superstars!: As always, my days have been brightened by the patter of eager students’ feet who are thrilled to share with me the reasons for acquiring stamps on their completed stamp charts. The following students recently visited my office:

- Dardanelles – Cooper, Emily L, Alegra, Ellah, Xavier
- Canakkale – Ethan, William, Ashton, Sophie, Connor, Ava, Sophie, Justin, Angus, Elyse
- Hamilton – Callum, Harry, Georgia, Tiffany
- Throssell – Evlyn, Callum, Trae
- Lone Pine – Amanda, Leah, Tiarna, Loukas, Cooper, Bridget, Tess, Cody
- Flanders Fields – Lexie, Lachlan, Jack, Katelyn, Tyler, Elisha, Tahlia, Demi, Ty, Scarlett, Beau

Our school learning focus: I’m sure it comes as no surprise to every parent that our school focus is on every student acquiring literacy and numeracy skills first and foremost. Indeed, this is the focus for every public school in NSW. This means that classroom learning must be our teachers’ number one priority. We are lucky at Appin to have dedicated and very capable teachers who are continually undertaking professional learning in literacy and numeracy to drive student improvement.

Teachers at all schools are also encouraged to volunteer to take on the supervision of extra-curricular activities in their own time that may interest students. At Appin some of these activities are Garden Club, Eco-Committee, Dance, Choir, Band and sporting teams. Teachers who volunteer for these additional activities generally have an interest in this area but not necessarily a certificate or diploma. Therefore, please, as a gentle reminder, remember that if you as a parent have an expectation that your child will be in a representative team, such as a sporting team, choir or dance troupe at eisteddfod level, this is best pursued through weekend teams, private coaching or lessons. School cannot commit the time, resources or skills that a dedicated community organisation can when our focus must be literacy and numeracy.

Education is the gift we give to our children to become the informed problem solvers that will be required of them as adults in jobs that have probably not yet been invented.
Parent – Teacher interviews: Notes were sent home yesterday about this very important opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about how your child's learning is progressing so far this year. We know all parents will appreciate that a 10 minute time slot is not very long and if you feel you need further time to talk, another time can be arranged to continue your discussion. These occasions are a time for respectful conversation and listening that focuses on your child's individual learning needs. Please return the interview request sheet to the office by Friday 20th March so that interview days and times can be confirmed. Teachers will send home a confirmation slip on Monday.

FREE & fun program for fitter, healthier, happier kids!

Know if your child is over a healthy weight?
Go to www.go4fun.com.au to see if your child could do Go4Fun.

Go4Fun is a FREE healthy lifestyle program for kids over a healthy weight to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence.

What is the Go4Fun program?: Go4Fun is a FREE 10 week program which runs over one school term after school hours. During the program children and their families get involved in fun games and activities to get more physically active and they learn about delicious nutritious foods they can eat every day. Children need to be 7-13 years old and a parent or carer also needs to attend. Younger and/or older siblings are encouraged to attend.
To find out more contact 1800 780 900 or visit www.go4fun.com.au

School Band: Thank you to those students who have chosen to be a part of our School Band for 2015. Students were given a purple note to take home last Wednesday for parents to read and sign and return to school. Please ensure that these notes are returned to the office by TOMORROW. Students wishing to hire instruments from the school will also be allocated with their Band instrument tomorrow if this note has been returned. The following time table for Band will commence this Wednesday. Students are reminded to bring instruments and music to school each Wednesday and attend Band in their appropriate time slot in the Canteen/Hall. From next term, all students will attend Band together from 8.45am to 9.15am each Wednesday. A group timetable will be organised to follow the whole band session. These times will be advised next term.
Band Timetable
8.45am to 9.15am: Trombones, Bass Guitar, Drums and Keyboard
9.15am to 9.45am: Trumpets
9.45am to 10.15am: Clarinets and Flutes
10.15am to 10.45am: Alto Sax

Regional Swimming Carnival: Congratulations to Ethan Ross who is representing at the Regional Carnival in Butterfly (2nd at zone), Medley(2nd at zone) and 50m Freestyle(1st at zone). Congratulations also to our Junior Girls, Junior Boys and Senior Boys relay teams competing at the Regional Swimming Carnival today: Elisha, Georgie, Lauren, Olivia, Aaron S, Alec, Coby, Ethan, Alexander K, Russell, Ryan, Zac T
Good luck to all!

Awards
Silver: Seth Gilmore, Leah Kelly, Kia Thompson
Bronze: Kai Thompson, Lexie Nonenmacher, Evie Richards, Jemma Still, Tanisha Jell-Smith, Edward Talintyre, Jack Wilson
Student of the Week:
Dardanelles – Amelia Azzopardi Tucker – Aston Zrnik Canakkale – Sophie Hughes
Lemnos – Hunter Smits-Mulholland Hamilton – Ollie Croker Throssell – Evlyn Booth
Flanders Fields – Matilda Peer Lone Pine – Amylia McKenzie Burton – Jayden Cook
Western Front – Maleah Mayol
2015 International Competitions And Assessments For Schools (ICAS) – LAST CHANCE!!

This year Appin Public School will participate in the following competitions:
- Computer Skills – 19 May 2015 ($8.00)
- Writing – 15 June 2015 to 19 June 2015 ($17.00)
- English – 28 July 2015 ($8.00)
- Mathematics – 11 August 2015 ($8.00)

An entry form was sent home with students last Tuesday. Please return the permission slip with the entry fee by: Friday 23rd March 2015 if you would like your child to participate. Please note that no late entries are accepted.

Harmony Day: This Thursday is Harmony Day. Our school ministers have organised a mufti day with an orange clothing/ crazy sock theme. A gold coin donation is to be paid and all the money collected will go towards the ‘Kids of Macarthur Foundation’. Last year, schools in our local area raised enough money for paediatric medical equipment for use at Campbelltown Hospital. Please help support this worthy cause.

Don’t forget your Fun Run Sponsorship Form!! Great prizes!!
- Gather your sponsors over the holidays.
- Run in the Fun Run at school on 1st May.
- Collect your sponsor money.
- Receive your prize!! It's that easy!

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2015 SPONSORSHIP PERMISSION NOTE

I give permission for my child/ren:
____________________________________ of class ______
____________________________________ of class ______
____________________________________ of class ______

to participate in the 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 _____________

Banking News: Thank you to all of our thrifty savers who are banking each Monday. For students that have earned 10 tokens with school banking, you are now eligible to trade them in for a reward. Reward packs have been sent home with your bank books showing the rewards for 2015. There are also some rewards left over from previous years that can still be ordered. They are:
- From 2013 Blue wallet, Headphones, Pru money box, Spen money box or Knuckles game.
- From 2014 projector cup, swim bag, scented pencils, sea streamers, shark key ring.

Kind regards,
Donna Crane: Banking coordinator

P&C Meeting: Our next P&C Meeting is Tuesday 24th March 2015. All welcome.

P&C Easter Raffle: Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly for the P&C Easter Raffle Fundraiser. This year we are not asking for donations of Easter eggs from families. Five prizes have been purchased. Tickets are $1 each or 3 for $2. (Book of tickets $10) (Each child will be sent home a book of tickets to sell). The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2nd April 2015 at the school. Please return raffle tickets to school by Wednesday 1st April. There are 5 great prizes to be won:
- 1st prize Easter hamper valued at $150 including a family pass to the Royal Easter Show
- 2nd prize Easter hamper valued at $100 including 4 movie tickets
- 3rd prize Easter hamper valued at $70
- 4th prize Easter hamper valued at $50
- 5th prize Easter hamper valued at $30
### Reminders and Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th Mar</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>Mufti Day – Orange clothes/ crazy sock theme for a gold coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Mar</td>
<td>ICAS University Competitions entry form due</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Mar</td>
<td>School Photos – Every child needs an envelope!</td>
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<td>27th Mar</td>
<td>Parliament Assembly + Year 6 T-shirt orders due</td>
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<td>2nd Apr</td>
<td>Last day for Term 1 – Easter Fun Day – Easter Raffle drawn</td>
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<td>20th Apr</td>
<td>Staff return to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st Apr</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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<td>24th Apr</td>
<td>Stage 2 Excursion – Nan Tien Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st May</td>
<td>Fun Run Cross Country Carnival – Return permission note for sponsorship form</td>
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### Visitors to Mrs Harrison's Office

- Photos of children holding certificates.
- Photos of children with their certificates.