Nothing pleases me more than to say “I am such a proud Principal” and I can see so much to celebrate already this year. Our eleven classes and their teachers have had an amazing start to learning and new routines and there is a genuine feel of happiness in each classroom. Our first assembly with Kinder visiting for the first half was a success. Our year 6 students have demonstrated outstanding leadership already with their buddies and proudly received their “Senior” badges at Friday’s assembly. More leadership opportunities for them commence on Monday when they begin to support classes as they line up in the mornings and after recess. Professional learning for staff throughout this year in maths has been planned and will commence shortly. All in all it has been a wonderful positive start to 2016!

Special Religious Education (Scripture)
These thirty minute lessons conducted by trained community volunteers commence tomorrow at our school and will be held from 9-9:30am each Wednesday morning. We have three options at the moment which are Protestant, Catholic or non-scripture groups. If numbers permit, we will be offering an ethics class for Stage 2 students who are currently in Non-scripture group. If you would like your child to attend please send a note to the office indicating the change. If we have enough students the Ethics class will commence over the next few weeks.

Welcome BBQ
We are looking forward to meeting many parents at our annual “Welcome to school” BBQ tomorrow from 5-7pm in our school grounds. This will provide a relaxed and friendly opportunity for parents and teachers to meet each other; however, it is not an opportunity for a one-on-one interview. Sausage sandwiches and cold drinks will be available to purchase. If you haven’t returned your slip to let us know how many to expect, please send it to the office first thing in the morning. This is to assist us with catering.

Welcome BBQ
Family Name.................................................................Number of family members attending..........................
.................................................................................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
<th>Activities/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th -18th Feb</td>
<td>FREE Dental Check - Please return permission notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Feb</td>
<td>Classroom Volunteers information session - 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Family BBQ 5pm to 7pm + Free NRL clinic at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM 7:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ambartour 5.30pm to 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>Classroom Volunteers Information Session - 2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>Assembly - Class names explained!! February Aussies of the Month presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Mar</td>
<td>Walkathon - 2pm to 3pm (Start finding sponsors now!!) + Yr 1 Vision screening notes due</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Mar</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Mar</td>
<td>Year 1 free vision screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Mar</td>
<td>ICAS Competition entries due back to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Mar</td>
<td>School Photos - Envelope to be sent home shortly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st April</td>
<td>Garden Express orders due</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th April</td>
<td>Memorial Ceremony - 200th Anniversary of Appin Massacre 11am - 3.30pm Cataract Dam Picnic Area</td>
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Student Achievements
How exciting it is to have students visit my office already this year with personal learning achievements. Taylah and Emma from Athens class have completed work in maths on place value. RJ in Moscow class has been impressing his teacher with exemplary attitude towards all of his learning. Sharna and Maddison in Beijing class have demonstrated great efforts in baseball. Congratulations to all!

Stamp Chart Superstars
Congratulations to the following students who have filled their stamp chart due to demonstrating our classroom rules. Athens: Katelyn, Alana, Elisha, Ty, Matilda, Taylah, Loukas, Jack, Ruby, Trae, Jake, Shaun, Amber, Coby, Amanda Mexico City: Joshua, Mia, Amelia, Charlie, Emily L, Caylen, Aleksander, Isabella, Hamish, Naite, Mikayla, Shylah, Ryliea

Working with Children information sessions
We welcome parents who have time to assist us at school in any way such as reading in classrooms, changing home readers, assisting with sport, covering books or sharpening pencils. If you plan to volunteer your time this year in any capacity at our school, it is a mandatory requirement that you attend an information and training session at school and complete a “Working with Children” check. Two of these sessions will be held in order to accommodate busy schedules. You only need to attend one session. These will be held on:
- Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 9am in our Library
- Thursday 25th February 2016 at 2:15pm at school at a place to be confirmed

Walkathon
Students are very excited about our upcoming Walkathon to be held on Tuesday 1st March 2016 from 2-3pm and we are hoping everyone is starting to collect sponsors. This is a major fundraiser for our school providing much needed additional funds to lay quality artificial turf in the large area surrounding the metal picnic tables under the shade cloth area. Students will walk around part of our playground as well as some paths and gardens around the classrooms. Parents will be most welcome to join us as we walk our laps. Students will be issued with a sponsor sheet to start obtaining sponsors. A good way to gain sponsors and sponsorship money is to have parents take this sponsor sheet to their workplace. An iPad mini will be the major prize for the student earning the most sponsorship money. There will also be a “popcorn and movie at school” prize for the class earning the most sponsorship money, $50 vouchers for the K-2 and Years 3-6 student earning the most sponsorship money and many other incentive prizes as well for students who return their sponsorship money in the first three weeks following the Walkathon’s completion.
**Student of the Week**

Seoul – Eva Southgate  
Sydney – Noah Cook  
Melbourne – Macey Azzopardi  
Mexico – Emily Lorenz  
Tokyo – Logan Winters  
Rio de Janiero – Ava Hilton  
Beijing– Seth Gilmore  
Moscow - Oscar Haldenby  
Athens - Coby Hilton  
Barcelona - Georgie Kerron  
London - Emma Beaton

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**School Photos Thursday 24th March 2016**
The photographers will visit our school on Thursday 24th March 2016. Envelopes will be sent home shortly with students. Parents wishing to purchase these photos are asked to return the envelopes with payment to the office before photo day. 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.

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**P&C AGM - 23rd February 7pm**
All positions on the P & C committee will be declared vacant and it would be great to have all positions filled on the night. The positions to be filled are: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising & Uniform Shop.  
Everyone is welcome to come even if you don’t want to fill a position. Even if you are new to our school or have never been before, please come along and see how the P&C contribute to our children. The P&C meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm in our school library. It is a great way to get involved in ways to help our school, meet new people and to be informed of things coming up. Hope to see you there!

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**Ambarvale High School - Tour**
Parents and students of Years 5 and 6 are invited to attend the 2016 Ambartour. Discover what your local High School has to offer!! All welcome.  
Details: Tuesday 23rd February 2016, 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Ambarvale High School.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Years 5 and 6 parents**
Years 5 and 6 students will be attending The Great Aussie Bush Camp from 4th May to 6th May 2016 (Week 2 Term 2). Permission notes and information will be sent home shortly. The cost will be advised on the note sent home. (approximately $280) Please note these dates in your diary and your budgets. The payment of this excursion will be required by the end of this term. Please contact Mrs Harrison or the office if you require more time to pay or need assistance in funding.

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**A Message from the Eco-Committee**
In 2014, the Eco-Committee organised a successful fundraiser through Gardens Express and we are running this same fundraiser this year. The money raised will go towards the projects the Eco-Committee will conduct throughout the year. Gardens Express will give Appin Public School 50% of the value raised through the selling of bulbs. A brochure has been included with this week’s newsletter. Please have all orders and money returned before the 1st of April (Friday Week 10).