PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We implement excellent learning support programs for students here at APS. In 2014 we will be including the following programs to further enhance the educational outcomes of students:

MiniLit is a practical, systematic, explicit and effective model for teaching reading skills to students in Year 1 and Year 2 who are experiencing difficulties with reading. It is a small group program (up to four students per group) and will be implemented by a specially trained teacher. The program takes around 20 weeks to complete, with four lessons of 45 minutes per week. Each lesson comprises three main components:

- Sounds and Words Activities
- Text Reading
- Story Book Reading

Occupational Therapy – This program will target fine motor skills and handwriting. It will include classroom strategies, home program ideas and an individual progress report on completion of the group.

We will be looking at the following indicators to target students for inclusion in the program. A child who:

- is unable to keep up with the written demands in class.
- has poor pencil grip and complains of pain when writing or drawing.
- has difficulties with correct letter formation patterns and number patterns.
- has illegible writing or slow handwriting speed.
- has poor spacing between words and poor positioning of letters off the line.

Variation to Staff Development Day

We would like to reschedule the staff development day that would normally be held on 28th April 2014 to the 27th February 2014. This is to allow all staff to attend a professional development conference on Visible Learning. All schools in the Upper Hunter Local Management Group will be participating in this conference. Please contact the school on 65437271 if you have any concerns regarding this change of date.

Presentation Day

Presentation Day will be held next Tuesday 17th December. It is a time to celebrate the academic and sporting achievements of the students throughout the year. You are all invited to attend with the Year 3 – 6 assembly beginning at 9.45am and the K – 2 ceremony beginning at 11.30am.

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

We have had wonderful support from parents throughout the year in the classrooms, the library, at sporting events, and in the canteen. After the Year 3 - 6 Presentation Day Assembly at 11am we will be holding a morning tea to say thank you. Invitations were sent home with students yesterday and we hope you have received them and can attend. However, if you have helped the school in any way and your invite has somehow been misplaced or overlooked please accept this as an open invitation to attend our morning tea.

M Floyd - Principal

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Week 7 Term 4

KLH Kristen S. – taking more responsibility with her learning.

K/1K Madison G. - always working hard across all subjects and being a kind classmate.
**FORTHCOMING DATES**

12th December Year 6 Farewell  
13th December Assembly – items by 1B and 2DP  
16th December Strathearn Visit K – 2  
17th December Presentation Day  
18th December Last day for students

**CANTEEN NEWS**

There are no LOL drinks available at this time.

The canteen roster this week is:

**Wednesday 11th December**
- Lisa Taylor  
- Natalie McCamley

**Friday 13th December**
- Kate Ducker  
- Melissa Dixon  
- Carly Baker

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Buy 1 Get 1 Free Scholastic Bookfair**
The bookfair was a great success, thank you to the wonderful families who supported it.

**LIBRARY STOCKTAKE**
The library stocktake will be done next week **Friday 13th – Thursday 19th**

Please bring all borrowed books back this week. If you cannot find them please let me know ASAP

Have a terrific Christmas and New Year.

**STRATHEARN VILLAGE VISIT REMINDER**

On Monday 16th December students from Kindergarten to Year 2, as well as Band Members have been invited to visit the residents of Strathearn Village to wish them a Merry Christmas.

Students are not required to wear their school uniform on this day, instead they may come dressed in Christmas clothes.

The bus will be leaving school at 9.30am and returning at approximately 11am. The cost of the excursion is $5 to cover the bus fare.

Please return your note and money by Thursday 12th December.

**LEARN TO SWIM FREE CAMPAIGN**

White Memorial Leisure Centre Muswellbrook  
Every Sunday Morning 10.30am – 12pm  
Commences Sunday 1st December 2013 to the first weekend in March 2014. No Bookings

For children 5 years and over, beginners only
All the instructors are volunteers
Lessons are free but pool entry fees apply
Contact 6543 2642 or 0407 291 132

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**1B**  
Hallie D. - for being a kind and cooperative student.

**2DP**  
Toby B. - improved focus at writing time.

**3/4A**  
Rowan B. - for an outstanding year, always displaying persistence and dedication.

**3/4P**  
Delta H. – for always striving for excellent results.

**5R**  
Sabrina D. - excellent independent working skills.

**6M**  
Kaydee T. - for being a considerate and thoughtful student.

**Week 8 Term 4**

**KLH**  
Rossi L. - taking on classroom responsibilities - taking pride in and maintaining the class garden.

**K/1K**  
William G. - great improvement in his handwriting.

**1B**  
Lucy McC. - for her positive and energetic attitude towards school.

**2DP**  
Savanna W-G - positive attitude to learning.

**3/4A**  
Jye F. - being a responsible and enthusiastic learner.

**3/4P**  
Ethan P. – for beginning to let his personality show.

**5R**  
Ashley F. - excellent attitude towards her work.

**6M**  
Hailey H. - always being willing to help others.

**Merit Awards**

**KLH**  
Liam D., Travis D., Angus S., Hayden R.

**K/1K**  
Charlotte W., Jackson D., Ethan G., Ziggy T.

**1B**  
Matilda H., Vanessa H., Brae M-F., Seth F.

**2DP**  
Sophie W., Luke D., Lara E., Jayden J.

**3/4A**  
Kasey Leigh P., Matt J., Marley P., Rhys N.

**3/4P**  
Cody P., Meagan P., Daniel McC., Trent R.

**5R**  
Jack S., Cassidee L., Peter C., Chelsea D.

**6M**  
Marcus C., Jarn D., Kade H., Toby J.
CLASS NEWS:

Class KLH
What's On:
One more week left. Mrs Hill and myself have been very proud of all of the students in KLH this year. On Monday we had a special visitor from NSW Health Department, Melissa Davis, to talk about safety. All the students were engaged in the discussion, enjoyed looking at different safety equipment and how it is used. Students listed and discussed dangers in each of the following areas;

- At home
- Outside the house
- At the pool
- At the farm

We finished the discussion with a chat about bike safety. The good egg wore a helmet, the bad egg didn't. When we dropped the good egg he came out OK. But the bad egg….

This will be the last week for homework and home readers. Please, please, please ensure readers are returned this week as we will be stock taking on Monday. Any volunteers to help would be most welcome!

Thank you all for your support and assistance throughout the year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Class K1K
What's On:
In K1K we have been busy getting ready for the end of the year and Christmas. We have been enjoying doing Christmas craft and decorating our classroom with this. On Monday the students enjoyed having a guest speaker, Melissa Davis, come in and discuss safety with them. This involved safety in the home, on the farm and in and around different types of transport. The class is also looking forward to their visit next Monday to Strathearn Village.

I would like to thank K1K for a fantastic term. I have really enjoyed working with the class and Mrs Kerrigan. I wish all of the students the very best for next year.

Class 1B
What's On:
Wow, 2013 is almost over and 1B sure have had a great time! We have been busy finishing off our units and text books so all books can be sent home on Tuesday after the presentation assembly. I ask that all students or parents bring a bag for books to be carried in; they will be on student’s desks ready to collect. All library books and home readers should have been returned last week, if there are any books left at home please return them as soon as possible. This Friday 1B and Year 2 will be performing at the assembly, come along and enjoy the show! Students will be attending Strathearn Village on Monday 16th to perform Christmas Carols, it would be great to have as many students as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent helpers we have had during the year.

Activities over the holidays
Playing card games like friends of ten, salute, go fish and old maid are great games to play on rainy days and help to reinforce number skills for Year 2. Your child may also like to keep a journal where they can write about fun activities and glue in ticket stubs or photos. This is a great way to keep your child writing over the holidays and would make a great news item for 2014.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone!

Class 2DP
What's On:
The countdown to Christmas is well and truly on! Students are asked to check at home for any school books that need to be returned. The students have been sharing their favourite things about school this year for oral language. It is amazing to think about all the exciting things we have crammed into the year! Some highlights that were especially enjoyed were the Fairy Tale Ball, Athletics Day, Swimming Carnival, Hunter Wetlands excursion, our Author X Factor competition, the Eisteddfod and Intensive Swimming. I could go on and on!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and caregivers of 2DP for their support this year.

Class 3-4A
What's On:
Wow! Last newsletter of 2013! I would like to wish all my students, friends and family a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Thank you for a wonderful year.

Class 3-4P
What's On:
How fast has this year gone? Everyone in 3/4P has grown and matured so much and I am very proud of all of you and all of your achievements.

Please have a very safe and Merry Christmas and New Year. See you all bright-eyed and bushy tailed in 2014.

Mrs Pennell

Class 5R
What's On:
Year 5 are busily preparing for the Year 6 Farewell on Thursday. We are all looking forward to this special occasion and it will be a fun night for all. Stage 3 has been especially busy practising for the bush dances which will be performed on the night. This week we have Christmas words in our spelling list and it was discovered that nobody understood what the word "strudel" meant. Consequently, we defined the word and this lead to an interesting discussion about Christmas traditions, with many students sharing personal experiences.

Mr Ramage
What’s On:
Congratulations to everyone on a very successful mini fete! Thank you to the parents, friends and teachers who helped us organise, set up and clean up the stalls.
The next week, the final week of primary school for students in 6M, is bound to be a memorable one. The Year 6 farewell will be held on Thursday night and we are all looking forward to the evening. A huge thank you to Mr Ramage for organising this event. Next Tuesday we will be holding our Annual Presentation Day, we look forward to celebrating the success of our students this year.
Students who purchased Graduation gifts early and the term will be receiving them next week.