PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

K-6 Assembly Update
Due to the Primary school swimming carnival on Friday 13th February there will be NO K-6 ASSEMBLY this week.

Primary School Swimming Carnival
Permission notes with payment were due yesterday, 9th February, however, many students returned their permission notes without payment. This deadline has been extended to 3pm on Wednesday 11th February. Cost for bus and pool entry is $6.00. Season ticket holders of Scone Swimming Pool pay $4.00 for bus travel. Unfortunately, children who haven’t paid will not be allowed on the bus and will have to remain at school. The bus will leave Aberdeen PS at 9.00am. Parents who have indicated they will be transporting their child to the Scone Swimming Pool, please ensure your license, registration and insurance papers have been sighted by the school office staff prior to Friday. This is a legal requirement for any school event and your child will not be able to participate if this requirement is not met.

Sport House Captains
Congratulations to our Sport House Captains.

Hunter (Red)
Girl Captain Breanna C.
Girl Vice Captain Caitlyn B-M.
Boy Captain Rowan B.
Boy Vice Captain Marley P.

Segenhoe (Blue)
Girl Captain Cailey G.
Girl Vice Captain Bella-Rose P.
Boy Captain Kobe P.
Boy Vice Captain Jayden H.

McQueen (Yellow)
Girl Captain Monique D.
Girl Vice Captain Jasmine A.
Boy Captain Lawson E.
Boy Vice Captain Cody B.

Rossgole (Green)
Girl Captain Kasey-Leigh P.
Girl Vice Captain Hollie D.
Boy Captain Hunter D.
Boy Vice Captain Joshua E.

Year 6 Buddies
I would like to say a huge ‘THANK YOU’ to our primary buddies who have supported and guided our 2015 Kindergarten students. You have done a tremendous job orientating them to Aberdeen PS and I am certain many strong bonds have been formed between the kindergarten children and their primary buddies. Congratulations to all involved.

Changes to pick up and drop off procedures for the bottom car park
Due to a near miss last week we ask that you personally collect your child from the bottom car park gate and walk them to your car. If the area is congested in the morning could you also follow this procedure. Children will not be dismissed unless a parent is at the gate to collect them.

Change to Routines
Please write a note to the school whenever your child’s routine is changed. Often children forget or get confused with instructions during the day. If we know we can better support your child and ensure a stress free afternoon for students, parents and school staff. Please remember our priority is your child so I urge you to discuss any concerns with your child’s teacher as soon as a problem arises.
Parent Survey 2014 Results
Each year we survey our parents, students and teachers to gain their opinion of our school. We do this to develop a plan for the continual improvement of our school. We want Aberdeen Public School to provide the best possible outcomes for our students. In Term 4 2014 we surveyed parents to gain valuable feedback in regard to the following areas:

1. Student Wellbeing
2. School Communication
3. Learning and the curriculum

Over the coming weeks I will present the feedback we received in each of these 3 areas. This week the focus is on Student Wellbeing.

Student Wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel welcome at APS</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel my child's teacher cares about him/her.</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
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<td>I think the school's system of rewarding and praising students is effective e.g. KidsMatter tickets, KidsMatter awards, merit awards, principals awards, in class systems like Class Dojo, class raffles, stickers, visiting the principal to show good work etc.</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our current detention system - Parents are contacted if a teacher is concerned about a child's wellbeing, or if a child has had 3 detentions in a given term. Do you think this is adequate?</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does our school do enough to raise students understanding of Bullying?</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child, generally feel secure at school and enjoy their learning?</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>-</td>
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Parents had the opportunity to make specific comments on areas covered in the survey. These comments are listed below.

School Awards System
Ten parents made a specific comment regarding our award system. These were:
My kids love receiving awards, it makes them feel happy with themselves.
Awards give children a goal to work towards.
Some kids need them a little more, as the same kids seem to get them (not that this is a bad thing).
Too many awards are given out.
Awards - the consistent kids seem to miss out.

School Response /Action
Each class teacher can give out 3 awards each week:
1. Principals Award – is given to a student who has worked hard and achieved a personal best during the week.
2. KidsMatter Award – is given to a student that has consistently demonstrated our school values.
3. Merit Award - is given at the teachers’ discretion.

In previous years we have had fortnightly assemblies this resulted in six awards being presented by each class teacher (54 awards in total). Awards were also held over till a future assembly if a child was absent on the day. This may have created the impression that too many awards are given out.

In 2015 we will be holding weekly assemblies so the number of awards presented at each assembly will be reduced to 27. If a child is absent on Friday their award will be handed out the morning assembly the following week.

The giving of lollies and sweets as a reward does contradict our healthy eating focus. Lollies or sweets will not be used as part of class reward systems.

Bullying
More could be done about bullying. Bullying can be done on the sly.

School Response /Action
Both teachers and parents need to take an active role where bullying is concerned.

General
My child has excelled at this school.
Love everything about APS. Thank you to everyone who helps run the school.
APS has been a major factor in the positive growth in our child’s self-confidence and happiness.
My child is extremely happy in their school environment.

Payments to the office
When sending money to school for payments could you please enclose the money in a clearly marked envelope with your child’s name, class and what the money is for. Payment envelopes can be collected from the front office to assist in this process.
Contact Details
Every student has had a form sent home with their current contact details, emergency contacts and medical conditions. Could you please check the details are accurate, amend if necessary and return it to the office signed even if there are no changes. This way we can be sure that you have seen the form and all our details are accurate. It is very important that our records are correct as we may have to contact you in the case of an emergency.

General Consent Forms
All students have been given General Consent Forms which are a “blanket” permission note covering all local excursions in 2015. Each student is to have the form completed, signed and returned to school as soon as possible. This will allow students to be involved in local walking excursions throughout the year.

Maths Text Books
At Aberdeen Public School, our whole school follows a maths program called Maths Plus. It is a fantastic program that incorporates a text book to consolidate learning that students do within maths lessons. Text books are $18 each. Please make this payment to the office as soon as possible so that your child may be issued with their text book.

School Fees
Voluntary School contributions for 2015 are $30 per student or $60 for 2 students or more in a family. Payments can be made at the office.

Bus Passes
If you have applied for a bus pass they must be picked up at Osborn’s Bus Company Office in Muswellbrook. They will no longer be given to the bus driver as too many passes were being lost.

Michelle Floyd – Principal

P & C NEWS
Our P and C Association meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm in the school Library.
Our Meetings begin at 6.30pm and must finish by 8.30pm as passed in a motion at a previous meeting.
Our next meeting is:
Wednesday 18th February @ 6.30pm in the school Library. New members welcomed.

Canteen
All lunch orders are to be put in the yellow box outside the canteen from 8.45am onwards. Lunch orders are to be at the canteen no later than 10.30am. The canteen will be closed on Friday 13th February due to the swimming carnival.

Volunteers
We are still in need of canteen volunteers. If you can spare sometime on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, even if it’s only for an hour or so, please leave your name and contact details with which day and time suits you at the office or you can contact Kelly McMahon on 0488 134 550. Small children are welcome to come with you.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
We will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday 27th February. K – 2 will clean up inside the school area and 3 – 6 will have designated areas around Aberdeen. The clean up will start at 10am and families are most welcome to join in. All children need to bring a pair of gloves (eg garden). Please ensure that your General Consent forms have been signed and returned so that your child can participate.

For Sale
As new, unused 4 size 4 school polo shirts. Contact Claire Kent 0414 467 633 if you wish to purchase them.

FORTHCOMING DATES

February
Friday 13th Swimming Carnival
Canteen Closed due to carnival
Wednesday 18th P & C Meeting 6.30pm in the Library
Zone Cricket Singleton
Thursday 19th Meet & Greet
Friday 20th Zone Swimming at Singleton
Wednesday 25th Debating MSPS 12.20pm
Friday 27th Clean Up Australia Day

March
Wed 18th – Fri 20th Kia Ora Music Camp

School Banking Day has changed to a Thursday. Please bring your bank book and money to the office first thing in the morning.

School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.
Key points to remember around schools

2 Driving near school buses

There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is setting down or picking up school children.

This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

The 40km/h speed limit must be obeyed when the rear wig wag lights on the bus flash.

Flashing headlights on these buses also alert oncoming motorists that children are close by.

As a driver, remember: When the lights on the bus are flashing, you must slow down to 40 km/h.

Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.

For information about fines and demerit points, visit rms.nsw.gov.au

3 On and off the bus safely

Your child is most at risk in the minutes after getting off the bus. You can reduce this risk.

Meet your child (or arrange for another trusted adult to meet your child) AT the bus stop, NEVER on the opposite side of the road.

Wait until the bus has been driven away before choosing the safest place to cross the road, then follow the usual road crossing procedures with your children.

STOP! One step back from the kerb.

LOOK! For traffic to your right, left and right again.

LISTEN! For the sounds of approaching traffic.

THINK! Whether it is safe to cross.

Teach your children to keep turning their head in both directions to look and listen for traffic as they cross the road.

While waiting at the bus stop, stand well away from the passing traffic. Never wait right at the kerb.

Remind your children that when a bus is fitted with seatbelts, they must buckle up.

Until they turn ten, hold hands with your child as you cross the road.

For more information visit roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

NSW Centre for Road Safety