PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

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 to the office signed even if there are no changes so that we can be sure that you have seen the form and all our details are accurate.** It is very important that our details are accurate as we may have to contact you in the case of an emergency.

Meet and Greet
On Thursday 19th February at 5.30 pm we will be holding a Meet and Greet. This is your opportunity to come along and say hello to your child’s teacher, enjoy a sausage sizzle and ask questions in an informal atmosphere. Could you please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter if you are attending, to help with catering.

Parent Survey Results 2014 - Part 2
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 School Communication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The School</strong> communicates effectively with parents e.g. reports interviews, skoolbag, Facebook</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you read the school newsletter as a means of school/home communication?</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The newsletter provides me with clear information regarding what has happened and future events.</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school website provides me with clear information regarding what has happened and future events.</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents had the opportunity to make specific comments on areas covered in the survey. These comments are listed below.

**Facebook/ Skoolbag**
A lot of communication is via Facebook or Skoolbag and not everyone is able to access this. Skoolbag app is very handy.
School Website
I don’t look at the website (x2).
Not updated enough.
I have no interest in the website

Newsletter
Future events – let us know the time so that time off from work can be organised.
Not much about P & C is given in the newsletter but the school information is good.
I should read the newsletter more.
Newsletter should have more detail – where notes can be collected or if they were sent home, times of events not always listed. The mental health sections were great.
The newsletter provides me with clear information most of the time.

General
Some teachers need to be more patient and explain tasks better as my child has said that they have not understood what to do and got into trouble.
Teachers care 100% about my child.
Thank you to everyone who makes the communication between home and school happen.
Teachers and staff are easy to approach and always willing to help in every way.

School Values
One of the qualities we are striving to develop in our students is:

**Responsibility**
Being a reliable and accountable citizen who accepts ownership of their behaviour and follows things through from start to finish.

Changes to pick up and drop off procedures for the bottom car park.
We ask that you pick your child up from the bottom car park gate. If the area is congested in the morning could you take them to the gate. Children will not be dismissed unless a parent is at the gate to collect them.

Change of Routines
Please write a note to the school whenever your child’s going home 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 please discuss any concerns with your child’s teacher as soon as a problem arises.

General Consent Forms
All students (except Kindergarten who have already completed the forms) have been given General Consent Forms. Each student is to have the form completed and signed and returned to school as soon as possible.

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.

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.

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 textbook to consolidate learning that students do within maths lessons. Textbooks 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.

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

**PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS**

**Week 3 Term 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Yellow</td>
<td>Alexis D. - for always doing her very best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Lime</td>
<td>Mitchell G. - always trying his very best!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Cydi W. - wonderful reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Purple</td>
<td>Madison G. – a great example to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 Red</td>
<td>Summer D. – being an excellent class helper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5 Green</td>
<td>Cody P. - being an outstanding leader in our class, respectful,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Orange</td>
<td>Danielle S. - always being kind, considerate and studious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Black</td>
<td>Monique D. – excellent organisation skills so early in the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Merit Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Yellow</td>
<td>Hunter H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Lime</td>
<td>Jarred M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue</td>
<td>Riley N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Purple</td>
<td>Logan S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 Red</td>
<td>Hayley T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Magenta</td>
<td>Riley T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5M Green</td>
<td>Laura K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Orange</td>
<td>Cullen S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Black</td>
<td>Daniel McC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kids Matter Awards

K Yellow  Amelia I.  Respect
K Lime  Hayley H.  Happiness
1 Blue  Ethan W.  Success
2 Purple  Tyla F.  Honesty
2/3 Red  Tate S.  Responsibility
3/4 Magenta  Jayden J.  Confidence
4/5 Green  Brooke W.  Respect
5 Orange  Jacob D.  Success
5/6 Black  Jayden H.  Success

P & C NEWS
Our next meeting is tomorrow:
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.

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.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our swimming carnival was held on Friday. Thank you to all the parents who supported their children and assisted on the day. Students who were successful in qualifying for the Zone Carnival, which will be held this Friday 20th at Singleton, have been given permission notes today.

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) to protect themselves. Remember to return and sign the General Consent Form so that the Primary students can participate outside the school grounds.

FORTHCOMING DATES

February

Wednesday 16th  P & C Meeting 6.30pm in the Library
Thursday 19th  Zone Cricket Singleton
Friday 20th  Zone Swimming at Singleton
Wednesday 25th  Debating MSPS 12.20pm
Friday 27th  Clean Up Australia Day

March

Wednesday 4th  Scone High School Orientation
Friday 6th  Zone League Muswellbrook
Wed 18th – Fri 20th  Kia Ora Music Camp

For Sale
As new, unused 4 size 4 school polo shirts.
Contact Claire Kent 0414 467 633 if you wish to purchase them.
Notice from Osborn's Bus Company

Parents please be waiting for your child at the bus stop

There have been some problems with children missing their stops. It may be because they have fallen asleep, they are sitting up the back and the driver is not aware of their stop, they are getting off at a different stop or parents are not standing at the bus stop waiting for their children.

If your child is new and does not know their bus stop or you are concerned that they will not know where to get off, we encourage parents to stand at the bus stop and wave down their bus when they see it. That way if the child has not informed the driver they are ready to get off, the driver will know to pull over.

Class News and Reminders

K Yellow

We have been very busy in K Yellow. This week we have started guided reading sessions which have been going well.

Today we had the Bus Safety talk from NRMA. If your child is going to start catching a bus please let me and the office know of the new arrangements.

We have started using our Maths Plus books each day. There are still some students who haven’t paid for these and unfortunately we aren’t able to hand these out until they are paid for. If you haven’t already, please pay for these at the office, $18 each, thank you.

If your child is eager to do some work at home they could practice writing their name. All students need to be competent in writing their own name. They could also practice writing and saying the sounds we have learnt so far (s, i, a, t, p, n, h, e, c, k, r).

A note went home last week outlining each students news days. Students will only be able to have news on their given day to allow everyone to have a turn.

A note also went home asking for helpers for our Gross Motor Program Thursday mornings. If you would like to help out during this time please fill in the note and send it back. It would be very much appreciated.

K Lime

Well it has been a wonderful start to 2015. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help out with Kindergarten gross motor groups, we really appreciate it. A reminder to all parents to please pay for your child’s maths text book as soon as possible, so that they can receive their book. We had a wonderful time at the NRMA Bus visit today where we all learnt how to safely travel on the bus. All kindergarten students are now able to catch the bus if required.

Could I remind all parents that if your child’s routine is changing for pick up, bus travel etc, please let myself or the office know through a note or a verbal message. We have started free choice news this week and each child has a designated day. Each child’s day was sent home last Friday and are also on display in K Lime’s window. Please talk to your child about something special they would like to bring in or a story to tell for news.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me at any stage about any concerns or queries regarding your children. Thanks Mrs Keating

1 Blue

What a wonderful start to 2015. I would like to start by thanking those who have offered assistance this term. It is very much appreciated. I am always after more helpers though, so anyone that is free to read with students or help with sight words please let me know.

A reminder that library is on a Wednesday for 1 Blue this term.

I am on the lookout for egg cartons and cardboard rolls from paper towel or wrapping paper for some exciting art projects I am planning. If you have any at home to spare during the term please think of us and send them in with your child.
2 Purple
Welcome to our second newsletter for 2015. I would like to thank those parents who have sent in the required equipment and the $18 for the Maths Plus textbook. We have started using them already and those children who have not yet paid are given photocopied worksheets until payment is made.

I look forward to seeing you at the Meet and Greet on Thursday at 5.30pm. Please come along and say hello.

2/3 Red
Class 2/3R has settled well into their new surroundings and I am already very impressed with the work that students are producing. In English we are studying the unit 'Belonging' and have been completing activities relating to the text “Stellaluna”. Students have been doing a very good job of predicting, which is one of our Focus on Reading Strategies. We have started our Science unit ‘Plants and Animals’. In HSIE we are exploring the unit ‘Australia, You're Standing In It’. We are well under way with our Maths Plus program so it is very important that theses text books are paid for as soon as possible. Keep a look out for a note about the Great Aussie Bush Camp and if you have any questions about this excursion please contact the school.

Regards, Mr Ramage.

3/4 Magenta
Week 4 is here already and our class is really starting to hum! Thank you to those parents who have paid for their child’s maths textbooks and brought in headphones, tissues, homework books and folders as well as other equipment. Students are really enjoying and benefiting from the activities that require them. If we could have the last few maths textbooks paid for ASAP I would really appreciate it. Home reading is looking good to start next week so expect students to start asking for signatures and dates and someone to read to if necessary.

We had some wonderful homework returned last week! Thank you to everyone who put so much effort into it. Great to see! I have kept the loose sheet homework so it can be glued into homework books when they are brought in. To clarify the homework for this week, there was a font malfunction in the spelling instructions and some text was omitted. If students could revise and practice these words that have special spelling: where c makes the s sound, ph makes the f sound and g makes the j sound and then list some more words that do the same if they can. If you or your child are unsure about how to complete any activity please do not hesitate to send in a note and I will explain it.

Finally, I want to congratulate everyone who participated at the swimming carnival! It turned out to be an exciting day for all who attended. We had students participating eagerly in lots of races, some even winning their heats. Many students had enormous fun doing activities with Mr Larnach. Thanks again to all those who helped to make it such a great day.

4/5 Green
Congratulations to all our fantastic competitors in the Swimming Carnival.

REMINDER – Maths Plus textbooks, $18, needs to be paid for ASAP. Those students who have paid for textbooks have begun working in them. Please contact myself or Mrs Floyd if you are experiencing difficulty in paying for textbooks.

We have been using our creativity to write some “Sizzling Starts” in our English lessons. We have started looking at the most effective strategies for engaging our readers and keeping their eyes glued to our writing. Here are a few examples;

“Stop that, you crazy rats” yelled Tim. He had been stuck in the dungeon for longer than he could remember. Liam J.

“Yes! I’m flying” said the dragon but before he knew it he was in a tree. Will H.

“Mrs Floyd, a tree is eating the kids” yelled Molly. We needed a shovel to kill the tree! Isabell B.

5 Orange
What an amazing start to the term! We have continued to develop our understanding of the daily 5 and most students are able to work through each of the elements independently. We have begun our literacy unit on the text “When the Rainforest Meets the Sea”.

Well done to everyone that completed their homework and got it in on time. Please remember that your child should read at least 20 minutes a day.

5/6 Black
Students have been given a diary to use this year. We have begun to incorporate our schedules and are learning to organise our time. Please check your child’s diary each day for homework.

All notes have been sent home – if you have not received them ask your child to check their bag or tote tray. A payment schedule for the Canberra excursion has been sent home. I would appreciate it if you could adhere to this schedule so that payments are not being chased by the final date.

Please remember to send in your $18 for the Maths Text Book.

MEET AND GREET

Please complete and return this slip to the office if you will be attending the Meet & Greet on this Thursday 19th February at 5.30pm.

Student name: _______________ Class: ______

Number of Sausages required:
National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy
2015 Test Dates

Dear Parent or Carer

The test dates for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test name</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Date of test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions test</td>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test</td>
<td>Writing task</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading test</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy test (Years 3 and 5)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There is one numeracy test for Years 3 and 5. (No calculator allowed.)</td>
<td>Thursday 14 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy tests (Years 7 and 9)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There are two numeracy tests for Years 7 and 9. (Calculator allowed followed by non-calculator.)</td>
<td>Thursday 14 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
<td>For students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.</td>
<td>Friday 15 May 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>