PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

We urgently need this information:
Contact details, emergency contacts and medical conditions.
Could you check the details on the form sent home at the beginning of the year are accurate, amend if necessary and return to the office signed. Even if there are no changes to your details, please return the form signed so that we know you have sighted the details and they are accurate.

If we cannot contact you in an emergency it causes undue stress to your child and school staff.

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. 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.

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.

Parent Survey Results 2014 - Part 3
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

This week’s focus is on Learning and Curriculum and the feedback we received is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning and Curriculum</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Public school has high expectations for my child</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My child finds the work interesting</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you come to a workshop to develop your understanding of our literacy and numeracy programs?</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school keeps me informed about my child’s academic progress</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning and Curriculum
I have not been informed about my child unless I have asked.
COMMENT – APS provides feedback to parents every term. Term 1 interview, Term 2 written report, Term 3 interview and Term 4 written report. Teachers contact parents if they are concerned about a student’s welfare, socialisation or academic progress.
I would like to thank the school for calling me to ask about certain things. Thanks.
I disagree with high expectations and this is a good thing as all students are different and learn at different levels, times etc.
My child loves what she does in the classroom and playground.
A great environment.
Lots of great teachers working at APS.
At the last Parent Teacher Interview, I was told my child’s handwriting was not legible, why wasn’t I told earlier.
I can see an improvement in my child, so I say thank you APS staff.

Homework
Weekly homework is not useful, it does not appear to teach or improve skills.
Too much homework at times, - children learn at school all day and are then expected to do a lot of homework and it is wrong.
I do not think homework is necessary or that it should be on reports, but I do think projects are great for learning research at home.
It makes no difference if they do it or not.
I’d like to know if homework is helping the progress of my child – if not is it necessary?
Too much homework when both parents work.
I do not believe in a lot of homework and it is hard enough with other afternoon activities.
Found it much better getting homework on a Thursday and handing it in on a Wednesday.
Homework needs to be set each week and marked each week.
More emphasis on Maths is required. A card game (or dice) does not encourage them to do it and becomes boring and repetitive. This goes for all sheets as the same ones are not encouraging them. Variety allows students to learn the same concept but in different ways, allowing students who don’t understand one method the opportunity to learn the concept in another way. Consistency in sending homework is also important. These also need to be at the correct level for the student and if they need a higher level book, then this should be accessible. Sometimes an explanation of an activity with examples for a parent is also useful.
Notify parents when homework is not handed in or not on time.
Love what you do.
I think homework should be reading at home and the rest done at school. If it needs to be given, give them the weekend to do it as well. Spelling homework should be every night.

Some spelling games to do at home.
Homework is often the first time spelling words are seen. More understanding about word origin and definition would help relevance.
My child likes spelling.
Words should be linked – currently 2 or 3 words linked and that is all.
Does need a bit more attention.
My son needs lots of help here.
I would like to know the spelling results each week as my children don’t tell us and say don’t know.
I am happy with my children’s spelling improvement, very proud.
Glad to see spelling system already being improved.
I would recommend APS to parents as this is a great school. The only small thing that I’d love is the school wear becomes more affordable. Great Job APS!

Michelle Floyd – Principal

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Week 5 Term 1
K Yellow Abbergail N. - fantastic work in guided reading.
K Lime Lilly B. excellent reading of her sight words.
1 Blue Alice D. - always being kind and considerate to others.
2 Purple Lexie W. – showing greater independence.
2/3 Red Jackson D. - excellent behaviour & attitude in class.
3/4 Magenta Abigail M. – striving for excellence in all areas.
4/5 Green Brodie H. - being a mature and responsible leader in class
5 Orange Danielle S. - terrific work ethic.
5/6 Black Takira W-G. - excellent initiative and competence during computer activities.

Merit Awards
K Yellow Noah L.
K Lime Cameron D.
1 Blue Reilyn G.
2 Purple Chloe C.
2/3 Red Malaki P.
3/4 Magenta Ryan P.
4/5M Green Seth I.
5 Orange Jack F.
5/6 Black Kasey-Leigh P.

Kids Matter Awards
K Yellow Charly S. Happiness
K Lime Ethan N. Responsibility
1 Blue Connor L. Responsibility
2 Purple Jacob B. Persistence
2/3 Red Summer D. Happiness
3/4 Magenta Melissa C. Happiness
4/5 Green Phoenix McL. Confidence
5 Orange Liam B. Happiness
5/6 Black Hannah F. Confidence

SPELLING
Repetition – love what you do.
All good.
P & C NEWS
Attention all parents and caregivers.
Our next P & C meeting will be held at 4pm on Wednesday 18th March. This meeting will include our AGM.
We need to form a committee as the P & C provides a vital service to our school community including a canteen for our students.
It is through their fundraising efforts that we have the many resources we currently have.
Please make the effort to come along to this important meeting and see our refurbished library.
Children are welcome (The P & C will provide dinner for all children. Please RSVP).

Amanda Wilks – President

CANTEEN
Thank you to all the people who are volunteering their time in the canteen. Without your help the canteen would close. Roster for the next week is:

Wednesday 25th February
Kelly McMahon
Melinda Jordan

Friday 27th February
Toni Partridge
Kate Surawski

Monday 2nd March
Kelly McMahon
Susan Rivers

If you cannot make a shift please contact Kelly McMahon 0488134550
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.

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.

Upper Hunter Shire Council is supporting Australia’s biggest community participation event, Clean Up Australia Day. We invite you to help make a difference to our Shire and our local environment.

Clean Up Australia Day activities in Scone
Sunday 1 March 2015
Meet at Elizabeth Park near the BBQ area at 10:30am.
Clean Up is followed by a BBQ for all volunteers.
For more information or to register your interest - phone Community Services Officer Amanda Catzikiris on 6540 1153.

For Clean Up information in other areas throughout the Shire, please visit Council’s website www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au or contact Upper Hunter Shire Council – Scone Administration Centre on 6540 1100, Merriwa Branch Office on 6521 7000 or Murrurundi Branch Office on 6540 1350.

CRUNCH & SIP NEWSLETTER SNIPPETS
Children rarely drink enough during break times at school and often forget to drink unless reminded. Dehydration can cause poor concentration, headaches and irritability. Be sure to pack a water bottle for your child to drink from during Crunch & Sip.

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

SCONE FILMS
Scone Films will screen Pride, M, on Friday 27th January, at 7.30pm at the Senior Citizen's Centre, Oxford Road, Scone. This comedy stars Bill Nighy & Imelda Staunton. Critics say that it's a cross between Billy Elliot & The Full Monty and "Laugh your socks off funny."
As always, there is a warm welcome for everyone. You don’t have to be a member. Come with some friends, or come on you own and make some new friends there. Refreshments available.
Entry is open to all at $10. Tickets at the door, or in advance from Serendipity, Scone. Doors open 7.15pm. For insurance, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Details are on the website www.sconefilms.org.au

FORTHCOMING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debating MSPS 12.20pm</td>
<td>Scone High School Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>Friday 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>Zone League Muswellbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th</td>
<td>Wednesday 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRC Cake Stall</td>
<td>SRC Cake Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th – Fri 20th</td>
<td>Wed 18th – Fri 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kia Ora Music Camp</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 4.00pm in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th</td>
<td>Friday 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>K – 2 Happy Tooth Visit 2pm</td>
<td>K – 2 Happy Tooth Visit 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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</table>
ABERDEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE
Homework is one method Aberdeen Public School employs to involve parents and students in a range of educational activities. Homework should be meaningful and provide opportunities for consolidation, extension or enrichment of school work. The use of homework in this way extends the education opportunities of students.

Homework is also an important link between school and the home setting and should allow parents an insight into the work their child is completing at school and the needs of their child.

GUIDELINES:
• Regular homework will be set on week nights, Monday to Thursday. Additional tasks may be set according to the needs of the class program.
• Homework should take a student no more than: 10min Kindergarten, 15min Stage 1, 30min Stage 2 and 40min Stage 3.
• Children will be expected to complete homework unless parents request otherwise.
• When homework is consistently incomplete, over a 3 week period, the classroom teacher will notify parents.
• Parents will be notified by the class teacher at the beginning of the year as to the amount and type of homework that will be appropriate for each child at their stage level.

PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY
Parents can enrich the homework experience through active interest and involvement.
• Make sure homework is completed satisfactorily.
• Contact the class teacher if difficulties are experienced.

STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY:
Students can gain revision, consolidation and extension by completing homework tasks. It is the student’s responsibility to:
• Complete set homework and return it to school on the correct date.
• Complete set homework neatly.
• Inform class teacher if experiencing any difficulties with their homework tasks.

TEACHER’S RESPONSIBILITY
Teachers believe homework is a way to extend the teacher/parent partnership. It is the teacher’s responsibility to:
• Set homework according to the child’s stage and development level.
• Mark or follow up all activities that have been set for homework.
• Notify parents when homework is incomplete. Please note: Teachers know that from time to time students are not able to complete homework tasks for a variety of reasons ranging from personal illness, personal activities outside of school hours, etc. When this happens parents are requested to write a short note to the class teacher.