Welcome back to 2015. The children appeared happy to be back at school, an enjoyable first week was had by all.
I am pleased to inform you that we have an enrolment of 2015 and 9 classes in 2015.

**Our classes are:**
5/6 Black – Hayley Pennell
5 Orange – Allan Larnach
4/5 Green – Bianca Mooring
3/4 Magenta – Renee Jones
2/3 Red – Daniel Ramage
2 Purple – Louise Dunn
1 Blue – Louise Birch
Kinder Lime – Ashlee Keating
Kinder Yellow – Jackie Murray

**School Fence**
Our new fencing has been completed today. Please ensure that you close the gates properly when entering and leaving the school. We would really like to stress the importance of this process to ensure the safety of our students.

**2/3 Red**
2/3 Red and Mr Ramage are temporarily located in the hall. They will be there until our Assets Management Unit provides more permanent accommodation for their use.

**Assembly**
Our first formal assembly for the year will be this Friday at 9am in the school hall. All parent and friends are welcome. Award receivers are listed in the newsletter on the Tuesday before the assembly.

**Toilet Upgrade**
The toilets are fully operational and in use. What a huge difference as you can see from the before and after photos.

**Boys Toilet**
Before  
After

**Girls Toilet**
Before  
After
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.

Contact Details
Every student has had a form sent home today 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.

General Consent Forms
All students (except Kindergarten who have already completed the forms) will be given General Consent Forms today. Each student is to have the form completed and signed and returned to school as soon as possible.
At various times throughout the year students from the school will benefit educationally by short local excursions.
These excursions involve teachers and students walking safely on recognised paths and crossings. To overcome the requirements for constantly sending out permission notes we request that parents complete the “Blanket” permission note covering all local excursions in 2015.
Please note that you will be advised prior to these excursions taking place. All other excursions involving bus travel and water activities will require a special permission note.
Permission is also required for students to view PG (Parental Guidance Recommended) movies at school and on excursions.

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. 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.

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 2 Term 1
K Yellow Jack D. - excellent counting skills.
K Lime Emity C. - being super excited to learn in her first week of kindergarten.
1 Blue Connor S. - starting the year with a terrific attitude.
2 Purple Anabelle M. – being a star pupil.
2/3 Red Jackson D. – a conscientious start to the year.
3/4 Magenta Lucy McC. - setting an excellent example for her peers.
4/5 Green Lila B. - commitment to learning.
5 Orange Jye F. – willing to help others and his teacher.
5/6 Black Cody B. - an excellent attitude for the start of the year.

Merit Awards
K Yellow Sienna H.
K Lime Tyreece C.
1 Blue Kelsea R.
2 Purple Ethan W.-G.
2/3 Red Kristen S.
3/4 Magenta Brock P.
4/5 Green Cailey G.
5 Orange Maxyne E.
5/6 Black Brianna H.

Kids Matter Awards
K Yellow Eden H. Confidence
K Lime Sophie W. Confidence
1 Blue Tamika R. Happiness
2 Purple Samson E. Honesty
2/3 Red Angus S. Respect
3/4 Magenta Lara E. Persistence
4/5 Green Bryce B. Honesty
5 Orange Hayley M. Happiness
5/6 Black Mason C. Responsibility

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.
The P and C Association meeting is set out in the form of an Agenda. The Agenda sets the order of discussion/reporting and the topics for discussion. The Agenda allows time for all formal reports from the Principal and various subcommittees. Issues that
need discussion from the previous meeting and new general business item. During the meeting opportunity for any questions, queries and suggestions is made available for all those in attendance.

Our next meeting is:
Wednesday 18th February @ 6.30pm in the school Library. New members welcomed.

CANTEEN
Welcome back to school. A special welcome to all the new students starting. For the parents that don’t know the canteen is open on Mondays and Fridays for recess and lunch (lunch orders both days) then on Wednesdays for ice blocks/chips and drinks only at lunchtime. 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.

KIA ORA MUSIC CAMP (Stages 2 and 3 only)
The 2015 Upper Hunter Shire & Kia Ora Youth Music Camp will be held Wednesday 18th March, Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March 2015. This is Week 8, Term 1. Yes it is early this year!
Closing date for enrolment is Friday 20th February, 2015.
Parental Consent forms are to be filled out and returned to your school. Enrolment forms and payment is to be sent directly to the Upper Hunter Shire Council. We strongly recommend instrumental and vocal students participate in this camp. Three days of intensive tuition gives them a flying start to the rest of the year. The instrumentalists will be given elective choices between Junk Percussion, Aussie Bush Dance /Music, Choir, Jazz and Hip Hop dance once advanced musicians have been chosen to participate in the Big Band or chamber ensemble.
A piano workshop with Jian-Franco Ricci will be held on 14 March at venue to be confirmed. A student will be chosen to play at the Kia Ora Concert on 20 March from this workshop. The string section will have a special focus for beginners as well as catering for the more advanced. Acceptance to the Music Camp will be on a “first in first accepted basis”. Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity.
Camp cost is $65 per student. Band students will be given a note tomorrow and any other interested students can collect a note from the front office.

Women’s Course at TAFE – Certificate II in Skills for Work & Training
Aimed at women who’ve been out of the workforce for a while or never worked outside the home, this is a great course for women thinking of returning to the workforce or pursuing further education. Only 3 days per week from 9.30 – 2pm this semester at Muswellbrook TAFE, you’ll build confidence, make friends and learn new skills in a supportive, fun atmosphere. You’ll develop computing and job seeking skills as well as brush up on communication, maths and green science. The course also includes 1 week of work experience and the opportunity to gain a First Aid Certificate. Please phone Maree on 65 787 128 for more information and to ensure you don’t miss out.
2015 – a year for learning!

FORTHCOMING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th</td>
<td>NRL Visit 1.50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 18th</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 6.30pm in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 19th</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Wed 18th – Fri 20th</td>
<td>Kia Ora Music Camp</td>
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School Banking Day is on a Monday. Please bring your bank book and money to the office first thing in the morning.
Class News

Class K Yellow
Kindergarten has had a fantastic start to the year! Everyone seems to be happily settling in. We have been doing lots of exciting things and are getting to know each other well.
Of a morning when students sit in their class lines for the assembly everyone has their fruit break. I would like to see Kindergarten starting to do this. So if you could pack in some fruit that they can sit and eat in this time that would be great. It’s a great way to start off the day!
Thank you to those who have sent in our class supplies. The headphones and paint shirts will be kept at school and returned at the end of the year. We will soon be using the headphones every day and need to have them ready to go.
For our Maths program students will be supplied with a Maths Plus work book. These are $18 each. So if you could please make your payment to the office for these, so we can begin using them, it would be appreciated.
If you have any questions, concerns or would just like to have a chat please do not hesitate to see me at school or call to organise a time.

Class K Lime
Welcome to our very first Newsletter for 2015. I am super excited to be teaching Kindergarten Lime this year and already we have had a wonderful time together. We have a beautiful class and everyone is quickly making friends.
We have started learning our sounds and are focusing on one per day starting yesterday. Firstly we did the sound ‘s’ and today we did the sound ‘a’. It would be fantastic if you could ask your child about the sound of the day, they may even like to sing you the song or even try to show you how to write the letter that makes that sound.
Each week on a Friday morning at 9am we will be having an assembly in the hall. Parents are always welcome and we always advertise on a Tuesday who will be receiving awards on the coming Friday.
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. We will be starting our maths program on Monday next week and it would be wonderful if you could please make the payment of $18 ASAP as unfortunately we cannot give students the textbooks until they have been paid for.
I have noticed how hungry my students are getting by recess so I wanted to promote the importance of fruit break. As a whole school, we use morning assembly time as our opportunity to eat some fruit which will get our brains going and keep them going until 11am. If you could ensure your child has some fresh fruit ready to go for morning assembly (lines under the cola), that would be great. I will start to ask them to get it out and eat it up!
Thank you very much to the parents who have sent in tissues, glue. No pencil cases please, save that for large boxes of tissues, a folder and a set of headphones. No pencil cases please, save that for year 3.
Thank you, Louise Dunn.

Class 1 Blue
Welcome back to school for 2015!
We have been busy settling into our room and building routines to help the rest of the term move along smoothly. It is great to see all the students turning up in correct uniform, a trend I hope to see continued throughout the year.
Students will have their library day on Wednesday this term and I am very impressed to see so many library bags already coming in anticipation.
I am looking for helpers! Especially in the first few weeks to cover students’ books and make play dough. If anyone is able to help cover books please let me know, even covering just a few will make it easier as there are so many things to do and make at the beginning of the year.
I hope everyone has a terrific start to the term and I look forward to an awesome year! 😊

Class 2 Purple
Welcome to 2 Purple. My name is Louise Dunn and I will be your child’s teacher this year.
Thank you for ensuring that your child is in correct uniform and that they have food to eat for recess and lunch.
Just a reminder that the children need to bring in two large boxes of tissues, a folder and a set of headphones. No pencil cases please, save that for year 3.
Thank you, Louise Dunn.

Class 2/3 Red
Welcome everybody to a brand new school year in 2/3 Red. There will be lots of notes going home in the next few weeks regarding class organisation and important reminders. Please take note of the Maths Plus payment of $18.00 which is due as soon as possible.
Thank you to those parents who have sent in tissues and stationery for the class to use. An equipment list went out last year but another one is going out with a class organisation note this week. The only real change to the equipment list is that when possible if you could purchase some whiteboard textas for your child to use on their board that would be appreciated. You may or may not be aware that we have had to set up a temporary classroom in the hall with the expected arrival on a new classroom some time in Term 2. The students have settled well into their new surroundings, complete with their own en suite and massive games room! Feel free to come down for a visit.
Regards, Mr Ramage.
Class 3/4 Magenta
My name is Renee Jones (Miss Jones) and I will be the classroom teacher for the students in 3/4 Magenta this year. I am looking forward to guiding your child on their educational journey in 2015. Our classroom is room 3, located up the stairs from the office.

I am sending home an information letter outlining our general routine and requirements for the year. If you have any concerns or issues about your child please do not hesitate to contact me. I can feel 2015 is going to be a great year.

Yours in teaching, Renee Jones

Class 4/5 Green
Congratulations to all our class members who have come along to 4/5 Green with outstanding manners, neat and tidy uniforms and a positive attitude to start the year. We look forward to learning lots of new and exciting things this year. I am delighted to be teaching years 4/5 again and look forward to meeting with parents as the term progresses.

Please look out for our class information note.

Class 5 Orange
Welcome to 5 Orange. We have had an exciting start to the new year and setting up routines. This year we will be implementing a literacy based system that consolidates independent work habits allowing the teacher to meet with individuals and small groups to set and work to achieve individual learning goals while the rest of the class is engaged in worthwhile literacy activities. On Monday we discussed the "Read to Self" component. Please ask your children what this means or alternatively come and see me. It requires students to select a book that interests them and has some challenges when reading. If there is a book at home your child can bring or they can select one form the library (Tuesday mornings).

We have set up Class Dojo and sent home parent and student passwords. It is an easy way to stay in touch as when you send a message it pops up as an email.

My classroom is always open so feel free to come in to visit.

Cheers Allan Larnach

Class 5/6 Black
Welcome to 2015! We have quite a busy year planned and are looking forward to the Canberra excursion and Year 6 Mini Fete already.

A payment schedule for the Canberra excursion has been finalised and will be sent home today. I would appreciated it if you could adhere to this schedule so that payments are not being chased by the final date.

Students have been given a diary to use this year. We have begun to incorporate our schedules and are learning to organise our time.

Our maths books have arrived and are ready to purchase at a cost of $18. This can be done at the office.
**Road safety** around your child’s school

Your child’s safety depends on you

**Drop off and pick up by car**

Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.

Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about.

Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing wig wag lights.

Always park and turn legally around schools. Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.

Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school’s designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.

It’s safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.

**Walking together to and from school**

Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.

Always hold your child’s hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.

Talk with your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.

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.

Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

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Did you know your child is learning about road safety at school?