PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Music Camp

Together Mikayla, Daniel, Elizabeth, Hannah, Bella, Delta, Will, Cailey Toby, Ethan, Drew, Savannah, Lillian and Lucy attended the wonderful 3 day Kia-Ora Youth Music Camp in Scone. Between them they participated in jazz, hip-hop, Aussie bush dance, choir, junk percussion, concert band and strings workshops. They all then performed in a small tutorial group and then again in the grand finale 'Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho'. Will received a half scholarship from the Conservatorium for a year’s tuition in cello. All had a brilliant time and can’t wait till next year! To quote Delta, ‘Overall the Kia-Ora camp was such a fun and educational experience.’ I would like to thanks Mrs Hill for organising this opportunity for the students.

Scone School Rugby League Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this day. The children displayed excellent behaviour and sportsmanship. Thank you to the coaches, parents and teachers for their support.

School Hours

A reminder that Aberdeen Public School students commence class at 8.55am and finish at 2.55pm.
Homework

I found this article interesting reading and thought you might be interested in reading it too. After reading the article if you have any comments please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Homework debate requires a reality check

by Brett Henebery

18 Mar 2015

If homework is a bridge between school and home, it must be lighter, narrower and more flexible, says NSW Parents Council (NSWPC) CEO, Noel Hadjmichael.

Hadjmichael says that times have changed since the days when students undertaking homework was an automatic expectation of parents, and attributes part of the shift to the emergence of social media and mobile devices as ‘distracting’ influences.

“The bridge that we built 10 years ago with higher expectations of more homework, more accountability and reporting was perhaps built with the wrong material,” Hadjmichael told The Educator.

“Maybe it was built too wide and we're driving too much data, pressure and information over it. Perhaps it should be narrower, lighter and more flexible - and maybe some people should not walk over the bridge at all.”

Hadjmichael said that the NSWPC’s position on homework may surprise some.

“We’re actually not in favour of homework for homework’s sake, however we are in favour of schools individually setting the homework level at a level where parents and the school feel as appropriate,” Hadjmichael explained.

"If the school allows students to opt out, we're very committed to the decision being left with the parents and not just the child saying 'I'm not going to do it' or 'I can't do it' or 'it's all too much'.

"It's got to be a considered decision."

Hadjmichael pointed to the pressures that homework can place on parents who are often expected to help problem-solve their child’s academic papers late at night after a long day at work.

"The last thing you want is for a mum and dad at nine o'clock at night to get grumpy at a kid and be doing their homework for them,” Hadjmichael said.

"We believe that homework is a great thing for primary schoolers if it's at the right level and it builds confidence and a good routine."

The NSWPC, through the Australian Parents Council (APC), ran a project 10 years ago based on research suggesting that homework was important and that parents should be involved. However, Hadjmichael says the world has now changed.

"What's happened in the last 10 years is that the world has moved on and primary school kids are now much more distracted with social media and other commitments. They've too many devices at their fingertips and it's all getting too much for them. "The 10 year-old a decade ago is very different to the 10 year-old of 2015”.

Hadjmichael concluded by citing a Telegraph.co.uk report which found that 5% of UK parents exclusively did their kids homework; however, one in five had homework-related arguments with their child three times a month. “Is it really helping to be arguing?” Hadjmichael asked.

Michelle Floyd – Principal
• P&C Commitment of $1000 each year towards Term 3 Zumba lessons for all students.

Did you know that the P&C had contributed over $70,000 back into the school over the past 4 yrs? The awning at the front of the hall, the multi-purpose court and the playground equipment on the top oval, the XO computers in the K-2 room to name a few. We are on the look-out for what YOU think our school needs.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our next meeting 20th May 6.30pm in the library or feel free to pass ideas along to any of our committee members.

Items in the pipeline include a nature garden on the top oval, a path way on the grass area in front of the kinder rooms which the P&C will contribute funds to.

**Easter Raffle**
A reminder that ALL tickets sold or unsold need to be returned to the office by this Friday. We are still after donations for our raffle, these can be left at the office or with your child’s class teacher. Thank you to all those who have donated items and returned sold tickets.

**CANTEEN**
We are in desperate need for canteen volunteers for next term. We mainly have Wednesdays and Fridays to fill. Wednesdays are from 1pm-2pm only selling ice blocks/chips and drinks. Fridays are from 8.30-2pm. If you can only spare an hour or so that’s ok we will slot you into whatever suits you. If we cannot fill the roster the canteen will be closed on the days that we don't have any volunteers.

We have some new products available in the canteen.

**Zombie Chips**: chicken, bbq or cheese 20gram. These are gluten free, no artificial colours or flavours (contains milk or soy products, may contain traces of nuts). Selling at 50 cents a packet.

**Billiken Chews**: These are about 5cm long (5grams) and are a fruit chew. These are gluten free, may contain traces of nuts. Selling for 10 cents each.

**Peach Flavoured Water**: Selling for $1.50.

If you are able to help out with canteen or have any questions about a product please call/text me. Kelly – 0488134550

**EASTER EGG HUNT K – 2**
Next Thursday, 2nd April, K – 2 will embark on an Easter Egg Hunt. If your child is lactose intolerant or unable to eat chocolates, could you please notify the school. Students can bring their own baskets if they wish but we will be making them. Regards Mrs Dunn

**SRC NEWS - PURPLE DAY FOR EPILEPSY**
On Thursday 26th March we will be supporting Purple Day. Purple Day is a national day that acknowledges the challenges faced by people affected by epilepsy in our families, schools and communities. During the day students participate in activities in class to show our support and raise awareness about epilepsy.

**FORTHCOMING DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>K – 2 Happy Tooth Visit 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Epilepsy Awareness Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>P &amp; C Easter Raffle Tickets Due Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Last day of school term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stage 3 Netball at Muswellbrook South Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term 2 for students commences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holiday Soccer Coaching Clinic and Inflatable Field**

**WHEN**: Monday 13th April  
**WHERE**: Bill Rose Sports Complex, Scone  
**TIME**: 10-12pm  
**COST**: $10 per player  
To book a spot email nwestern@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au or call 0414-806074

Julie’s Family Day Care in Aberdeen has a vacancy on a Tuesday and a Wednesday commencing 20th April 8am – 3.30pm. All enquiries to 0400 346 942
FREE - books to borrow for your child.

Plus story time with songs, rhymes, puppets, music and much more...

**When:** Thursday afternoons in school term 2015
Starting 5th March 2015

**Time:** 3.30pm – 4.15 pm

**Where:** Aberdeen Public Library
Moray St, Aberdeen NSW 2336

For more information phone Anne on 0451 3000 or email familyinsight.org.au
Elizabeth at Source Library 6540 1183

---

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

**APRIL 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRANCH</th>
<th>DATE &amp; TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen Library:</td>
<td>Friday 10 April 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Scratch Paper Art – Icon 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Basket Weaving – Unit 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlereagh Library:</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 April 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Remembering the ANZACS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ANZAC Lestem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ANZAC Wreath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Creating ANZAC Biscuits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merivale Library:</td>
<td>Tuesday 7 April 11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Story/Craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Story/Craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Butterfly and social issues and community agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moruya Library:</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 April 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Basket Weaving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Biscuit and Chocolate Baking &amp; Paint Making</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dreamcatchers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ANZAC activities – Biggest Hit 10 Fiction Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Library:</td>
<td>Wednesday 15 April 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Emergency Wringle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Storytime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Autumn craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian activities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ANZAC Remembrance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Spongebob, ANZAC craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Friday 17 April 10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Youth Week**

**10-15 APRIL 2015**

**Roll Up Roll Up.**

**Circus Skills at Murrukundri**

**Date:** Friday 10 April

**Where:** Murrumbidgee Oval, Murrukundri Sporting Complex

**Time:** 1.00pm – 2.00pm

**Who is invited:** All Upper Hunter young people, aged 10 to 18

**Cost:** Free (includes some snacks and water for participants)

**Outline of Activities:** Circus Skills workshops which will include Juggling, Flower Sticks, Di, Spinning Plates, Balancing Equipment (stilts, Roller skates, various balancing toys), Mark Oben, biscuit, Bicycle, Circus Hoops & more

**Also Available:** Sausage sizzle lunch, fairy floss, Snow cones, Popcorn

**Transport Options:** Free Bus & Train Service – RSVP essential

**Marumbidgee Bus from Casino Leave 8.00am. Return 4.00pm**

**Seities Bus from Youth Centre Leave 10.00am**

**Wingecarribee Bus leaves from outside the House 10.00am**

**RSVP:** youthevents@upperhuntervalley.nsw.gov.au. Wednesday 8 April

---

**MAJESTIC CINEMAS**

**Singleton**

21 Ryan Ave
ph: 0571 5252 83
Join us on Facebook www.majesticcinemas.com.au

**ALL YOU NEED IS THIS VOUCHER!**

**$9.90* ($11.90 FOR 3D)**

**ALL TICKETS!**

Bring this coupon to Majestic Cinemas Singleton for a $9.90 movie ticket ($11.90 3D)

Valid Until 30/04/2015

*Conditions - coupon must be surrendered to receive ticket. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon valid for up to 4 tickets per use.

**Have you downloaded our latest communication tools?**

Install the Aberdeen Public School App for FREE in the App Store and Play Store.

Like our Facebook page and keep up to date with what's happening at A.P.S.
What makes a positive school community?

“Mum, Miss Collins told me to be sure you go to the school for the meeting tonight. She says it’s very important.” “You’re not in trouble, are you Omar? Teachers only ask parents to come to school when there is a problem, don’t they?” “No Mum. She says she is looking forward to meeting you.”

When Rasheeda got to the meeting it wasn’t as she had expected. Lots of other parents were there and they were talking with each other and with the teacher. It seemed quite friendly. The teacher explained what the children would be learning in school this term and then asked the parents to talk to two different people they didn’t know.

Rasheeda felt a bit shy about this. Luckily, the other parents at her table started talking to her. They asked her what school was like in her home country. “Oh, very different!” she told them. “Over there the teacher talks and the children listen. They don’t learn in groups. They start early and they go home at lunchtime.” The other parents seemed interested.

Miss Collins also spoke with her. “Rasheeda, I wonder if there’s anything more you would like to know about how Omar is going or what we are doing at school? We want to be sure you feel welcome, so if there is anything the school can do to help you or Omar settle in, please let us know.”

Positive school communities create opportunities for families, children and staff to feel included.
What feeling included is all about

Children come from an endless range of different families, backgrounds, cultures and religions. They also have a variety of interests, learning styles and abilities. Despite all of these differences, everyone should feel included and welcome within their school community.

Positive school communities create opportunities for children, families and staff to feel included. They make help and support accessible and find lots of ways to invite people to take up the support being offered. They help everyone benefit from understanding experiences and cultures that may be different to their own.

When children feel included, when they are part of a community that promotes inclusion and respect for everybody, they show more caring and compassion towards others, and they feel safer and more secure. They are also better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. In a positive school community every face has a place, every voice is valued, and everyone has something to contribute.

School communities from around Australia chose care, compassion, respect, understanding and inclusion as important values for children to understand. These are things that children can learn about. The best learning happens when children see the adults around them putting values like these into practice. Feeling included is important for mental health, and is supported best when diversity is respected and valued.

Some ways of showing people they are welcomed and included at school

- Display information, posters, and artwork that reflect the diversity in the school community.
- Provide information in appropriate languages, verbally, where possible, as well as in written form.
- Cater to specific needs where possible (eg dietary needs, access needs).
- Publicly celebrate diversity (eg diverse families, cultures, languages and values).

Being included and learning to include and respect others are very important for children’s social development.

Being included promotes belonging and connectedness, which are also key factors for supporting children’s mental health and wellbeing.

How parents and carers can help

- Get to know other families, take an interest in others’ different backgrounds as well as what you have in common.
- Set up a ‘buddy’ system where families who have been at the school for a while buddy up with new families to provide welcome and support.
- Encourage children to include and appreciate others’ cultural and individual differences.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

beyondblue
APS Australian Psychological Society
Principals Australia Institute Learning, Leading