PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Respect
Last week and over the coming fortnight we are focusing on the value RESPECT. The majority of our students consistently show respect and manners, however, we do have processes in place when this does not happen.

In the Classroom
If a student shows a lack of respect towards fellow students, visitors to our school or teachers they are given a verbal warning. Each incident after the initial warning is then recorded on a White Note. Once two incidents are recorded on the white note the student is given time out of the classroom. On the third occasion they receive a detention and the white note is sent home to parents to sight and sign. If the student does not return the note to school the next day they will remain on detention until the note is returned.

In the Playground
If disrespect is shown in the playground students are placed on time out or given a detention.

Please be assured that our school staff want to work with students and parents to achieve the best outcomes for all students. However, if a child persists in being disrespectful they will lose the privilege of representing our school, attending an excursion or participating in a school event.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent teacher interviews will be held in the coming weeks. Please keep your eye out for a note from your child’s teacher advertising their interview day and times available.

Zone Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to the following students; Marley P, Rhys N., Mason C. and Ella C., who achieved the times needed to represent our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival on Friday 20th February. Although unsuccessful in making it through to the next level, these students should be proud of their achievements. We would like to thank Suellen Constable for her report as we rely on parents who attend these events to provide us with details.

Congratulations Debating Team
A big congratulations to the APS Debating Team who were victorious in their first debate against Mount Pleasant Public School, as part of Coal Festival. We were the negative team in the debate, “Renewable resources should take the place of coal”. Our team was Bella-Rose P. (1st speaker), Dan Mc. (2nd speaker), Delta H. (3rd speaker), Kasey-Leigh P. (silent speaker) and Breanna C. (researcher and contributor). Our next debate will be held at Aberdeen Public School against Scone Public School at a date to be confirmed.

Michelle Floyd – Principal
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Week 5 Term 1
K Yellow  Lauchlan D. – fantastic reading skills.
K Lime   Grace G. - for being a happy, hardworking member of K Lime.
1 Blue   Joan R. - sharing her excellent math skills and knowledge with others.
2 Purple Steven W. – improvements in writing.
2/3 Red  Matilda H. - excellent effort in maths.
3/4 Magenta Seth F. - striving for excellence in mathematics.
4/5 Green Will H. – enthusiastic contributions to class discussions.
5 Orange Meagan P. – always demonstrating our school values of truth, goodness and beauty.
5/6 Black Shantelle B. – continued excellent behaviour and a responsible attitude.

Merit Awards
K Yellow  Eli F.
K Lime   Adeline H.
1 Blue   Rylee K.
2 Purple William G.
2/3 Red  Rossi L.
3/4 Magenta Brooklyn M.
4/5M Green Dan C.
5 Orange Shania G.
5/6 Black Caitlin B-Mc.

Kids Matter Awards
K Yellow  Saxten H. Honesty
K Lime   Dylan S. Happiness
1 Blue   Bronx G. Confidence
2 Purple Lexie W. Confidence.
2/3 Red  Luke D. Respect
3/4 Magenta Vanessa H. Success
4/5 Green Toby B. Happiness
5 Orange Josh E. Persistence
5/6 Black Kobii C. Success

ASSEMBLY
Assembly is held each Friday at 9am in the hall. All parents and friends are welcome to attend. School Swimming Carnival awards will be given out at this Friday's assembly.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
School Cross Country will be held on Friday 13th March with the Zone Cross Country on the 27th March in Muswellbrook. Students will walk down to the course straight after recess to compete. They will finish at school no later than 12 noon.

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

P&C Easter Raffle
The P&C is in the process of organising our annual Easter raffle. We are after some prize donations from families within our school. Prizes can be chocolate eggs, colouring books, pencils, anything that can be added to the prize pool. We are hoping to have 5 prizes. All prizes can be left at the office or with your class teacher.
All students will receive a book of 10 tickets next week to sell. Tickets will be $1 each. Tickets are to be returned by Friday 27th March. Raffle will be drawn Tuesday 31st March. All proceeds will go to improvements within the school.

CANTEEN NEWS
Wednesday 4th March
Nat McCamley
Friday 6th March
Michelle Ison
Mel Jordan
Monday 9th March
Amanda Wilks
Linda Turner

If you cannot make a shift please contact Kelly 0488134550, thankyou

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
The students of Aberdeen Public School were enthusiastic helpers last Friday for Clean Up Australia Day. Let’s hope our school and community stays clean after all of their efforts.

CANBERRA EXCURSION DEPOSITS
The Stage 3 Canberra excursion deposits were due on Friday 27th February. At this stage there are still some outstanding deposits. Please pay as soon as possible so that we can organise which parents will be attending. There have been expressions of interest from 18 parents to attend this excursion. As you can appreciate, we have students with special needs attending the excursion and their parents will be given priority. Parents attending the excursion will be notified once deposits have been paid.
The next instalment is due on Friday 27th March $50.
The total cost for the excursion is $400 per student.

ABERDEEN PRE SCHOOL VACANCIES
Aberdeen Pre School has limited vacancies for 4 & 5 year olds. Children need to turn 4 no later than 31st July to be enrolled. Please contact Sharon at Aberdeen Pre School on 6543 7172.
Aberdeen Pre School is open from 9.15am to 3.15pm.
FORTHCOMING DATES

March
Wednesday 4th
Scone High School Orientation

Friday 6th
Zone League Muswellbrook

Wednesday 11th
SRC Cake Stall

Friday 13th
School Cross Country

Wed 18th – Fri 20th
Kia Ora Music Camp
P & C Meeting 4.00pm in the Library

Friday 20th
Crazy Hair Day

Wednesday 25th
K – 2 Happy Tooth Visit 2pm

Friday 27th
Zone Cross Country

SCONE FOOTBALL CLUB
Scone Football Club is seeking players turning 11-13 years for an Intertown team. Please contact Lesley on 0413958478 for more information.

Scone Junior Basketball Competition
Junior basketball will commence next Wednesday 4th March. Registrations can be done on the day.
Every Wednesday at Scone Basketball Stadium, Hill Street Scone.
Ages 5 to 9 years 4pm-5pm Cost $50
Ages 10 to 12 years 5pm-6pm Cost $50
Ages 13 to 17 years 5pm-6pm Cost $95
Danielle Brown is the Co-Ordinator of juniors this year. Please contact for any enquiries 0407157645.

Crunch & Sip newsletter snippets
Fresh fruit and vegetables are the best option for Crunch & Sip. Small portions of dried fruit (e.g. 4 dried apricots, 1.5 tablespoons of sultanas) are permitted, but only occasionally, e.g. once a week.
Fruit products such as fruit leathers, roll-ups and sticky muesli bars are not permitted, as they are often high in sugar.
Class News

**K Yellow**
K Yellow would love to have some parent helpers in their class. You are welcome to come in on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11:30am – 1pm or each Friday 9:30-11am we would also love to have some helpers. If you are able to come in please let me know the day that would suit you best. If you are interested but these times aren’t ideal so we can work out another time.

Last Friday I sent home a survey about reading at home. Only 4 have come back in, I would really appreciate it if you could take the time to fill these in and send them back, thank you. This week we will also be beginning our READ TO home readers, I hope you enjoy reading these stories with your child.

**K Lime**
I can’t believe it is week 6! Kinder Lime has settled in very well and are learning lots. We are loving gross motor groups on Thursday mornings, thank you to the wonderful parents who are showing up each week. We had lots of fun singing last week at assembly and are now working hard for a mini concert next term. Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we do Literacy rotations after recess, from 11:45-12:45. This is when I take small groups for reading lessons and the other students rotate through a variety of learning activities. If you would like to join us to help with small group activities I would really love it, and so will the children. If you are interested in reading to the children, practicing words or assisting on the computers for example, please let me know. Kinder Lime is quite busy already so I would like a maximum of 2 parent helpers per session. Please see me at pick up or drop off if you think this would suit you, or send a note in with your child to let me know the day you are available.

Thanks, Mrs Keating

**1 Blue**
We have had a great but busy start to the year. Some students may be getting tired and it is important to make sure students are getting a good nights sleep and a hearty breakfast to sustain them throughout the day.

Thank you very much for all the wonderful egg cartons, paper towel rolls and play dough.

Just a quick reminder about school supplies, we are still waiting on some students to bring paint shirts and head phones.

**2 Purple**
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the children on their wonderful behaviour. The children have now settled into the class routines and are beginning to show how independent they can be.

In science we are looking at how things grow and change and I would like to conduct a “Guess the Baby” competition. In order for this to work I am asking for each child to bring in a baby photo with their name on the back, which will become part of a display. All photos will be returned.

There are still four students who have not paid for their maths textbooks yet. It makes it very difficult to conduct a lesson when the children don’t have their books. Please let the school know if you need financial assistance.

At this stage I only have Mrs Midgley coming to help in the classroom. Please consider donating some of your time as it does make the world of difference to the children.

Does anyone have any spare plastic bags at home? We used all of ours for Clean Up Australia Day and we need to renew our supply as they are handy for transporting extra gear.

**3/4 Magenta**
3/4 Magenta have been working well over the last 2 weeks. We have been exploring length, properties of 3D objects, famous landmarks in Australia, sizzling starts to our writing and have even decided on a class pet!

Here is a photo of some of the 3D models we made emphasizing edges and vertices.

Clean Up Australia Day was a success with students doing a great job cleaning up some of the sidewalks around town and the Rose Garden on Friday.

Students have done an outstanding job with homework the last couple of weeks. Very well done, keep it up! Home readers are ready to go and should be read and returned as often as possible. The best way to improve reading fluency and increase vocabulary is practise, practise, practise! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards, Renee Jones
2/3 Red
An excursion note for the Aussie Bush Camp has been handed out to students in Year 3 and 4. It is essential that if you wish to attend this excursion your note and $50 deposit is returned as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for students to participate in many fun, exciting and rewarding activities, so don’t miss out! Notes regarding parent teacher interviews will be going out shortly, if the time and or day does not suit I’m happy to meet with you at another time.
Regards, Mr Ramage.

4/5 Green
This week 4/5 Green have been looking for ways that we can share our happiness with others as well as ways we can make someone else happy. One of the ways we can bring happiness to others is by making them smile. Our students have certainly been doing this during our drama lessons, we may have a new Julia Roberts or Liam Hemsworth hiding in our classroom!
Aussie Bush Camp – Deposits ($50) are due back to school this Friday and places are filling up fast so please get those deposits in. This is an exceptionally worthwhile excursion and I strongly encourage all students to attend. Remember if you are a parent who would like to come along you need to fill in the details on the note and return it to school to allow us to allocate places as soon as possible.
Be ready to learn – Our students are focused on being respectful, responsible and organised in our class to ensure they can get the most out of their learning time. Please encourage your child to start the day with a healthy breakfast to set them up for the day. We have reached the half way mark in the term and there are quite a few tired faces by the end of the day. It is important that our students understand that the effort they put in during class time will reward them in the future. Thank you for your continued support and for ensuring students get to school looking great in their uniforms.

5 Orange
Everyone in 5O has been working hard during the past fortnight. We have continued to work on our independence and stamina in reading and writing which is an essential part of the Daily 5. In science we have begun to look at living organisms in our biological unit. Last week we began to grow algae in glass jars. This week we are studying fungi; where we find it and how it grows.

5/6 Black
A big reminder to all parents that homework is VERY different for 5/6 Black this year. We are trying very hard to get students ready for all of the different changes that high school will bring. Please check your child’s diary for any homework and when it is due.
Students have begun working with the Edmodo website. It is a communication tool for teachers, students and parents that allow for discussion and evaluation of learning programs. I have uploaded all relevant notes so far this year to the Edmodo site. All students have log on details in their diary and there is a parent code for you to join the group if you wish.

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.
Introducing KidsMatter Primary

Good mental health is vital for life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life's challenges and have stronger relationships with the people around them. They are also better learners who are more likely to succeed at school. Good mental health in childhood provides a solid basis for managing changes as they grow.

On the other hand, children who are exposed to multiple stressors -- such as a family breakdown, poverty, abuse, racism, bulling, or the mental illness of a parent -- are at a higher risk of developing emotional or behavioural problems that can continue into adulthood.

It's not always possible to tell which children will develop difficulties, so it's important to consider the wellbeing of all children.

The good news is that KidsMatter Primary is all about growing healthy minds. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework that helps schools focus on the development of all their students in partnership with families. It was developed by mental health and education experts and has already made a big difference to the lives of Australian children.

Does KidsMatter Primary work?

KidsMatter Primary works because it unites all the people that influence children's mental health most -- families, school staff and the wider community.

KidsMatter Primary can help improve:
- the mental health and wellbeing of students
- the quality of their school work
- the ability of parents, carers and teaching staff to help children deal with problems
- NAPLAN results -- when schools implement KidsMatter Primary well.

KidsMatter Primary was developed in collaboration with beyondblue, the Australian Psychological Society, and the Principals Australia Institute, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and beyondblue.

How does KidsMatter Primary work?

When schools take on KidsMatter Primary, they build on the work they are already doing to support students' mental health and wellbeing. Firstly, they form an Action Team to represent the whole-school community and to coordinate and lead the implementation of the initiative. The Action Team reviews the school's current efforts across four focus areas (or 'components'). They look for ways they can strengthen these efforts, and then take action using a step-by-step planning process.

Every school is different, with different needs for their students and families. The KidsMatter Primary framework covers four components that have shown to be highly successful in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children.
Positive school community
Positive and respectful relationships at school help children and families feel that they belong and that their contributions are valued. A positive school community also gives children a sense of security that their needs will be met. Research shows that when children and families feel connected to school, children are less likely to develop mental health difficulties and are more likely to succeed academically.

Social and emotional learning for students
Learning how to manage feelings and get on with others is an important part of children's development. It helps them become better learners and feel good about themselves. Teaching children social and emotional skills as part of the school curriculum gives them tools for coping with emotions, solving problems and learning more effectively.

Working with parents and carers
In order to promote children's mental health and wellbeing, it makes sense for families and schools to work closely together. Schools can support parents and carers by providing useful parenting information and resources, and by connecting them with further assistance if required.

Helping children with mental health difficulties
It can make a significant difference when children and families are able to access mental health intervention early. KidsMatter primary schools learn to respond more effectively to children's mental health difficulties by recognizing and responding to concerns that may need follow-up. They can provide information to families and develop links with health and community agencies in their local area.

How can families help?
Families are the biggest influence on children's mental health and play a very important role in KidsMatter. Children benefit when the important people in their lives work together and have a shared understanding of their development and their needs.

KidsMatter Primary has developed a range of information sheets with parenting tips and strategies to help all Australian families support the wellbeing of their children. View them online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

If your child's school is participating in KidsMatter Primary, there are many things you can do to help make it a success:

- Read the KidsMatter Primary Information sheets to further your understanding about children's mental health.
- Develop relationships with staff, so you can share knowledge and information about how they can support your child.
- Get involved in the Action Team.
- Ask staff how KidsMatter Primary is being implemented.
- Participate in school activities to build a sense of community.
- Respond to any school requests for ideas or information.
- Talk to other parents and carers about ways the school can support your needs.
- Let the school know what skills or talents you are happy to share.

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

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Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Beyond Blue

APS Australian Psychological Society

Principal's Australia Institute

Learning Coaching

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Key points to remember around schools

4 Hold your child’s hand

As pedestrians, children can be easily distracted and are often too small to be seen by drivers. They may be unable to predict or identify dangers and tend to act impulsively.

Talk with your child about safe behaviour on the footpath – it is not a safe place to play. Include discussion on the dangers of vehicles that may be entering or exiting driveways.

Until your child is at least eight years old, hold their hand:

- on the footpath,
- in the car park,
- when crossing the road.

Up until at least 10 years old, supervise your child very closely, holding their hand when crossing the road.

If you cannot be with your child, organise for another trusted adult to accompany them.

After school, meet your child at the school gate. At the end of the school day children may be excited, distracted and tired and may not concentrate on road safety.

5 Helmet and safety on wheels

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it’s the law.

Your child’s helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand Standards. It must be securely fitted and fastened on their head.

Check that your child wears a bicycle helmet whenever playing or riding on wheels – bikes, foot scooters, rollerskates, skateboards or rollerblades. The helmet should be firmly buckled so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides. It must protect the forehead.

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they are not ready to cycle near traffic or on the road.

Children under 12 and adult riders accompanying and supervising them may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling.

When riding on the footpath, cyclists must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians. Children need to take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out. At intersections, children must dismount and wheel the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the ‘STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!’ procedure.

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