PRINCIPAL POPE’S PARAGRAPHS

What a great start to the year. It is a credit to our teachers, our parents and especially our boys and girls for working so hard and coming to school with a positive attitude for learning and cooperating with others. I have had the opportunity to visit every class and I was pleased to see so many boys and girls responding well to their teachers. Excellent examples of classroom behaviour that I have already witnessed include:

- listening carefully and thinking about their learning;
- working well with others;
- having a go and not giving up;
- using manners;
- doing your best work;
- and showing respect to all.

I have also had a few opportunities to meet boys and girls in the playground and again I have been impressed by the behaviours of many. I have seen students who are:

- including others in games;
- smiling a lot (this is a good way to make others happy);
- staying in the correct areas;
- wearing hats in the sun;
- and being safe by keeping hands, feet and objects to themselves.

I want to thank everyone who has made me feel so welcome at Ambarvale Public School. My first impressions are of a staff that is hard working, friendly and approachable. I have seen a staff that displays great care and concern for our students. Our teachers have great expectations and want our boys and girls to grow and learn as much as they can. I have met a lot of new parents at enrolment interviews and many more in the mornings and at the school gates in the afternoons. Thank you for all the friendly welcomes, introductions and smiles. It looks like our classes are well set and stable. Some changes may be necessary should there be a few more enrolments.

Congratulations to our Kindergarten teachers, mums, dads and students for such a good start to the year with assessments and settling into class. There have only been a few tears so far (some boys and girls, some mums and dads and I’m not sure about our teachers.) The other classes too are already off and running with their learning and promotion of positive behaviours and I would like to thank all our teachers, support staff and students. Also thanks to the office for such a smooth beginning to the year and all your hard work. Our office staff are our School Administration Manager Mrs White, Mrs Delaney and Mrs Ferry every second Tuesday while Mrs Delaney works in the library.
Here is another copy of the school classes and names of staff who oversee each stage or group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Additional Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Ms Vest</td>
<td>Mrs Flannery, Assistant Principal Supervising K-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KT</td>
<td>Mr Verey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1C</td>
<td>Mrs Clarke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>Mrs Musumeci</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2K</td>
<td>Mrs Flannery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Mr Byrne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4P</td>
<td>Miss Page</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>Mrs Dufield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6G</td>
<td>Mr Gray &amp; Mrs Potter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6H</td>
<td>Miss Hartley</td>
<td>Miss Hartley, Assistant Principal Supervising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5S</td>
<td>Miss Bray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/6M</td>
<td>Mrs Manning &amp; Mrs Radford</td>
<td>Assistant Principal Supervising Support Staff,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6W</td>
<td>Mrs Warren</td>
<td>Spanish and Library (Completing Support (STLA) 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mrs Carruthers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STLA</td>
<td>Mrs Friend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher/Librarian</td>
<td>Mrs Sullivan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFF/STLA/RR</td>
<td>Mrs Yewen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Teacher (RFF)</td>
<td>Senora Vera</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As I said previously in my welcome back letter there is a lot you can do to help make your child's schooling a successful and happy one -

- Promote school as important. Try and get them here regularly (all the time or nearly) and on time;
- Work with your child’s teacher and school – be positive about school and the importance of learning;
- Encourage your child to be polite and respectful and friendly to others;
- Teach them to be positive. To bounce back from problems and to try again;
- Tell them to have a go, to try their best and praise their efforts;
- Try and get them to read every day. Promote reading as fun. Read together.

**Staffing 2013:** We have had a few departures from Ambarvale PS: Mr McGillicuddy, Miss McEwan, Mrs Hammond. I am new along with Mrs Alison Warren who will take 3/6 W in the support unit and Mrs Connolly who will be our part time counsellor. Assistant Principal for the support unit is to be selected to replace Mr McGillicuddy. At the moment Miss Hartley continues to do a great job as relieving Assistant Principal for our support unit.

**Meet the Teacher afternoon:** Tuesday 19th February, 3:10pm-4.00pm
Parent/carers are encouraged to come up to school to meet their child’s teacher and find out what is planned for the year at Ambarvale Public School. Parents are encouraged to meet their child’s teacher in their child’s classroom at 3:10pm.

**Important Notes Sent Home This Week:** Please complete and return these important notes to school ASAP.
- 2013 Updating Student Information, Contacts and Medical Information note.
- Swimming Carnival note- For students in Years 3-6, and students turning 8 in Year 2.
Please read
- ‘Approaching Our School’ information sheet
Your Child’s Safety: Teachers commence supervision from 8:30am so please do not send your child to school before 8:30am. If you send your child to school before supervision commences, you are putting your child’s safety at risk.

Safety and the staff car park: Parents and students should not be using or walking through the car park at any time of the day. This is a safety issue. Please ensure you or your children don’t use this as we don’t want to encourage students to use this as an access.

Please assist your child’s school: A voluntary contribution is requested from parents to support your child’s education. The amount requested at Ambarvale PS is $20 a student or $30 a family per year. This money will be used to purchase educational equipment and the resources which are identified by teaching staff as useful in helping them provide your children with the education that we feel all children deserve. We appreciate any contributions and request that they be sent to the school office.

Reminder- We are a ‘nut aware’ school: Parents please help us to keep all students safe by ensuring your child does not bring food containing any nuts to school. We have students who are allergic to these foods and your support helps to minimise the risk of them having a potentially life threatening reaction.

‘Crunch and Sip’ Program for all students: We implement ‘Crunch and Sip’ each morning. To help your child participate, please provide your child with a water bottle and a small piece of fruit or vegetable each day. The fruit can be any variety, whole or chopped (eg. apple, chopped melon or strawberries), or vegies such as carrot or celery sticks. Other drinks or foods are not permitted in the classroom. We hope that having access to a healthy snack mid-morning will help improve students’ concentration.

Special Religious Education (Scripture): Last year parents indicated their preference of scripture classes they wished for their child/ren to attend. Please note that your child will continue in this same scripture group this year, unless parents/carers advise the school otherwise. If you wish for your child to change scripture groups please advise Ms Page by Friday 22nd of February. Kindergarten students will receive a note this week to be completed and returned. The scripture classes offered to students at our school include:

1. Catholic
2. General (Christian)
3. Non Scripture

School Website: Our school’s website is a wonderful resource for you to keep up-to date with events and information about our school. Our website address is: [http://www.ambarvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ambarvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au).

First Assembly 2013: Our first whole school assembly for 2013 will be held on Monday 25th February, beginning at 2.10pm in the hall. We will be presenting Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards at this assembly. Any student who has awards from 2012, that they can use to earn one of these higher awards, will need to bring them to their classroom teacher by Thursday 21st February so they can be presented at the assembly. Please see further details about our award system in the newsletter.

Sport House Captains: Sport House Captains will be elected at the first House meeting this Friday. All captains elected will be announced at these meetings and formally announced at our K-6 Assembly in Week 5.

P&C Meeting: Our first P&C meeting was held yesterday in the Breakfast Club Room. It was a great opportunity to meet and for parents and community to become members before our next meeting our AGM, which will be held on Monday 18th March. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. To vote or run for positions you must be a financial member ($1). Payments must be made at least 1 week prior to the AGM to be eligible for nominations and voting. Please pay your $1 to the front office and we will pass on your details to the P&C. (A receipt will be issued from the P&C).

Awards System: The following table shows how your child can reach each level in our Award System:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Number of Awards Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>5 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>10 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>15 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>25+ a Good News Letter/Aussie of the Month &amp; meeting with Principal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To receive a Platinum Award, students will also need to receive an Aussie of the Month Award or a Good News Letter, and have a meeting with the Principal. Students will be required to keep their awards in a safe place at home and bring only their merit awards to school when they have collected the correct number to trade for a Level Award e.g. for a Silver Award, students will bring in 5 merit awards (note: the student would have already traded 5 merit awards for a Bronze, which equals 10 merit awards received altogether – refer to table above). Teachers will keep a record of all awards given to students. Please note that no awards will be replaced if lost.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club provides a free service to students each Tuesday and Friday mornings. Breakfast Club is also a great opportunity for your child to connect with others while enjoying a healthy breakfast to start their day. The breakfast that is provided includes: cereal, toast, fruit and juice. This wonderful initiative is funded by Daystar Foundation and donations given to the school. To support the operation of Breakfast Club, we seek parent volunteers from 8.30 – 9am to help us serve breakfast to our students. Any time parents can give is most appreciated. Breakfast Club has begun. We look forward to seeing your children or you there. Breakfast is the perfect way to prepare for concentration and learning at school.

School Attendance Reward: Students who demonstrate a pleasing attendance rate this term will have the opportunity to participate in new rewards programs at the end of each term. So, just a reminder that we really want your child at school every day (unless you are sick of course!) and if they need to be absent, an absent note must be returned within 7 days.

Please return any outstanding library books: Please send any outstanding library books from 2012, to the office or library this week. Your assistance is much appreciated.

Approaching Our School: Attached is some information titled ‘Approaching Our School’ which may assist if you are unsure who to speak to about a particular issue or concern if it were to arise this year. Your child’s teacher is usually the best person to speak to, at least initially. However, sometimes you may need to speak to the Assistant Principal who looks after your child’s stage or myself. Please try to make an appointment if you would like to discuss a matter. We want to work with you to find a solution to any concerns and would like you to be mindful that teachers are unable to do this while they are supervising a class.

Stranger Danger & Being safe to and from school: At the beginning of the year it is a good time to remind your children to stay safe to and from school. If walking without you they should travel with a group of friends or brothers and sisters. Remind them to go straight home or straight to school. They should never accept lifts from strangers or anyone. If you have made arrangements for someone else to pick them up you must inform the school. You should inform them and the school of this. If they are approached by someone they don’t know or are concerned about tell them to inform you and the school immediately.

Sean Pope
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th February (Wk 5)</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>School Captains/Leaders</td>
<td>Presentation of bronze, silver, gold, platinum awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March (Wk 7)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>1/2K Mrs Flannery</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>5/6D Mrs Duffield</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th March (Wk 9)</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>School Captains/Leaders</td>
<td>Presentation of bronze, silver, gold, platinum awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th April (Wk 11)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K/1C Mrs Clarke</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>5/6G Mr Gray</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 6 Moving to High School in 2014

This week all students in Year 6 will be receiving a “Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2014” booklet. All parents will need to complete the “Expression of Interest” form and return this to school by Friday 1st March. This form allows parents to indicate their preference for the school they would like to enrol their child in for Year 7. It is important that every child returns the “Expression of Interest” form that is inside the booklet, even if your child is going to a non-government school, or is seeking a support class placement. If you have any questions regarding your child’s high school placement, or the form, please speak with Miss Page.

From the Pastoral Carers Desk

Wow, it’s 2013 and good to be back!
I hope by now everyone is settled into the new school year. It is always an exciting time when we return after the holidays; although it can be a little hard, as we all get back into our routines.

As this is the first Ambarvale newsletter for 2013, we would especially like to welcome our new students and families to the school, and best wishes in their future learning and development. And a big welcome to our new Principal Mr Sean Pope, we look forward to his leadership in serving the Ambarvale school community into the future.
APS is a caring and supportive school community, with an active P&C and wonderful staff providing great opportunities for our students; we want it to be an enjoyable experience for all.

A tip in making your life a little less stressful at this time is to establish routines. Having predictable patterns and routines in your day, or over a week, can be very calming and reassuring. It’s also important for your health and wellbeing.
Routines can include…
- Regular bedtimes
- Regular waking
- Regular mealtimes
- Regular times for work, exercise and relaxation
- And planning and preparing ahead to do routine jobs or activities

Establishing routines will also help to develop good organisation skills.

This term I will be at APS on Thursday and Friday.
If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great year and until next time, cheers.

Rob Hodgson JP
(Mr Rob)

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC PARISH, ROSEMEADOW SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) 2013

This Sacrament will be celebrated on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March from 4pm. It is available to all children who are in Year 3 or above and have been baptised. If you wish your child to make this Sacrament with the option of receiving their First Holy Communion later in the year and did not come to the enrolment night last year you MUST attend the first lesson for this programme on Saturday 16th February, 2013 commencing at 4.15pm. Children will participate in lessons within the Parish School classrooms, and parents will meet with Father in the Parish Meeting Room. This is the last opportunity for you to enrol for 2013. The programme fee of $25 is also payable at the first lesson. NOTE: If you are intending to enrol at the first lesson please arrive 30 minutes early to complete paperwork. You will need a copy of your child’s birth and baptism certificate to attach to the enrolment form. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Father Christopher Sarkis
Parish Priest
Rosemeadow
Captains Welcome Speeches – A warm welcome to 2013, students, parents & carers. This year we hope to work really hard to achieve lots of goals and also help our students do their best. The kind and caring staff will do anything to make our school the best it has ever been this year. This year we will reach out for good ideas to make school a better place. I hope I can count on everybody’s support.

Neha 5/6G

Welcome everyone to a new year at Ambarvale Public School. I hope everyone is prepared for what 2013 has in store. I would like to give a hand to the staff for another year at Ambarvale or a new position in the school. I would also like to congratulate Mr Pope for becoming the new Principal and wish him luck. I hope everyone has a great year.

James 5/6D

PBIS Focus

This week (Week 3), our PBIS focus is on, ‘Assemblies’
The rules are: Being a Learner, Being Kind, Being Safe and Being Respectful.

Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on modelling the behaviours which they can exhibit during formal situations, such as assembly.

Some of the key points include:

- We have assemblies to:
  - celebrate achievements
  - show we are united
  - showcase class work
  - celebrate good behaviour
  - involve our parents and community in our school

- In assembly we should:
  - Sit in our correct spots
  - Sit silently
  - Look at the person speaking
  - Listen to all instructions
  - Keep hands feet and objects to yourself

- We enter and leave assembly silently, following teachers’ instructions.
- We sing the National Anthem with respect.
- Congratulate others on their achievements

Next week (Week 4), the PBIS focus is;
Using the ‘2 step’ and ‘3 step’ plan effectively.
The rule focus- Be safe, Be a learner, Be respectful and Be kind.

P&C Uniform Shop School uniforms are available in the uniform shop which is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 8.45am and 9.15am.