Principal Pope’s Paragraphs

New but old Assistant Principal
Official welcome to some new Staff too.

Congratulations to Miss Michelle Hartley. Miss Hartley has been Relieving Assistant Principal for the Support Unit so far this term. After the departure of Mr Mac the position was advertised. After a rigorous application process Miss Hartley was found to be an outstanding candidate and was successful in gaining permanency to this position. As of this week Miss Hartley is now the official Assistant Principal of the Support Unit. As such Mrs Warren will continue in her classroom teacher role for 3/6W. Also a belated welcome to Miss Caitlin Dreise who is now officially working on a part time basis with Miss Page and 3/4P for the year on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Goh has joined the SLSO (school learning support officer) team and is now assisting students in a number of classes. Welcome aboard.

School Attendance is High
Good attendance = Improved Learning
Attendance Extravaganza for All

Well done to so many of our boys & girls and mums & dads. Our attendance rate is currently at close to 96%. This is a great result and one we hope to continue throughout the year. Thank you also to those of you who have brought in a note or absence slip explaining why you were away. The school needs to be informed within seven days of a student’s absence. Please inform the school if you intend on taking your child out of school for a period of time, such as an extended family holiday or need to visit family interstate/overseas. It is important that such leave is discussed in order for the school to put the necessary procedures in place to support such leave occurring.

Being at school means students don’t miss out on vital aspects of their learning. Regular attendance is one of the simplest ways you can ensure that your child is on the right path for their learning. Also being at school on time is important as many key literacy and numeracy concepts are covered in this prime learning time as well as being a great way to have a settled start to the day.

Did you know that if your child misses as few as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a whole year of education? By law, you are required to send your child to school every day. If your child arrives at school late, or needs to leave early, you will need to go to the office to sign your child in or out. If you’re having problems getting your child to attend school regularly and on time, please talk to your child’s teacher or principal.

For your obligations under the school attendance guidelines, please go to: www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/PD20050259.shtml

A celebration is planned for our whole school to recognise our combined efforts in such a great start to the year with attendance. This event ‘Our Attendance Extravaganza’ is planned for the second last day of term (so make sure you come to school). We will have a hairy, non – human visitor who likes ice –cream and he (the hairy visitor) has a whole lot of tasty treats to give away to our students in recognition of a great start to the year as far as attendance goes. I would like to thank the Benevolent Society for their financial and organisational support of this event and their efforts to encourage student attendance and student learning.
Swimming Carnival Success Despite the Rain: It was indeed disappointing for all when we got rained out and couldn’t send all our primary students to the swimming carnival. However by all reports our competitors did our school proud in the pool and through their behaviour on the sidelines. The 200m Individual Medley between Journee P & Zintori M was apparently an Australian sporting highlight and is becoming the stuff of legends. I would like to thank Miss Bray for her outstanding organisation and all teachers and parents who at the last minute were able to support us at the pool or back at school due to some rather inclement weather.

Once again for those of you who missed out on some fun novelties because of bad weather, please stay tuned for an exciting catch up at school in the near future. Please be reminded if you paid for the carnival and were unable to attend then the school will hold your $10 and credit it towards the next major school excursion or event. (Please note this won’t include School Photos as the money is paid directly to the company and not the school)

Well done to our Zone Swimming competitors who grew some fins and swam so competitively last Friday at Bradbury. Your behaviour and commitment was appreciated. Our representatives were Logan Cotterill, Ben Beglerovic, Journee P, Zintori M, Lachlan G, Brandon G and Luke K. Congratulations to our finalists, Journee and our relay team, Ben, Zintori, Logan & Luke.

Cleaning Up Australia by Cleaning Our School: Thank you boys and girls, teachers and Mrs Manning for your organisation of Clean Up Australia day last Monday. An important part of being a responsible citizen is to keep our environment clean. Here at Ambarvale we take pride in our school and it was great to see everyone doing their part. Keep up the good work boys and girls and if you have any rubbish pop it straight into a bin. Also if you walk past a piece of rubbish be a good citizen, and put it in the bin. Thanks clean people.

Focus On Reading - Reading makes a difference! What an amazing job our school and teachers are doing on reading and improving comprehension. All classes are working hard with the support of Mrs Potter and Mr Gray to improve the teaching and learning of reading and comprehension. Our support staff are also working with every stage to give extra support for reading. Ambarvale’s NAPLAN results from last year show we are one of the most improved schools in the Region in reading. Currently teachers continue to train and expand their skills in reading and comprehension. This week all staff will run through a half-day workshop on how to continue to improve teaching and learning for reading.

As a parent you can assist even further by promoting reading at home. 20 minutes most days is extremely valuable and will have long term positive effects. Students who read regularly develop an improved knowledge of the world. They improve their vocabulary and the meaning of words. Students who read a lot also improve their understanding and comprehension. In fact it is good for students to read the same text or book more than once as this also improves understanding. Regular reading can also have positive effects on writing, grammar and spelling. Read books fact or fiction, read books and texts from iPads or iPods, read newspapers, magazines or articles from the internet. If you don’t have enough books at home encourage your child to get into home reading from school or borrow from the library.

What might 20 minutes of reading at home look like? Well it could be 20 minutes of your child reading independently and you talking to them about it. It could be sometime of you reading together or you reading to your child (this is a nice before bed activity). Likewise you could just read to them. A combination of all of the above would be great. So get into reading … it’s not only beneficial it’s fun too.

Staff Development Day & Australian Curriculum Day: Monday 29th April & 30th April

The first two days of next term will be Staff Development days. This applies to all schools across NSW and will be used to prepare and train staff for the New National Curriculum. The new Curriculum will be trailed this year and begin its implementation next year.

Please make arrangements for these dates as normal classes or teacher supervision will not be available. Students return on Wednesday, 1st May, 2013.

P&C – Annual General Meeting: The P&C AGM is next Monday the 18th March at 1pm in the Breakfast Club. Please come and meet a few friendly faces and learn about the school and how you can help to boot.
School Website is Now Up & Running: I have figured out how to use the site and I am in the process of updating calendars and various pieces of news or information about the school. There are also a lot of helpful pieces of information about schools and your children in general. Our newsletters are also uploaded here and I am planning to attach letters as well so why not check it out on http://www.ambarvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

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. Please forward your contributions to the school office.

Playtime and Transition Program for Years 0-5- It is free!
Our playtime and transition program operates each Monday morning from 9:15 am-11:00am. This free program operates in one of our classrooms (Breakfast Club Classroom) and is staffed by two wonderful, experienced staff.
We look forward to seeing many new faces on Monday. Please contact our school office if you require further information.

Mobile Phone Policy: Any student requiring a mobile phone to be brought to school for use before or after school is required to leave the phone at the office in the morning upon entry to the school. They are then able to collect the phone at the end of the day. Any student found with a mobile phone during the day will have their phone confiscated and a parent/carer will be required to pick up the phone at a later date.

School Photos: The photographers will visit our school on Tuesday 26th March. Envelopes will be sent home shortly. Parents wishing to purchase these photos are asked to return the envelopes with payment to the office before Friday 22nd March (before the school holidays commence). Each child needs to have their own envelope to have their photo taken. Correct money must be placed in the envelope or a note to say that the money is in eldest child’s envelope. Family photos (students at school only) will be taken upon request. Family envelopes are available from the office.

School Uniform: Many thanks to parents/carers for their support in ensuring their child comes to school each day in the correct school uniform- it not only looks wonderful but promotes pride in appearance and in being part of our school. Congratulations to the students who are wearing the school hat. We strongly encourage all students to wear a school hat to fully support the implementation of our school uniform. If parents need financial assistance with attaining a school uniform for their child/children, please contact the school office or myself (Mr Pope). I am aware that we are still waiting on some sizes for the school shirt and you will be informed once these are in.

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 highly allergic to these foods and your support helps to minimise the risk of them having a potentially life threatening reaction.

Pope's practical tips
Choose one thing you want to achieve this week (something you can't or don't already do)... like reading for 20 minutes or counting to 100 by 2’s or tying your shoe laces or spelling a tricky word. Talk to your teacher and mum or dad, get some advice, practice and practice and practice and I think you'll find that it was achievable after all. Nothing is too hard or impossible if you set your mind to it. Just break learning something into smaller pieces. Don’t start with I want to learn all my times tables this week. Start with I’ll just learn my 3’s.

Another great idea is to try using good manners and see if you get a positive reaction. I bet you will. Good manners will take you far in this life.

Sean Pope
Principal
### Term 1 Assembly Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} March (Wk 9)</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>School Captains/Leaders</td>
<td>Presentation of bronze, silver, gold, platinum awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} April (Wk 11)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K/1C Mrs Clarke</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>5/6G Mr Gray</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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### PBIS Focus

This week (Week 7), our PBIS focus is, “The toilets.”

The rule is: **Being Kind and Respectful**

*Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on the appropriate use of the toilets.*

Using the toilets appropriately means:

- You are using the correct toilets in the playground
- You don’t enter the toilet during class time unless you have permission
- You follow the rules and expectations for the toilets
- You behave appropriately in the toilets
- You respect others in the toilet

At Ambarvale we expect people to use the toilets appropriately. When you do this, you are being a kind and respectful. You can show this by.....

- Never taking food or toys into the toilet
- Not playing in the toilets
- Reporting any silly or dangerous behaviour to the teacher
- Walking sensibly in this area
- Going to the toilet at recess, lunch and before school
- Flushing the toilet and washing your hands
- Respecting the privacy of others
- Returning to your class or the playground right away

Next week, (Week 8), we will be focusing on the importance of including others. (Being Kind)

When we include others we invite them to join our game. If we want to be included we ask sensibly and follow the rules of the game.

### Woolworths Earn and Learn

Last year we successfully collected 64,000 Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers through shopping at Woolworths. We have received our order and students are beginning to utilise this new equipment in their classrooms and playground. Items we ordered include car mats, safari mats, animals, cars, sand equipment, fine motor equipment, lego, construction equipment, board games and magnetic maths equipment. These resources allow teachers to enhance their lessons and encourage students to develop social and fine motor skills whilst interacting with their peers.

Thank you to the school community and Woolworths for supporting this venture.