26.03.13

**Principal Pope’s Paragraphs**

**Ambarvale Struck By Platinum**

Yesterday we had our second whole school assembly for the year and I am very proud to announce that Filemu, Salomie and Kaitlin G are the first three students to receive their platinum certificates for 2013. To do so is no mean feat. These hardworking, respectful, safe and kind learners have already had to earn 35 merit awards. They had to start with 5 merits to earn Bronze. Then 5 more merits to progress to Silver. Then yet another 5 merits had to be earned before they could progress to Gold. After this they have had to work hard and behave exceptionally well to earn another 10 merits. As well as this, they have had to be nominated by teachers to receive an Aussie of the Month award or a Good News Letter. Finally, the students had to meet individually with me where I had to review their behaviour and determine their suitability for such a high level award. I am pleased to announce that all 3 students were great candidates and successful. Well done.

*Platinum = Hard work + Positive attitude + Kind & Friendly Attitude*

**Easter Hat Parade & Raffle**

****MMMMM Sausage… Sausage sizzle and drinks available****

I am really looking forward to our Easter Hat Parade this Thursday. I believe it is real school highlight. Students, teachers and parents will all have the chance to participate by wearing or creating a hat. Thanks a lot to all the students and parents/carers that have sent in YUMMY EASTER EGGS for our Easter Egg raffle. A special thanks to our P&C mums for their organisation and hard work in this area. There are lots of baskets of eggs to be won so keep working selling those raffle tickets. Also at this event, we are selling sausage sandwiches and drinks. Many of you pre-ordered these. If not, they are still available to buy on Thursday for $5.

Don’t forget that this week finishes on Thursday for a loooong weekend for Easter. Students will return next week on Tuesday. Enjoy your chocolate.

PS – Tickets can still be sold. **There are 26 Easter baskets to win!** This will support the P&C who in turn can support the school which means your child benefits.
Attendance Still High

Paddle Pop Lion Delivering Tasty Treats for great Attendance @ Attendance Extravaganza

The school as a whole is still doing well with attendance. Keep coming boys and girls and keep sending them mums and dads, as this is one way to ensure improved learning and social skills. In the last week of school we will be receiving a visit from the Paddle Pop Lion. This term all students will receive a tasty gift for improvements in school attendance. Don’t forget to come to school. If you are absent due to illness or some other reason please remember to send in a note or mums, dads, carers please talk to your child’s teacher within seven days explaining their absence. If you are going on an extended holiday please remember to get an exemption of absence form from the office. If you are extending your Easter weekend into something much longer this weekend also arrange to pick up and fill out an exemption form.

Terrific Tabloids for Terrific Students

As well as our Attendance Extravaganza, in the last week we will be running a Tabloids Carnival. The carnival will be a fun event for all our hard working students who have shown great behaviour in the playground and classroom and have no incident recorded in our behaviour system for this term. The exact date of this event and the Paddle Pop Lion is still to be confirmed.


Once again thanks to the P&C committee for all their efforts in 2012. Last week we held our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and elected new members for 2013. Congratulations to Michelle Kotsou – President, Elizabeth Turski – Vice President, Treasurer – Anne Summers & Secretary Debbie Preston. Next term we will trial a new ordering system for uniforms but the shop will be open on Thursdays at 8.40am for those of you who need to drop in. The outstanding Breakfast Club will continue to be run by Peter (we can’t thank you enough) with Julie, Sandra and anyone else who is available to help out on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Our meeting times will be Week 3 of every term on Thursday at 1pm and in Week 8 in the evenings at 7pm. This will hopefully allow for more of you to be involved and support the school.

Mothers’ Day Donations

The P&C are asking for donations for Mothers’ day. Mothers’ day this year will be on the 12th of May so it is coming up quickly. We want to be able to offer lots of great gift ideas at our stores. As part of the next P&C fundraiser, we are asking that you donate some gifts suitable for mums. Please don’t send in anything used or broken. We ask that no food items be sent in either. Please send gifts/donations into your child’s class, clearly marked with class and child’s name.

Get Running – Cross Country is HERE!

As you would have seen yesterday, notes went home for our Cross Country Carnival. This event for 8 year olds and up will be held on Tuesday the 9th April. I’m looking forward to seeing a lot of kids participating and doing their best. Encourage your children to have a go. There’s nothing wrong with walking, if you tried your best just have fun and run, run, run.

Rugby League Star Seturi

Congratulations to Seturi in Year 6 who trialled and was successful in gaining a position in the under 11’s Zone Rugby League Team. He is already in training and we wish him every success. Who knows he may be a Bulldog or a Tiger one day.
Voluntary Contributions: 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 resources which are identified by teaching staff as useful in helping to provide your children with the education that they deserve. Please forward your contributions to the school office.

Holiday dates- Please note the last day of first term is 12th of April with school resuming on Wednesday 1st May.

Playtime and Transition Program for Years 0-5- It is free!
Our playtime and transition program operates each Monday morning from 9:15am-11:00am. This free program operates in one of our classrooms (Breakfast Club Classroom) and is staffed by two wonderful, experienced staff.

Check out the great work below from some of our talented workers. It just goes to prove that a hardworking, focused student with a positive attitude and quality teaching = good results and individual improvement.

Pope’s Practical Tips – Start each day like it’s going to be a good one. Positive thinking is powerful and you have the power to choose the way you see and deal with things even when things are going wrong.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th April</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K/1C Mrs Clarke</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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<td>3-6</td>
<td>5/6G Mr Gray</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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PBIS Focus

This week (Week 9), our PBIS focus is, “Following Instructions”
The rule is; Be Respectful

Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on following staff instructions the first time.

Following staff instructions the first time means:
- That you will be able to stay safe
- You may receive positive consequences
- You are being respectful
- You will learn more
- You will be following school expectations

At Ambarvale we expect people to follow all staff instructions the first time. When you do this, you are being respectful. You can show this by....

- Following the instructions of all teachers, including visiting teachers
- Following all instructions quickly
- Bringing all required equipment to school
- Being on time everyday
- Bringing a note to explain an absence on the day you return
- Helping others to follow instructions by not laughing or encouraging them when they are behaving in a negative way.

Next week, (Week 10), we will be focusing on the importance of being resilient. (Being a Kind, Respectful Learner)

When we are resilient we can lose or take advice, without getting upset. Resilient people never give up. If we are resilient, others will enjoy playing with us and they will respect us. Resilient people know that everyone loses sometimes. They always try to behave sensibly, following the rules of the game.

Learning to Lead Program

Last Wednesday, selected Ambarvale students participated in the Sport Leadership, Learning to Lead program. As part of the ongoing NSW PSC Sport Leadership Project, our house captains were invited to complete a variety of development activities where they learnt the skills and rules involved in a number of different sports. These children now have the opportunity to continue to be a part of this program right through to Year 12 at Thomas Reddall High School. As they progress through the program, they will be given the opportunity to build on their interests in sport and physical activity in the role of organiser (administration), leader (beginner coach) and official.

I’d like to congratulate all children involved on the day, including Thomas Acres Public School students and the Thomas Reddall Leaders. Ambarvale students exhibited outstanding behaviour, maturity and resilience on the day. I was very proud to be their teacher.

The fantastic teachers at Thomas Reddall did an amazing job of organising so many primary school children into groups led by their high school students.

Overall we had an absolutely brilliant day!

Mrs Duffield
From the Pastoral Carers Desk

The end of first term is approaching. Our school community has been very busy this term with so much activity, and we can see where considerable improvements are being achieved. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff; who as a team, continue to work tirelessly together. It is a privilege to work with such committed and supportive people. Ambarvale Public School has strong core values of excellence, respect, responsibility, co-operation, participation, fairness and caring for others. These values and focus are of real benefit to all our students.

The Easter holidays and then school holidays (which include Anzac Day), are a welcome break and opportunity to recharge the batteries. The messages of hope and sacrifice at Easter and Anzac Day are worth reflecting upon, and being thankful for. Although, the cultural diversity of our nation is reflected in the many ways Australians spend these holidays, some will spend time with family and friends, or relax on the beach, some will be working, and others will stand together in reverence. However we choose to spend this time, we should be united and rejoice in the freedom and tolerance we all enjoy. These are precious values and will maybe encourage us to take stock of our lives and our society. Now I’ll ask you these questions…
Are you going to show tolerance? Will you respect differences and accept others? And will you stand strong to support these values of freedom and tolerance? These qualities of decency are important to learn, practice and live in order to have a fair and caring society for all.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and safe, happy and restful holidays. Next term I will be at Ambarvale on Friday. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until next time, cheers.
Rob Hodgson JP
(Mr Rob)

Library Chat

It is good to see so many children borrowing each week in the library. There are many children who are working towards completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge while others just enjoy reading for pleasure. The Premier’s Reading Challenge asks children in years 3-6 to read 20 books. Fifteen of these must be from the list that is on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website. The challenge finishes in August but some children have already read five books from the Challenge list. Congratulations to all the great readers in our school. Unfortunately not all children are bringing books back when they have borrowed. Currently there are 99 books overdue. Some of those are only a few days overdue, but many are from the start of the year or even last year. Please help your child to return books promptly so that they can fully participate in library borrowing time. Have a lovely Easter break, and enjoy a good book or two!

Mrs Sullivan
Librarian
Stage 3 Camp Expression of Interest Note

Our Stage 3 camp this year will be held at ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’, which is a curriculum-centred, outdoor education and recreation camp, located near the beaches of Port Stephens and Myall Lakes. The camp will include 2 nights and 3 days accommodation, meals and all activities. The cost of the camp includes transport to and from Tea Gardens by coach.

The dates for camp for 2013 are Wednesday 13th November – Friday 15th November (Week 6 Term4). The cost for camp will be $230.

On Friday 22nd March, an expression of interest note was sent home to all Year 6 students for our camp. At this point, we are interested in getting an idea of numbers. The camp is open to 50 students and will be offered to Year 6 students first. Once Year 6 students have indicated their intentions, a number of positions will then be offered to Year 5 students.

A payment plan will be available to make it easier for families to afford. Parents may choose to pay for the camp by making 1 payment in full or by 4 instalments. Students who miss a payment or miss the payment dates may not be eligible to attend the camp. Should any family require financial assistance with the payments it is essential that you contact Mr Pope (Principal) at the school prior to the first instalment date to make these arrangements.

If you are certain that your child will be attending this camp, we ask you to fill out the expression of interest form (one is included in this week’s newsletter) and return it to your child’s teacher no later than Thursday 28th March. Please be aware that attendance at this excursion is a privilege given only to Stage 3 students. As such, only students who maintain appropriate behaviour will be permitted to attend. Any inappropriate behaviour may prevent your child from being allowed to attend. Please discuss this expectation with your child. Please speak with Miss Page or the Year 6 teachers if you have any questions or queries.

Miss Page.