Ambarvale Public School
Learning to Live
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29.10.13

Principal Pope’s Paragraphs

Learning Quote: ‘Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savoured.’
Earl Nightingale

Ambarvale Public School winner of Director’s Choice Awards AGAIN!
Not 1, Not 2 but 3.

Once again due to improved results in literacy and numeracy Ambarvale Public School has been selected to receive a Directors Choice Award for Excellence in School and Student Achievement Demonstrating Growth & Improvement….How did this happen?
Well… I believe that there has been a concerted effort in our community between students, parents, teachers and support and administration staff to make Ambarvale a pleasant and effective learning environment. Over the last few years our school has adopted a number of learning and welfare initiatives such as FoR (Focus on Reading), TOWN (Taking Off With Numeracy) and PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention Strategy). These along with efforts in quality teaching and increased efforts from students have combined to produce continued pleasing growth in our results over time, growth that is above state and region averages. Well done to all at Ambarvale for such an achievement you have every right to feel proud.

The good news doesn’t stop there Mr Rhys Gray will receive the Director’s Award in Early Career Teaching award. This is due to the individual impact he has made as a teacher and leader on his class and on the school through his mentor role in reading where he has worked closely with teachers, students and parents in classrooms, in professional learning and in workshops.

Mrs Andrea Spowart is also being recognised for the dedication and commitment she has displayed in her role as School Learning and Support Officer and will receiving a Director’s Award for School Administration and Support Staff award. These awards are a wonderful achievement and highlight our school’s improvement in academic results, excellent teaching staff and parent/community involvement. Many thanks are extended to all of our hard working, dedicated staff; our amazing students and our supportive community for helping us to achieve this success.

An award presentation ceremony is to be held on Thursday 7th November from 6.00pm at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre. Our school community is invited to attend. Tickets are available via the internet and details can be found at www.swsregionalarts.com.au. If you require any further information, please come and see me or you may contact me on 4626 1485.

Upcoming Events

October

06/11 - Support Unit A.H.S. Orientation
07/11 - 1st Kindergarten Orientation
21/11 - 2nd Kindergarten Orientation

Assemblies

Please see Assembly Roster included in this Newsletter

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Gigabyte Junction – New Computer Lab:

Yesterday I was pleased to unveil our wonderful new computer lab. After many months of planning we now have a great resource and technological learning centre that will promote student engagement and 21st Century learning skills for many years to come. Alongside quality teaching and learning this will now provide the students with a variety of learning opportunities for the future. Including - quick and easy access to unlimited information; a tool for publishing and presenting student work in creative and innovative ways; a means for communicating and learning from others across the school, state, nation and the world; and motivating and effective learning programs to practice and improving learning outcomes.

Yesterday Neha, James and I presented speeches on the importance of technology in learning. Ian from Kindergarten cut the official ribbon and Brodie and Mikayla unveiled the winning new name for our new lab – ‘Gigabyte Junction’. Many students nominated varied and creative names but after a rigorous assessment by the SRC and a close vote by the whole school the name suggested by Hayden – Gigabyte Junction was chosen.

Many parents who attended the opening ceremony then came along with our Early Learning group to view the new lab – Gigabyte Junction.

Thank you to all who assisted in the organisation of the lab and the opening ceremony. I look forward to seeing our students use this and other technologies to enhance their learning.

Principal’s Conference Last Week – Thanks Mrs Flannery for relieving as Principal: Last week I attended the State Principal Conference where I spent a lot of time listening to speakers from Finland on their effective school structures, ways to improve teaching and learning in schools, leadership tips and learning more about funding and structure changes facing schools. In my absence Mrs Flannery did a great job as relieving Principal and I thank her for her efforts and leadership.

Staff update: Welcome to Mr Carrett who now takes over K-6M in a fulltime capacity this week and we welcome him to Ambarvale.

Student Attendance: Improving attendance is a high priority for our school and this term we continue to want your child at school every day, unless they are sick or there are special circumstances that require them to be absent. 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 has to be away from school for any reason, please either tell your child’s teacher or send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence, as soon as possible and within one week of the absence. If you’re having problems getting your child to attend school regularly and on time, please talk to your child’s teacher or principal.

Please let us know - student absences from school: 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.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2014: We are currently enrolling now for Kindergarten 2014. Please contact the office for an enrolment form if your child commences next year and spread the word that we are now accepting enrolments. Such information is required for our planning and organisation for 2014. Orientation dates for 2014 are as follows: Thursday 7th November and Thursday 21st November. Please keep these dates free if you have a child starting next year. Please ensure enrolment forms are returned to school ASAP so that enrolment information can be sent out to parents.
Year 5 & 6 Camp: A reminder that final payment is due for the Year 5 & 6 camp to The Great Aussie Bush Camp (13th - 15th November 2013). Any outstanding monies for previous payments need to be made immediately. All places for camp are now taken and we currently have a waiting list. A further reminder that appropriate behaviour is required prior to camp to enable students to participate in this activity.

Mr Pope PRINCIPAL

Ambarvale has progressed to the Area Final in Oracy!

The Zone Oracy Finals were held this term at Rosemeadow Public School. Congratulations to our school entrants who delivered very engaging speeches and demonstrated exceptional public speaking skills. The final results were extremely close.

We wish to congratulate Brodie Paul of class 3/4P on his progression to the Area Final to be held at Ruse Public School on Thursday 31st October, 2013.

Brodie has worked very hard and will be a brilliant representative of Ambarvale Public School. We wish him the best of luck and no matter what happens we are extremely proud of his outstanding achievements in the Public Speaking Arena.

Go Brodie!

Tina Duffield
3-6 Oracy Co-ordinator

PBIS Focus

This week (Week 4), our PBIS focus is, “Behaviour expectations in the new computer lab”

The rules are: **Be a Learner, Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful**

Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on the expectations of behaviour in the lab.

When using the computer lab it is expected that we;

**Be Safe**
* Use equipment safely
* Report any problems
* Walk sensibly and safely
* Keep our hands, feet and objects to yourself

**Be Respectful**
* Follow staff instructions at all times
* Leave food and drink outside the lab
* Remove our hat
* Care for lab resources and property
* Listen attentively

**Be Kind**
* Cooperate with others
* Use our best manners
* Take our turn
* Use appropriate language

**Be a Learner**
* Do your best at all times
* Log off the computers when you have finished.
* Ask for help when needed
* Be prepared and ready to learn in the new lab.

*If we follow these rules we will be looking after school equipment and it will remain brand new and cared for so that all students can enjoy the privilege of such wonderful resources.*
## Term 4 Assembly Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4(^{th}) November (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 18(^{th}) November (Wk 7)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>KV &amp; KT Ms Vest &amp; Miss King</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>3/4B Mr Byrne</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2(^{nd}) December (Wk 9)</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>School Captains/Leaders</td>
<td>Presentation of bronze, silver, gold, platinum awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16(^{th}) December (Wk 11)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K-1C Mr Russo</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>School Leaders</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You are invited to
Kindergarten Orientation 2013

At Ambarvale Public School

On
Thursday 7\(^{th}\) November, 2013 – 9.15am
And
Thursday 21\(^{st}\) November, 2013 – 9.15am

We look forward to meeting you
From the Pastoral Carers Desk

Term 4 is well underway. It will be another busy term of activities with many “end of year” events to be organised. The time seems to fly when we get to this time of year, and our dedicated teachers and staff are especially stretched with many extra demands.

It should be a great time of celebration for our students and school community and there will be many opportunities to focus on the positive teaching and learning experiences of 2013. However; for some, additional support will be required!

This can really highlight the need for extra understanding, and that Ambarvale ability to continue to work together in partnership.

Establishing **partnerships** in life are important for groups as well as individuals. Most of us are familiar with them, but there are many different kinds of partnerships. Families and couples are in partnership to raise their families and live their lives together. Sports teams are in partnership, with each person playing their role in the game. Government services and community groups work in partnership to offer support to those in need. Work places and especially schools see people with different skills and responsibilities working together in partnership for the common good.

In school communities partnerships are essential to achieve success…

As in any partnership or relationship; we should be realistic and expect challenges along the way, but **strong partnerships are a commitment to each other to be united in purpose.**

At Ambarvale Public School we should be thankful for the leadership that continues to encourage these qualities to develop strong partnerships.

I would like to remind everyone that I am at school on Thursday and Friday this Term.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers and I hope everyone has a happy Term 4.

Rob Hodgson JP

(Mr Rob)

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**Library Chat**

Book Club orders are due tomorrow (30th October). Please hand the order to Mrs White in the office or to Mrs Sullivan in the library.

Thank you to all those parents and children who have looked for and found their overdue books. It is great to see them coming back to school. Thank you also to those who have paid for lost books. We will be able to replace the book if it is still in print or buy a new title.

Recently I have had some books returned in poor condition. When you borrow a book you accept responsibility for it. Accidents can occasionally happen, but they are less likely when the book is kept in a safe place away from little sisters or food and drink. If the book is damaged beyond repair it will need to be paid for.

Mrs Sullivan

Teacher Librarian
This Term we have many things to look forward to. Year 5 and 6 are all exciting about going to The Great Aussie Bush Camp and have already started to organise their equipment. Most of the school are going to the attendance extravaganza which is at the movies! The student toilets around the infant classes are being repaired, and remember that all students should take care of the school toilets because it's a student's responsibility to do so. Then there is also the new computer lab! There was a grand ceremony for the opening of the new computer lab which was named ‘Gigabyte Junction’.

Miss Bray's class were cooking tuna burgers last week. They were very yummy. Here is the recipe.

185g tin of tuna in brine
½ cup grated cheddar cheese
¼ cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon tomato sauce
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Ground pepper
4 hamburger buns – halved
Butter

Drain tuna and put in bowl, add cheese, mayo, tomato sauce & lemon. Add pepper then mix altogether. Butter buns then spread mixture on 4 halves. Put the top of bun on, wrap in absorbent paper then microwave 2 at a time on high for 2 ½ minutes.

Teacher Interview

This week we interviewed Señora Vera (our Spanish teacher). When she had to leave Chile, she was heartbroken and she thought she might never see her family again. But now Señora Vera knows that she can go back every two years to see her beloved family. When she came to Australia, she could not speak English and could not understand a word anyone said. She learnt a bit of English by watching play school with her daughter. Señora Vera’s favourite colour depends on how she is feeling e.g. light blue – relaxed, purple – angry and green – calm. If she was not a teacher then she would be a lawyer so she could defend people or a social worker so she could help people. If she didn’t leave Chile then she could have been an actress because she was part of an acting group (it was her dream to be an actress). Some of the events she celebrated in Chile were similar to what we celebrate in Australia e.g. Chilean Independence Day, New Year (very important because all her family gets together and have a fun time), Name day, Day of the Children (all schools in Chile honour Children and have parties because children are the next generation). Señora Vera’s favourite foods are empanadas (Chilean pies) and Churros (find them in Macarthur square). What Señora Vera likes about Australia is that in Australia people are kind, welcoming, and tolerant and take good care of animals and Señora Vera absolutely loves Australian nature.