Principles Pope's Paragraphs

Learning quotes

“Once You learn to quit it becomes a habit.” – Vince Lombardi

School Surveys: Parent school surveys have been issued with this newsletter. We value parent/carer input and comments about our school to assist with our future planning and we ask that one survey be completed per family. There are 3 aspects to the survey and these include: 1) School Satisfaction 2) Curriculum Area: Technology 3) School Leadership.

When a student returns their survey, all students’ names from that family will be placed in a draw for a chance at three prizes.

Please return your completed survey to class teachers by Monday 25th November 2013. The class with the most surveys returned will also win a free ice block for each child. Please take some time to make some considered responses to the surveys and provide your input about your child’s/children’s school.

Kindergarten Orientation Celebration: Wow… It was great to meet and welcome so many keen and eager parents of Kindergarten Students for 2014. It was a pleasure to meet many of your children for the first time and this was an important step in preparing them and you for school. I would like to thank Miss Vest for all her hard work and organisation. Thanks also to Mr Rob (Our School Chaplin), Ms Willis (Our School Counsellor), Mrs Flannery (Assistant Principal) and Mrs Turski (Our P&C Vice President) for their informative presentations. Also thank you to the P&C for providing nibbles and refreshments for the day. Our next Orientation day will be on the 21st November. We look forward to seeing you there.

Awards Night – Director’s Award: Last week I attended the Director’s Choice awards with a number of staff at the Sydney Olympic State Sports Centre. The night was a great celebration of Public Education. There were several student performances showcasing singers, musicians, drama and public speakers. Congratulations to Mr Gray and Mrs Spowart on your individual awards and contribution to education and also to the whole Ambarvale school community on receiving for three years running the ‘Excellence in School & Student Achievement Demonstrating Growth & Improvement Award.’

Public Speaking Champion: Today Brodie from 3/4P will be competing at the highest level possible in the Regional Public Speaking competition to be held at Cecil Hills Public School. This is not an easy level to achieve and we congratulate Brodie on his success thus far and wish him well at today’s contest.
Camp this week. How exciting to be going away and sharing so many fun and collaborative experiences with your friends and peers. I wish you lots of fun, excitement and outdoor learning. Make sure you have a go and try out some new experiences but remember to stay safe and be respectful and appreciative of the staff who are giving up time with their families to provide you with this invaluable experience. Thanks to Miss Hartley, Mrs Duffield, Mr Gray and Miss Shepley for your time and enthusiasm. Thanks also to Miss Page, the above and other staff who have put in countless hours of preparation and organisation. While at camp please ensure you are respectful and well mannered. Please ensure you represent yourselves and our school with the best possible behaviour.

Bushfire Appeal & Orange Mufti: Next Wednesday 20th November, 2013 the SRC are asking that all students wear Orange and bring a gold coin donation to support the families’ devastated by the recent bushfires. All monies raised will go to the SES.

Pancakes at Breakfast Club: This Friday and next Tuesday the wonderful parent team at Ambarvale Public School will be providing delicious pancakes with maple syrup as well strawberry and chocolate milkshakes. Our breakfast club is highly valued and again I thank all of our hard working volunteers. Breakfast is really vital to helping students concentrate at school. So enjoy a feed and help your learning too.

High School Transition: Year 6 students in the Support Unit who will be attending Thomas Reddall High School and Ambarvale High School in 2014 will continue their transition to high school visits on Wednesdays the 20th November and 27th November.

High School Orientation: On Wednesday the 4th of December there will be High School Orientation for all of our Year 6 students regardless of what public high school they are going to. This is an important day for parents to attend and parents are expected to transport their child to and from their respective high school. This is an exciting time in your child’s lives and it is wonderful to see them grow in maturity and independence.

Student Leaders Elections: Nomination forms for 2014 have been handed in. Speeches/elections will be held on Monday 25th November in the school hall and parents/carers are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop valuable organisational and communication skills, whilst undertaking an important leadership role within our school.

Y7 Selective High School placements in 2014: Paper-based applications are due this Friday, 15th November for any Year 5 student wishing to be considered for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2014. If you are applying online, you have until the 18th November, 2013 to submit an application. On line information can be found at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Where possible parents are expected to apply online.

Reports: Teachers are finalising Semester Two reports for their students. Completed reports will be sent home on Thursday 12th December. Parents/Carers are reminded that an appointment can be made at any time to discuss your child’s progress with the classroom teacher or learning support teachers.

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.

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 and is staffed by two wonderful, experienced staff. We look forward to seeing many new faces on Monday.

Sean Pope
Principal
This week (Week 6), our PBIS focus is, “Being a good leader”
The rules are; Being a Learner, Being Kind, Being Safe and Being Respectful.

Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on modeling the behaviours which ‘good leaders’ exhibit. Some of the key points include;

- When you care about your school and the people in it, you say good things about it. This makes you a good leader.
- Good leaders care about their school and the people in it.
- Good Leaders behave positively and follow the school rules in all settings.
- Good leaders help others to be the best they can be.
- Good leaders talk to people and show kindness.
- Good leaders try their best.
- Good leaders accept people's differences and support them.

Library Chat

This week is the last week for borrowing books from the library. All overdue loans need to be returned and lost books paid for, so that I can stocktake the books. Thank you to those who have supported their children by finding and returning overdue books in the last few weeks.

I have been very pleased by how many children have been borrowing books this year. It is always a pleasure to see children being excited over books they have read and often children have been waiting for their friend to bring a book back so they can read it. I have a few books that hardly ever make it on to the shelves!

Library time is not only when children borrow books. Lessons occur here too, and children have developed their skills in locating and using information. With access to so much information available, being able to choose the most helpful and accurate facts and then use these well is one of the most important skills that children are learning. Classroom teachers have been focussing on comprehension skills this year, and the library is a great place to practice this.

Mrs Sullivan
LIBRARIAN

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Monday 18th November</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>(Wk 7)</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>3/4B Mr Byrne</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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<td>Monday 2nd December</td>
<td>Whole</td>
<td>School Captains/Leaders</td>
<td>Presentation of bronze, silver, gold, platinum awards</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th</td>
<td>Whole</td>
<td>Executive Team</td>
<td>Presentation Day Assembly</td>
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<td>December (Wk 10)</td>
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<td>Monday 16th December</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K-1C Mr Russo</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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<td>(Wk 11)</td>
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<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
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An information and enrolment night will be held on **Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm** for all eligible Catholic children in Rosemeadow Catholic Parish, in the Parish School Multi-Purpose hall for any parents/caregivers wishing to present their children for any of the sacramental programmes in 2014. It is important you attend this night for all information and dates of the programmes and to enrol your children for **Reconciliation (Confession)**, **First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above)** and **Confirmation (Year 6 and above)** in 2014. Please bring a copy (to attach to the enrolment form) of birth certificate and baptismal certificate. If your child was baptised at OLHC or Appin, you only need to bring a copy of their birth certificate. Fees may be paid on the night ($25.00 Reconciliation, $25.00 First Holy Communion, and $25.00 Confirmation). Thank you.

**Breakfast Club** will serve regular breakfasts and EXCITING NEW BREAKFASTS on Friday 15th November and Tuesday 19th November. Delicious Pancakes with maple syrup or strawberry jam, served with a chocolate or strawberry milkshake. **YUMMMM!!!**

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**You are invited to Kindergarten Orientation 2013**

At Ambarvale Public School

On **Thursday 21st November, 2013 – 9.15am**

We look forward to seeing you
This is the next part of Neha and Brittany’s story.

When she was at least 16 months her parents abandoned her and left her at Miss Plums door step on a cold winter’s night. Miss Plum happened to be a mean, nasty, wart faced wicked witch who absolutely hated small children and only took them in for the money. She was so creepy and scary that bees would have to close their eyes to sting her on her horrible face. In the morning she would come around to every room and wake up every single child at five am and if they did not do as they were told they would miss out on their food for the day.

Under Marree’s pillow laid the one thing that Miss Plum never knew about. A small pocket sized book that belonged to her mother and written in the book was most of the history of the orphanage. Marree’s mother was taken in by a ghastly and vile witch (Miss Plum’s mother). Back then every single day was horrific and the most excitement you would get was watching paint dry.

Last week KT did some fantastic work and here is one of the student’s stories.

By Hieu

On the start of the book, little bear wanted to play with big bear, but big bear said “I can’t play with you now; I have work to do”. So little bear played by himself. At the middle of the book, big bear went outside and sat on rock and fell asleep. Little bear said “wake up big bear” and big bear woke up and they played all afternoon.

Teacher Interview

This week we interviewed Mr Gray.

Mr Gray is fully Australian as far as he knows. His favourite colour is blue and his favourite subject is creative arts because he likes to see students do different things. Mr Gray loves to see students learn and grow into successful adults. The thing Mr Gray most likely dislikes is the amount of work he has to do at home for school. Mr Gray has also been overseas to Europe to attend his brother’s wedding in Poland. As a child Mr Gray didn’t really know what he wanted to be, but at the back of his mind he thought of becoming a teacher.