Welcome Back & Well done! It was great to see all our boys and girls return with such enthusiasm and willingness to engage in learning. Classes are off and running again. I have been very pleased to see that most of our students have settled straight into their routine and learning and I can see that many continue to display excellent behaviour.

I am also pleased to say our committed staff has returned ready to make a positive difference for our students and community. As you would be aware Mr Verey has moved on to Marsden Road Public School and Miss King has taken over KT. Welcome Miss King and we all look forward to working with you for the rest of 2013. Our staff development days last Monday and Tuesday were very engaging and we all participated in professional learning around the new NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum and on changes around learning and innovation in the 21st Century.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY Last Wednesday, the 1.5.13, the whole school participated in an ANZAC day ceremony, which was diligently led by our school leaders and Aboriginal school leaders. The event was also well organized by Mrs Friend. It was an outstanding service. All of our students K-6 were very respectful and they listened intently. We were so proud of them. At the service we heard stories of Aboriginal service men and tales of courage, mateship and service to country and others. I think the Australian spirit shows us all that even in our day to day lives we need to look after one another; we need to show friendship to all, we need to do what’s right and to not give up even when things get tough.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS Well done boys and girls and mums and dads. Last term’s attendance was high and most of you if absent returned notes within 5 days explaining why you were away. As a result the whole school was rewarded with a visit from the Paddle Pop Lion and a free Paddle Pop (mmmm). This term we will be having another Attendance Extravaganza and some fun and exciting rewards are planned. To be eligible for this though, students need to have no more than three explained absences for the term. Attendance matters because coming to school regularly is a proven way of ensuring that students improve their learning and ability to work with others. So keep up the great work and keep on learning by keep on coming to school.
BUSY BUSY TERM BUT EXCITING TOO This Term we have so much on – not to mention a whole bunch of quality learning. Sport-wise we have our Zone Carnival on Thursday 30th May. It was great to see so many boys and girls keen to compete in the last week last term. (Check out some of the photos below). Shortly we will be gearing up for athletics by practising and competing in various “field” events. Many of our primary students will be playing in PSSA sporting teams for Gala Days. This includes netball, touch football, soccer and AFL. Starting in Week 6 the whole school will be participating in a ten week gymnastics program. (Who knows, we may have future Olympians who will one day be vaulting over pommel horses, flipping around on parallel bars or hanging around on rings). During this term our Stage 2 students will be visiting Nan Tien Temple for a fun and educational excursion. As previously mentioned, we have a great Attendance Extravaganza planned. Also this term, teachers will be busily writing reports, so hey boys and girls …. work hard, learn lots and demonstrate great focus, respect and behaviour.

MOTHERS’ DAY This Thursday 9th May 2013 we have our Mothers’ day stall so make sure you support our school through the P&C by purchasing a lovely or nifty gift for mum or grandma or that special motherly figure in your life. (Give it to mum on Sunday). We are still gratefully accepting donations to be sold as gifts at the stall. Gifts will range in price from $2, $3 or $5. Students may initially only buy one gift but if there are items left over additional gifts may be purchased after each class has had the opportunity to buy. Additional volunteers would be appreciated.

NAPLAN Testing: The annual National Assessment Program testing for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 takes place next week, from 14 -16 May. Students do not need to do any special homework or preparation, just come to school relaxed, rested and ready to do their best. Students are tested nationally in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. For more information including FAQs, a parent brochure and past results, go to: www.nap.edu.au/. If you wish to withdraw your child from any of the tests, please contact Mr Pope. My main advice for NAPLAN is to be calm and relax. It is just one test and while we want all of our students to try their best we don’t want them to over worry or stress. Just be encouraging and make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and has a good breakfast.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club will be operating for students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week as a special support for our students during their NAPLAN tests. Students are fortunate to be provided with a hot breakfast next week. Many thanks to our fantastic parents and staff for their support with our school’s Breakfast Club. Additional volunteers will be needed. If you can help please let us know.

Year 5 Opportunity Classes: The application process for Year 5 Opportunity Classes (OC) placements for 2013 are about to commence. If you have a child who is currently in Year 4, you may wish to apply for an OC class for 2013. Please speak with your child’s classroom teacher if you are unsure if you should apply. Parents are able to access the online application site at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. For those parents wishing to apply who do not have internet access, paper application forms will be available from the school office from 7th May 2013. Parents are advised that they are not to use both the online and paper application (ie. complete two applications). Applications, whether completed online or on paper, will close on Friday 17th May 2013. An ‘Intention to Apply’ letter will be given to Year 4 students this week.

Gymnastics Program – Get Active! Our whole school gymnastics program will begin on Thursday 30th May. All students have received a note for permission and payment. The total cost of the program is $22; however, families with a swimming carnival credit will only need to pay $12. All permission notes and money will need to be returned by Friday 24th May. Please do not hesitate to speak with Miss Page if you have any questions.
P&C  Due to NAPLAN testing we will need to move our P&C meeting from Thursday 16th May to Thursday 23rd May. It will be held in the Breakfast Club (probably) at 1pm. Miss Page will be presenting our 2013 Annual School Report & Mr Pope will talk about directions for 2013.

Uniform Shop Operating Hours  The uniform shop will now be open on Friday mornings at 8.45am to 9.15am only. Please check out the uniform order form included in this newsletter for specials and prices. As it gets cooler please ensure your child is wearing a school jumper or jacket.

Junior AECG Meeting  Our first Junior AECG meeting will be held at Rosemeadow PS on Thursday 9th May. Brodie East and Jannali Eldridge are our school leaders who will be representing us on this day. We look forward to hearing about new ideas that are discussed at the meeting.

PSSA Winter Sport  Our winter sport teams have now been determined and students have been advised if they have been selected to represent the school at Gala Days. Congratulations to all of those students who were successful. A permission note with payment details will be sent home this week, once the grounds where the sports will be played have been finalised. A ‘Code of Conduct’ will also be sent home, which outlines the expectations for students. Please discuss this with your child, as it supports us in making Gala Days a successful experience for all students.

Parents are welcome to attend Gala Days to support our school and we would love to see you there. The days that have been set aside for Gala Days are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th>TERM 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Friday 24th May</td>
<td>Friday 8th August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Friday 21st June</td>
<td>Friday 6th September</td>
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Please speak with Miss Page if you have any questions regarding Gala Days.

Camp Payment Reminder!  The first $50 instalment for camp was due on Friday 3rd May. If your child has not returned the instalment, please do so as a priority. Any family that is having difficulty with the payment is welcome to contact Miss Page or Mr Pope to organise alternative arrangements. If your child will not be attending camp, and they returned an expression of interest note, please advise the school as soon as possible so that another student can be allocated in their place. Please speak with Miss Page if you have any questions regarding camp.

PBIS Focus

This week (Week 2), our PBIS focus is, “Being obedient at school.”
The rule is: Be Respectful
Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on following instructions at school.
Being obedient means:

You are following the instructions of staff

When you are obedient;
- You are being kind
- You will be safe
- You are being respectful
- You will be able to learn!

At Ambarvale we expect people to be obedient. When you do this, you are being respectful.

Next week, (Week 3), we will be focusing on what to do and how to behave during safety drills. (Be Safe)
Library Chat

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.” - Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!

Books by Dr. Seuss were a big part of my childhood. In those days there were not so many good books for children. Dr. Seuss saw a need to get children reading and he wrote The Cat in the Hat as the first of the ‘Beginner Books’ series. He followed that with Green Eggs and Ham, one of my favourites. Dr. Seuss did not stop at getting children reading. He also wanted them to think, and many of his books have important themes that are relevant today.

Today there are a vast number of great books to read, as well as a steadily growing number of web sites written for children both for information and entertainment. With such a choice, some people forget the books we grew up with, but they are still worth reading, and today’s children will enjoy them just as much as we did. Old or new, paper or electronic – what matters is that we read and that we think about what we read. So, get reading: your future is depending on you.

Mrs Sullivan
Librarian

Term 2 Assembly Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th May (Wk 3)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>KV Ms Vest</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27th May (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 10th June (Wk 7)</td>
<td>NO ASSEMBLY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th June (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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Ambarvale PS is taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program again this year. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We will then redeem these for educational resources for your child. For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point.

Place them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and, once it’s completed, just bring it back to school and place in the green Earn & Learn box near the office.

Start collecting NOW!