Principal Pope’s Paragraphs

The Students are taking over! In this newsletter you will find a new student page featuring work, photos and comments from our hardworking students. This page is being produced by one of our student leaders, Neha. This student page will be a standard feature for most of our newsletters, so keep your eyes peeled for some exciting work from someone you might know.

Thanks to our BREAKFAST parents Last week during NAPLAN, our P&C along with many volunteers got together to provide breakfast for our students three days running. This helped all of our students and especially those doing NAPLAN, to have fuel in their stomachs, which in turn helped their brains function at their best. Thursday was extra special with a hot breakfast. So once again thanks to Peter and all for your wonderful help in this area. Breakfast Club will continue to run in the hall on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30am until 8.50am. So if you’re able to help, that too would be greatly appreciated.

NAPLAN is done & dusted. While it was great to see so many boys and girls focusing and trying their best during NAPLAN, please remember it is only ‘one’ test. All the hard work and learning happens the rest of the year. So keep on concentrating, work hard in class and show your teacher the best that you can do. Being a good student all the time is what you’re aiming for. How can I do that? I hear you ask….. Well I’m glad you asked… for answers refer to the next passage.

BEING A GOOD STUDENT ‘ardictionary.com’ defines a student as ‘A person engaged in study; one who is devoted to learning… ’To be a good student or a good learner try and apply the following – Work hard, listen carefully, engage in your learning (think about it, talk about it, ask & answer questions), don’t give up, do your best and work well with others. Have a growth mind set. Believe that with effort and time you will improve. With the right attitude, effort and help when required everything can be learnt. Finally to be a good student, make sure you come to school as often as possible.

This week I was visited by a Kindergarten student and he has made outstanding progress. He has gone from learning to add small, single digit numbers to adding larger numbers in their tens and higher. To me the reason seems simple. He is an engaged student who listens, concentrates, has a go and does his best. He is also supported and encouraged by his parents and teachers. I regularly see many boys and girls like this who improve because of a good attitude to learning and a willingness to have a go and work hard. I’m also looking forward to presenting to a number of students their Platinum Awards at next Monday’s whole school assembly as these students demonstrate many of the above qualities.

Stewart House Bags With this newsletter you should have received a Stewart House Bag. If you have any clothing at home that is too small or is no longer wanted, please fill your Stewart House bag and return to the school by Thursday 23rd May.

Upcoming Events

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<th>May/June</th>
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<td>24/5 - PSSA Gala Day</td>
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<td>30/5 - Zone Cross Country</td>
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<td>06/6 - Gymnastics starts</td>
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<td>10/6 - Public Holiday</td>
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Assemblies

Please see Assembly Roster included in this Newsletter
REPORTS ARE COMING

We have just introduced a new reporting program. It will look much the same as before but the way teachers enter information and comments is somewhat different. Teachers have been closely assessing your children all year and are currently seeing how they have improved and how well they are working. Teachers are in the process of entering this information and we aim to have reports sent home at the end of Week 8 with opportunities for interviews in Week 9, (the last week of Term). We encourage you to come and notes will be sent home shortly. Please encourage your child to work to their best and that you look forward to seeing how well they have improved and how well they conduct themselves and work with others at school.

Lots to LOOK FORWARD TO

Gala Day Friday. This Friday is Gala Day for most of our 3-6 students. We will have students representing us in Netball, Touch Football, AFL and Soccer. We wish all our students an enjoyable and successful day. Remember you can only go to our Gala Days if you follow our code of conduct and demonstrate good behaviour at school and outside of school including good sportsmanship and being able to follow directions. We are proud of you all and wish you good luck. Do your best, support and encourage your team and have fun. Please remember to return permission notes and money by this Thursday 23rd May.

Venues are as follows:
Netball: Coronation Park, Minto (bus)
Touch Football: Oswald Oval (bus)
Soccer: Ambarvale Sports Complex (walking)
AFL: Eschol Park playing fields at Eschol Park (bus)

Parent/Carer Workshop Also on this Friday we have the first of a series of planned Parent/Carer Workshops that will be held at Ambarvale PS. This first workshop is a “Best Start” workshop, aimed at our K-2 parents/carers. We will be talking about ways our schools teach and ways to help your child with their reading, writing, and mathematics. This workshop will be held in our library and will begin at 9.15 until 10.15 approx. Morning tea will be provided and a lucky door prize will be won by one lucky parent. There will be more workshops throughout the year and we have joined with Thomas Acres PS, in partnership. So, we will share holding the workshops at each school and transport can be arranged. We are looking forward to meeting as many parents as possible and teachers will be present to help answer any general questions. We will let you know the type of workshops that will be coming up this term and next term, in plenty of time.

Excursion Excitement. Next Wednesday our Year 3 and 4 students are off to Wollongong to visit the Nan Tien Temple while our Year 5 and 6 students learn about science at the Science Centre in Wollongong also. It should be an educational day learning about the world, other cultures and religions. No splitting the atom or anything though please boys and girls. Notes and money for these excursions are due by the end of this week.

Gymnastics Galore. Gymnastics starts soon. I'm looking forward to seeing all the smiles on our students' faces from their involvement in some fun physical activities. Our trained gymnastics instructors will be teaching our students a vital part of the PD, Health and PE curriculum and before we know it our boys and girls will be rolling, balancing and demonstrating a variety of gymnastic skills appropriate to their age and skill level. Permission notes and money will need to be returned by Friday 24th May.

Cross Country Capers. Next week on the 30.5.13 we have a multitude of runners who will be going to The Campbelltown Zone Cross Country Carnival, which will be held at Thomas Acres Reserve (Cleopatra Dr, Rosemeadow). The carnival will commence at 10am and finish at approximately 2pm. I hope you’ve all been training and getting ready. We look forward to you having a great day, running your best and encouraging others. Get those runners polished.

As you can see there is a lot to look forward to. So work hard, behave your best and enjoy yourselves, enjoy school and enjoy all the extra activities that are provided.

K-6 Assembly next Monday 27th May: Parents/Carers are invited to our whole school assembly on Monday 27th May where many special awards will be presented, including: merit awards and our next Aussie of the Month. We hope that you can join us at this assembly to help us celebrate the successes of our students.

Cyber Safety: It is important that, from an early age, children learn how to use the internet safely. The Australian Government has a great website that can assist parents. www.cybersmart.gov.au
Woolworths Earn and Learn Program: Once again our school is registered for the Woolworths ‘Earn and Learn’ Program. This year, shoppers will receive stickers (1 sticker for every $10 spent) to place on a sticker card. Once you have filled your card, simply bring it to school to place in our collection box. At the end of the promotion our school will be entitled to a range of resources depending on the number of stickers we have collected. Thank you for your assistance with this fundraising program.

Student Welfare: At Ambarvale Public School we implement positive, pro-active student welfare practices and work to establish a caring and safe environment, where individual differences are respected. All students have the right to be happy and safe at school. We have high expectations of our students in terms of their behaviour and continue to reinforce messages to students that physical violence or bullying will not be tolerated in any form.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to remind students about expected behaviour at school. We also encourage parents/carers to contact the school to report any concerns regarding student behaviour that is concerning, in order for the school to best support each student.

Please note: Principals must immediately suspend any student who is physically violent, resulting in injury, or whose violent behaviour seriously interferes with the safety and wellbeing of others.

Our Awards System: The following table shows how your child can reach each level in our Award System:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Number of Awards Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>5 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>10 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>15 merit awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>25+ a Good News Letter/Aussie of the Month</td>
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To receive a Platinum Award, students will also need to receive an Aussie of the Month Award or a Good News Letter. Students can also receive a merit award by obtaining 5 playground awards.

Students will be required to keep their awards in a safe place at home and bring only their merit awards to school when they have collected the correct number to trade for a Level Award e.g. for a Silver Award, students will bring in 5 merit awards (note: the student would have already traded 5 merit awards for a Bronze, which equals 10 merit awards received altogether – refer to table above). Teachers will keep a record of all awards given to students. Please note that no awards will be replaced if lost.

Uniform reminder: The weather is getting cooler and we encourage all students to wear the correct school uniform, including the correct coloured jumpers. We believe the wearing of school uniform promotes pride in our school. Please let me know, or your child’s classroom teacher know, if you are experiencing some financial difficulties purchasing uniforms as the school can access a small amount of funds to support families. All correspondence will be treated confidentially. Please be aware of our new Uniform time which is Friday mornings 8.45am to 9.15am..

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.

P&C Postponed Unfortunately several executive are unable to attend this weeks planned P&C due to various commitments. After discussing this with our President Michelle Kotsu we have decided that our next meeting will be the one planned on Tuesday 18th June at 7pm upstairs in the school Library. At this meeting Miss Page and Mr Pope will present the Annual School report and school directions for the rest of 2013 and 2014. Also many thanks to our P&C and everyone for donating to and running a great Mothers’ Day stall.

Learning Tips:
Encourage your child to participate and ask questions in class. The more they are involved the more they will learn. Tell them it doesn't matter if they make a mistake. Our teachers are supportive and encouraging and we all learn from mistakes. Involvement equals improvement.

Sean Pope
This week (Week 4), our PBIS focus is, “Setting and discussing the rules of a game.”
The rule is: **Be a Learner**

Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on how to organise playground games to ensure that they are enjoyable and harmonious.

**Organising the rules of a game means:**

- All players know what they can and can’t do
- People will be more likely to ‘hack it’ because they have agreed on the rules from the start.
- The game will run smoothly
- All participants will have fun
- There will be fewer arguments and disagreements.
- You are being a Learner by planning ahead

At Ambarvale we expect people to discuss and organise the rules of a game before it commences. When you do this, you are being a learner.

**Next week, (Week 5), we will be focusing on following our two and three step plans. Our rule focus will be; Be a Learner, Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Kind.**

**From the Pastoral Carers Desk**

Term 2 is well underway, and it is going to be a busy term with so many positive things planned and happening. Last term was a busy time for all with many improvements around Ambarvale, despite the frustration and inconvenience caused by the break-in and vandalism. The recent funding agreement between the State and Federal Governments is such an important outcome for the continued investment in education and our school. It’s also important to value these commitments, *if they come through*, to make the most of these opportunities to improve the teaching and learning for our boys and girls. It’s hard to imagine a more important decision for Australia’s future.

Although, in recent months, as the world increasingly became more chaotic with bombings and disasters littering our screens, it seemed the fragility of the future was perilously close to our doorsteps. Last month we saw the best and worst of humanity, the Boston and Iraqi bombings one day and threat from North Korea the next. Then the solidarity and brotherly love at the London marathon and of course our ANZAC Day commemorations. Sometimes it seems we are surrounded by violence and fear, yet we continue to yearn for hope and peace…it’s not that hard to find, if we want to seek it out!

We just need the spirit to **soldier on with courage**, be determined, and together stand firm for these ideals of hope and peace.

It’s all for the sake of future generations.

“To dream anything that you want to dream, that is the beauty of the human mind.
To do anything that you want to do, that is the strength of the human will.
To trust yourself to test your limits, that is the courage to succeed.” – Bernard Edmonds

I would like to remind everyone that I am at Ambarvale on Friday this term. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers and I hope everyone has a great Term 2.

Rob Hodgson JP
Library Chat

Each week every class in the school visits the library. Part of this time is for the children to spend time reading or browsing the shelves, choosing a book or two to borrow. The other part of each visit is for a lesson, usually based on HSIE or Science units being studied in the classroom. These lessons are planned with the class teachers to cover content and outcomes for the unit of work, but there is also an information skills focus.

Information skills focus on the process of locating information, selecting what is useful, taking notes and then presenting this information appropriately for the purpose and audience. These skills are essential in a world where information is constantly changing and the amount of information we can access is growing remarkably every year. A simple Google search will usually return a million results: knowing which to look at and how to locate what is useful will help the children not only with their school work but in their future careers.

Catherine Sullivan
Teacher librarian

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Term 2 Assembly Roster

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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>Monday 27th May (Wk 5)</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>Monday 10th June (Wk 7) (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)</td>
<td>NO ASSEMBLY</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!
When I visited Kindergarten last week I saw them learning how to add.

They were also making patterns with stamps.

Last week KV did some fantastic work, some of them were absolutely fabulous.

- Little Humpty and Big Humpty saw crocodiles and elephants.

By Jordan Kumar KV

- Little Humpty lived in the desert and the desert was very hot.

By Student in KV