06.08.13

Principal Pope’s Paragraphs

Wow… my extended break was nice but it’s great to be back and see our students, teachers and community working so well together.

I would like to extend a gigantic thanks to Miss Page for running the school so smoothly for the first couple of weeks back this term. (In fact our last principal report in the newsletter should’ve been titled Principal Page’s Page Turners).

Already this term our staff has been working hard. Mrs Flannery has led the staff in the new Australian English curriculum for NSW. Miss Page and Mrs Duffield have been leading us through online learning modules to help us improve even further in how we can assist students with special needs (for further details refer to the PLASST trial outlined in this newsletter). Mr Gray has continued to partner with teachers to improve the learning of reading and comprehension through the focus on reading and Mr Gray along with Miss Bray has organized parent workshops for this term at Thomas Acres PS and our school on Maths and Technology. Find more information on these later in this newsletter. Attending these sessions if you are able will not only help you help your child but will give you a chance to meet others from our school community. We will also be providing morning tea and you have a chance of winning the lucky door prize.

EDUCATION WEEK HAS BEEN A BLAST

Last week we enjoyed several special events. This included 100 DAYS of KINDERGARTEN, Our Open Day & special assembly along with and our Infants Sports Carnival and Primary Athletics Carnival.

Firstly, our 100 Days of Kindergarten was a true celebration of half a year of learning. The boys and girls in Kindergarten have made so much progress already in their learning and social skills. Our Kindy students dressed up as book characters as well as our teachers. Miss Vest was Wanda from Where’s Wally, Miss King was the Cat in the Hat, Mrs Clarke was dressed up as a student from Ambarvale (infact we couldn’t tell her apart from our students) and I came as Wally from Where’s Wally. Many enjoyable learning experiences and games were had throughout the day and in the afternoon we were joined by many parents, grandparents and others for a lovely afternoon tea.
Next was our Open day. We had many parents, carers and significant others come to visit their children hard at work in class. After this we had a special assembly where we heard from Neha, our school Ambassador and witnessed many items. This included a photo montage of our year so far, showing our students hard at work, hard at play and celebrating various events. Our school choir was on fire and did an amazing job singing ‘This Girl is on Fire’. We saw some wonderful performances from Kindergarten. It was both clever and cute. 5/6D demonstrated their musical versatility by singing and playing cups and Mrs Duffield and Miss Cunningham’s dance group performed a small snippet of the dance they’ve been working on. It was tremendous. Year 6 supplied many of us with a barbecue and soft drinks. Thanks to those who cooked and to those who supported Year 6 fundraising by buying a sausage and drink.

On Thursday we went a bit sport mad. In the middle session our infants’ classes got out to show their skills and be active. They were jumping hurdles, leaping into the long jump pit, running, throwing vortex and putting shots, having egg and spoon races as well as sack races.

Primary had a great and full day of events, sprinting, shot putting, doing high jump, discuss, hurdles, sack racing, throwing (nerf) javelins and rubber chickens. I personally think rubber chicken throwing should be an Olympic sport. Our students were excellent and many house points were awarded for excellent participation and behaviour. Thomas Reddall High School sent several high school students to assist us and I would like to commend them and their school on their excellent support, initiative and leadership. Again thanks to all the parents who were able to attend and support their children.

Last Thursday Neha attended another leadership day. She was with the Ambassadors from a number of other schools across our region. Neha had a great day continuing to extend her leadership skills and networking with leaders across the region. See some more from Neha on the school Ambassadors student page.

As you can see Education Week was a busy one and we are grateful to the parents, carers and others who were able to come to encourage their children and support the school. Even if you couldn’t attend there are many things we can do together to create a Positive Future for our children. The theme for Education Week was Creating the Future. It is our aim as I am sure it is yours to help our children become happy and successful people so that they can have the best possible futures.
HEY BOYS & GIRLS IT'S YOUR FUTURE

We should all be working together to create a good one.

As teachers it is our job to cater for your needs and interests, to improve your literacy and numeracy, to assist you in working with and respecting others, to learn how to use technology, to promote your creative thinking, logical thinking and problem solving. We want to improve your skills in a range of areas and we want you to be happy while learning and reaching your potential.

Parents and carers can help by valuing school and learning and seeing it as important. Ensure your child comes to school regularly (missing too much school affects your child academically and socially). Parents you can help by teaching your child resilience and how to overcome problems with a positive attitude. Parents you can also help by encouraging regular reading, ensuring your child gets good rest and food as well as being active. Promoting manners and respect of others is vital too.

Boys and girls it is also up to you. Focus; have an ‘I can do it’ attitude, be polite and friendly and do your best to help others as well as yourself. Already this year you have come a long way. By working hard and working together with your peers, your teachers and parents you can go a long way still towards creating a bright future.

PSSA Sport Gala Days: Our winter sport teams will be continuing for this term and we will be competing in touch football, netball, AFL and soccer. The first Gala Day for this term will be on Friday 9th August. The permission and payment note was sent home with students on Monday. The cost for both Gala Days will be $15. Please ensure that the money and permission note are returned to the school by Wednesday 7th August.

Gymnastics - Get Active: Our gymnastics program is back this week. So be ready on Thursday to have fun and work on those movement skills.

High School Students: If your child has an older high school brother or sister who collects them from school in the afternoon, could you please remind them that they will need to wait under the COLA area to collect their younger siblings. This ensures that classes are not disrupted and a central collection point is known to all students.

P&C Meeting: The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd September at 7pm. All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

PBIS Focus

This week (Week 4), our PBIS focus is, “Assembly Behaviour”
The rule is; Be Respectful, Be a Learner
Students are participating in explicit lessons focused on appropriate behaviour at assemblies.

Being respectful during assembly means you are:

- following the instructions of staff
- removing your hat
- not eating or drinking
- sitting or standing still
- listening
- looking at the speaker

At Ambarvale we expect people to behave appropriately during assemblies and formal occasions. When you do this, you are being respectful.

Next week, (Week 5), we will be focusing on correct areas at school. (Be Safe)
Parent/Carer Maths Games Workshop

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our community of schools parent/carer workshop on maths games on the 26th July at Thomas Acres Public School. This fantastic workshop was run by Liz Henson and provided parents and carers with hands on strategies to assist their child in learning mathematical concepts. We look forward to more wonderful workshops in the near future and we would love to see as many parents/carers as possible. Below are some of the responses we received through feedback:

- “I loved everything! Games, morning tea and lucky door prize”
- “Today was very good in giving me ideas to help my Kindy son with understanding his maths”
- “Very friendly and helpful - a good explanation of maths”
- “The different concepts presented will aid me in helping my daughter with her homework.”
- “The website schoolatoz is a one stop resource”

Coming up: **Our Best Parent Workshop Yet!** (Friday 16th August)

In the coming weeks Ambarvale PS and Thomas Acres PS will be presenting Parent/Carer workshops on a variety of topics. These workshops are sure to be the best workshops we have held so far. The workshops are designed to help Parents/Carers and Teachers work together in partnership to provide the best possible support for our students. Below are the dates, times and locations of our upcoming workshops:

- Friday 16th August 9:15-10:30 at Ambarvale Public School on “Practical Maths”
- Friday 13th September 9:15-10:30 at Thomas Acres Public School on “Using Technology”

So please come along and join us as we work in partnership in providing your child with the best possible chance for success!

Mr Gray & Miss Bray

Stage 3 Dance Group

Congratulations to Miss Cunningham and the Stage 3 Dance Group, who performed for the very first time at our ‘Education Week’ assembly. It was a very entertaining and funky dance, which was enjoyed by all. The Dance Group have a performance coming up at Thomas Reddall on the 30th August and one later at a local Primary School. Well done to all group members. You rock!!!!!

Mrs Duffield

Thank you, Miss Cunningham!

This message was sent to the Principal of Thomas Reddall High School. We’d like to share it with the school community.

I’m writing to thank you and your school, Thomas Reddall High School, for allowing us to share one of your wonderful staff members. Lisa Cunningham (PDHPE/Dance) has been doing a super job giving up her release and lunch times to train Stage 3 dancers at Ambarvale P.S. She has developed an entertaining and well-choreographed piece. Not only has Lisa been visiting the dancers each week, but she has coordinated and organised for your students to attend PSSA Gala Days (as referees), for ten children to assist at the school Athletics Carnival and also made it possible for us to borrow extra high jump mats to make this event safer for our students. She certainly is an asset to your school and I’m sure your staff is aware of her dedication to the teaching and learning of all children. Lisa has effectively been creating a strong link between your school and the local feeder school. Many children will attend Thomas Reddall because of this and will also have a friendly face they know to greet them on arrival.

In appreciation,
The staff and students of Ambarvale Public School
Term 3 Assembly Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Lead by</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12th August (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 26th August (Wk 7)</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>1/2M Mrs Musumeci</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>2/6H Miss Hartley</td>
<td>Class Merit Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th September (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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MISSING BILBY

Last week one of our students lost her bilby soft toy. It is of great sentimental value. If you find it or have picked it up it would be appreciated greatly if it could be returned to the office.

Successful Book Fair

I would like to thank the school community for their support of the book fair. We took orders for over $2300 in books which will give the school over $800 for new books in the library. Most of this will be spent on new titles, but I will also be replacing many old favourites that have been borrowed and read by countless children for years (we have many books that are over 20 years old!). I will be buying nice new copies of these where they are still available.

Premier’s Reading Challenge has only three weeks to go. Primary children need to finish their twenty books by the end of this month. Children in K-2 have completed the challenge in their classrooms. Only those who have registered by signing the permission note will receive a certificate. It is not too late to do this, so see me in the library if you wish to register.

Mrs Sullivan
LIBRARIAN
**Education Day**

Last week for Education Day Neha, (our school ambassador) gave a speech on her experience as a school ambassador. Here is part of it. Being able to represent ones school is an honour and a great privilege and comes with great responsibility. Being school ambassador has taught me a few things about being responsible. My attitude, behaviour and conduct are viewed as a reflection of my school. But it’s not all dull and serious. There’s also a fun side to being an ambassador. Participating in the ambassador events and meeting with other school ambassador is exciting and fun. It involves sharing ideas and learning new ways of doing things. It’s also about learning flexibility and that there are multiple ways of doing the same task. It’s about coming together and working as a team to increase knowledge so you can find solutions to problems.

**Athletics Carnival**

Last Thursday Ambarvale Public School had an athletics carnival and lots of students participated in events such as high jump, discuss, shot put and many other sports. Teachers gave out a lot of house points to deserving students and it was a fantastic day. Parents and high school students came over and helped with the events. The high school students were fantastic. Miss Young had attended this event as well, 5/6D were really pleased to see her as she was our student teacher last term. We would like to say thank you to Miss Bray and Mrs Musumeci for organising this event and thank you to all the other parents and teachers for your well appreciated support. Congratulations to all those hard working students. Tomas, Ayeden & Mikayla.

**Student Work**

By Jakob in 3/6W

By a student in 3/6W

**Teacher Interview**

This week we interviewed a member who has been teaching at Ambarvale for a while now and is still extremely dedicated to teaching children. Mrs Clarke! You wouldn’t believe it, but as it turns out this brilliant teacher’s career began about 16 years ago because of the teachers at her son’s school, who suggested she become a teacher. Over the course of 16 years Mrs Clarke has taught many classes (most were senior classes) but she still loves teaching juniors the most. Her favourite subject to learn and to teach is reading, which she does lots of in her spare time. One of Mrs Clarke’s greatest achievements is inspiring someone to go to University and become a teacher like her!