Tuesday 28th April, 2015

PRINCIPAL POPE’S PARAGRAPHS

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell

Welcome back & well done! It has been 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 routines and are working hard on learning. I can see that many continue to display excellent behaviour. Remember consistent good behaviour can result in recognition such as Good News Letters, Aussies of the Month and eventually Platinum awards; not to mention it makes you a better learner and more respected by all. I am also pleased to say our committed staff team have returned ready to make a positive difference for our students and community. As you would be aware Mrs Brown has moved and Mr Nicholls has taken over 5/6B. Welcome Mr Nicholls and we all look forward to working with you for the rest of 2015.

Our staff development day last Monday was very engaging and we all participated in professional development around effective learning, learning intentions and success criteria and did further work on our school plan. This will be posted to our website for all to view by the end of the week.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY Last Thursday 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 organised by Mrs Friend and it was an outstanding service. All of our students K-6 were very respectful and they listened intently to our special guests; ex-veterans Mr Rose and our very own Mr Rob. At the service we heard stories of the young and brave men and boys who gave their lives to fight for our country. I think the Australian spirit represented by ANZAC 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 not give up even when things get tough. On the Friday the school leaders and I attended a special celebration hosted by Campbelltown Council. Our school along with many others was presented with a plaque to commemorate 100 years of ANZAC. For a short while this will be displayed in the front office and will later be moved to the library.

Super Easter Hat Eggcitement – What an heroic turn out of hats. Our annual Easter Hat Parade was a great success with excellent participation from students, staff and community. We had spider heads, Darth egg-heads, as well as Bat Chicks and a multitude of other superheroes. It was a spectacle and a whole lot of fun. There was a lot of colour and creativity on display. Some of our teachers and community looked pretty special with their hats on too.

During the morning we enjoyed expert commentary from Miss Carruthers. There were plenty of prize winners, who got their paws on massive baskets of chocolate eggs. Thanks to our P&C and our community who donated eggs and sold raffle tickets. The result was a lot of happy students and parents and the P&C were able to raise approx. $450 to support our school.

Our school barbecue was also a great success with many students and families pre-ordering or purchasing sausages on rolls with cans of drink, to make lunchtime a special event for all.
I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their participation and a special thanks to our P&C, Mr & Mrs White, Miss Page and Miss Caruthers for their outstanding efforts in organising the day and barbecue. Please see photos further on in this newsletter. If you would like to see more great pictures of the parade why not check out our school website at: www.ambarvale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

MOTHERS' DAY Coming up in May is Mothers’ Day. The P&C will be running their annual stall. They would gratefully accept donations to be sold as gifts at the stall. Gifts will range in price from $2 to $5. Volunteers to assist with collection from classes, wrapping gifts and general organisation would be greatly appreciated – Please see Julie Call, Mr Pope, the office or your class teacher if you can help.

NAPLAN Testing: The annual National Assessment Program testing for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 takes place in 2 weeks, from 12th -14th 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.

NO SMOKING on school property please; this includes at the school gates. For those parents who wish to smoke please feel free to do so but school policy is that you stand at least 4 metres from the school entrances. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>30/04</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Miss Carruthers</td>
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<td>05/05</td>
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<td>06/05</td>
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<td>1st June</td>
<td>K-2</td>
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BLUE MUFTI DAY

April is Autism Awareness Month. To celebrate this year we are holding a blue mufti day on Thursday 30th of April. Please wear blue and bring a gold coin for donation. Classes have been reading a variety of books and watching some short films on understanding perspectives and unique abilities of students with Autism. We are also holding a cake stall on this day for 50c or $1. Support Unit classes have been requested to donate cakes, however, we will take donations from across the school. All funds raised on this day will go towards an Ambarvale family with a child with Autism and MLD to assist with necessary medical treatments.
CROSS COUNTRY & GALA DAYS

Term 2 sees us gearing up for winter sports action with Cross Country on Wednesday Week 3, Gala Day 1 on Friday Week 4 and Gala Day 2 on Friday Week 8. Cross Country will be held in the middle session for all primary students (and 8 year olds in Year 2) and will consist of a challenging course that starts at the school back gate and winds its way through the Ambarvale Sports Fields. There is no cost for this event and in the event of rain there is a reserve day scheduled for Tuesday Week 6. Gala Day teams are in the final stages of selection and will be confirmed in the coming days. Costs involved cover travel to and from venues. Further details for Cross Country and Gala Day can be found in permission notes that will be distributed in the next few days or by contacting me.

Mr Grimes

DANCE OFF

Congratulations Stage 1 and Primary dance groups for making it to Public Schools Dance Festival – Ultimo Public Schools

To help with the cost of costumes and travel expenses for students participating, Ambarvale Public School is holding a Dance off on Tuesday 5th May in the school hall. There will be Just Dance, prizes to win, glow sticks and food to buy!

What: Ambarvale Public School Dance Off!
When: Wednesday 6th May during lunch and recess
Where: School Hall
Cost: Gold coin donation to wear mufti clothes and ticket to the Dance Off.
Purchases: Glow Sticks (50c), Chips (50c) and Drinks – Fizzy Iced Tea ($1).
What to wear: Your best Dance Off clothes!

OPPORTUNITY CLASS

Opportunity Class Placement Test for 2016

Students in Year 4 have received a note regarding the Opportunity Class Placement Test which will be held on Wednesday 22nd July 2015.

This note outlines the steps parents/carers need to take if they would like their child to apply for an Opportunity Class placement in 2016. If you have any questions about your child’s suitability for an opportunity class, please speak with his/her class teacher.

Expressions of interest need to be returned to the school by Friday 1st May.

STAGE 3 PROGRAMS

Y-BRAVE, In-School Mentoring, Opportunity Hub

Throughout the rest of this year, our school has been fortunate to be able to secure the support of the YWCA and the Opportunity Hub, provided by MTC Australia. These organisations work in schools and with students in providing a number of programs.

Our school has selected to run the Y-BRAVE program and In-School mentoring for Year 5 and 6 students with support from the YWCA and the Resilience and Transition to highschool program with support from the Opportunity Hub. The Y-BRAVE program focuses on student self-esteem and links this program to our PDHPE syllabus. Lessons will be taught by YWCA personnel on a weekly basis in 5/6B and 5/6K. The In-School Mentoring program will run in conjunction with the Opportunity Hub. It will focus on a number of targeted students to provide mentoring in social skills, leadership and confidence. This program will run once a week until the end of year.

The Opportunity Hub is provided for aboriginal students to support their choices in education. It is hoped that the mentoring commenced under the program will continue onto the high school setting. This program will run for approximately 7 weeks.

If your child is selected to participate in either the In-school mentoring or the Opportunity Hub a permission note will need to be completed. Please return the completed note by the due date to ensure that your child is able to participate. If you have any questions about these programs please speak with Miss Page.
STAGE 2 CAMP

1st Camp Instalment Due Soon!

Our Stage Two camp is being held in Term 3 from Wednesday 26th August – Thursday 27th August (Week 7 Term 3).

50 places are available for our camp and all students in Year 3 and 4 are able to participate.

In order to attend, the first payment of $50 must be received by the due date of Thursday 21st May (Week 5 Term 2).

Parents are also able to make the full payment of $120 and therefore not make any further repayments if they would prefer.

An instalment payment slip is included with this newsletter. Please return it with your child's payment by the due date.

There are 50 places allocated for camp – please ensure you return the 1st instalment by the due date to secure a place for your child.

The camp will include 1 night and 2 days accommodation, meals and all activities. The cost of the camp includes transport to and from Wedderburn by coach.

Please remind your child that attendance at this excursion is a privilege given only to Stage 2 students. As such, only students who maintain appropriate behaviour will be permitted to attend. Any inappropriate behaviour may prevent your child from being allowed to attend. Please discuss this expectation with your child.

Please speak with Miss Page if you have any questions or queries.

STAGE 3 CAMP

1st Camp Instalment Due Soon!

Our first instalment for the Stage Three camp is due Wk 3 Term 2 (Friday 8th May). The payment amount is $50. Parents are also able to make the full payment of $245 and therefore not make any further repayments if they would prefer.

An instalment payment slip is included with this newsletter. Please return it with your child's payment by the due date.

There are 50 places allocated for camp – please ensure you return the 1st instalment by the due date to secure a place for your child.

Our Stage 3 camp this year will be held at ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’, which is a curriculum-centred, outdoor education and recreation camp, located near the beaches of Port Stephens and Myall Lakes. The camp will include 2 nights and 3 days accommodation, meals and all activities. The cost of the camp includes transport to and from Tea Gardens by coach.

The dates for camp for 2015 are Wednesday 11th November – Friday 13th November (Week 6 Term 4). The total cost for camp will be $245.

Please remind your child that attendance at this excursion is a privilege given only to Stage 3 students. As such, only students who maintain appropriate behaviour will be permitted to attend. Any inappropriate behaviour may prevent your child from being allowed to attend. Please discuss this expectation with your child.

Please speak with Miss Page if you have any questions or queries.
ANZAC Day - 2015

As we think about ANZAC Day in this Centenary year of 2015, I ask...why do we still commemorate the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli? It’s been 100 years! The men who made that landing on the 25th April in 1915 are all gone.

Well let me say this...It is very important to understand the reasons why we commemorate ANZAC Day and exactly what it means to us as a nation and as individuals.

We certainly hold the day in very high regard on our national calendar. But it is not to celebrate a great military victory, because the landing and battle at Gallipoli was not that.

The ANZAC force was landed at the wrong place after setting out at about 3.30am from the fleet of ships anchored offshore, on a night so dark that not even the shoreline was visible. They initially encountered fairly light rifle fire from the Turkish defenders, but the Turkish positions were quickly reinforced and by midmorning the Australians and the New Zealanders were faced with heavy rifle and machine gun fire from above. At the end of that first day 2,000 men lay dead for the gain of about six square kilometres and they clung desperately to a small foothold. It was a military disaster from any viewpoint, except for the well-planned and successful evacuation that followed eight months later. And the final count of the dead was over 113,000, of which 11,500 were ANZAC troops.

However, it is not just Gallipoli we remember on ANZAC Day, nor is it even the First and Second World Wars or all the other wars our nation has been involved. This is a day set aside for us to collectively give thanks to all the Defence Service men and women who have put their lives at risk and in many cases have sacrificed their lives. We also acknowledge the losses and sacrifices of their families. These men and women did not start the wars in which they were involved, that was the responsibility of the government of the day and our government is the agent of the people. They were fighting on behalf of all the people of Australia.

The ANZACs and Gallipoli are an important part of Australia’s history...

Some would say it is the foundation for our nation’s values, to defend freedom and tolerance... In fact, we respect these values here at our school, freedom and tolerance are precious qualities of decency and it’s important that we all learn, practise and live them to have a fair and caring society for all. Now I’ll ask you these questions: Will you respect differences and accept others? Will you stand strong to support these values of freedom and tolerance? I hope so... And ANZAC Day should we continue to commemorate this historic event? Yes, I think so; ANZAC Day, and what it really represents, should continue to be appreciated across all the generations... Lest We Forget!

Rob Hodgson JP
Stage 2 Wedderburn Camp - INSTALMENT NUMBER 1 – $ 50.00
DATE DUE: Thursday 21st May (Week 5, Term 2).

Please find enclosed $ ____________ as payment for the Stage 2 Wedderburn camp.

Childs Name__________________________________

Class____________________

Signed _________________________ (parent/carer)

Date________________


Stage 3 Tea Gardens Camp - INSTALMENT NUMBER 1 – $ 50.00
DATE DUE: Friday 8th May (Week 3, Term 2).

Please find enclosed $ ____________ as payment for the Stage 3 Tea Gardens camp.

Childs Name__________________________________

Class____________________

Signed _________________________ (parent/carer)

Date________________