19 February 2014

What a wonderful way to start the year! I was very impressed with the way our new councillors ran our first assembly for the year. Congratulations to all our new school leaders including the Sports Captains, the Arts In Culture Representatives and the members of the newly elected SRC who received their badges at assembly.

Welcome to our Korean visitors. We were treated to some amazing performances by the Korean students at yesterday’s assembly - what a talented group of students. The Korean students and our students will enjoy a week of activities before they leave on Friday morning. Thank you to Mrs Russell and Ms Myung-Sook Auh from the University for their support of this project.

This week our school’s merit award system started. Students throughout the school can receive class commendations for using their 5 keys for success. Children keep their commendations and when they earn 10 commendations will receive a blue certificate. Children work towards the goal of achieving a Principal’s medallion for which they need 80 commendations. Commendations are handed out by class teachers as well as support teachers and are kept in pockets displayed in the classroom. A full explanation of our merit award system is in our Student Wellbeing policy which is available on the school website.

Thank you to all parents who attended Stage 1 and Stage 2 Parent Information Evenings last night. It was great to see so many parents actively involved in their children’s education and eager to find out how they can support their children’s learning. The purpose of these evenings is to give parents an opportunity to meet the teachers and get an overview of stage organisations, routines and expectations. Parents wishing to discuss their child’s education with the teacher are asked to contact the school and make a time to meet. Early Stage 1 will hold their information session next Monday at 5.30 and Stage 3 will be Tuesday at 5.30.

This week some Kindergarten students attended their first Religious Education (Scripture) class.
Religious Education is taught in all public schools across NSW. It is taught by volunteers who willingly give their time to teach scripture to students across the school. Scripture is organised in stage groups and is taught each Tuesday morning. The classes are organised into Catholic and Protestant (which includes a range of denominations present in the community). When students enrol at school they are asked to nominate whether they wish their child to attend “Religion” classes. Our students have been placed in classes based on the information we have received from parents. Some parents choose not to have their children attend scripture and those students are supervised by a staff member. All children not attending scripture must have a signed permission note from parents stating the reasons for their non-attendance.

Congratulations to Mangarchot Maluach who was presented with a special sports award to recognise his achievements in basketball at local, state and national levels. The awards included a North West Bar to Blue and the Premier's Sporting Award which were presented by Member for Northern Tablelands - Mr Adam Marshall MP when he attended our first school assembly for the year.

This year the school has the opportunity to participate in the GRIP Leadership Conference which will be held in Armidale. This is an opportunity for all Stage 3 students to be involved in leadership training. Parents of school leaders and any Stage 3 student who would like to attend the primary Leadership Conference in Sydney can obtain information from Mrs Paterson. The opportunity with the GRIP conference will allow us to involve a greater number of students in leadership training.

Next week the school will be implementing a few changes to the organisation of recess and lunch. These changes and the reason behind the changes are explained in the attached letter. This is only a trial until the end of term.

This week Mrs Ridley will send home a note about the schools “Learn to Swim” program. This program will run in Weeks 10 and 11 this term and will target students who are unable to swim 25 metres.

A Huge THANK YOU to the wonderful people who helped at the carnival. Simone Lord, Joanne Gayden, Julie Cook, Dawn Tyler, Nina Stone, Barbara Pennington, Joanne Stewart, Kate Simpson, Boyd Blackwell, Amanda Hess, Anna Simpson, Robila Mobbs, Danielle Duarte, Margie Roberts, Tina Long, Michelle Guppy, Simone Coop, Marieta Burgess, Gemma Model & Joe Russell. A special thanks to Angela Harris and the P&C for the delicious sausage sizzle. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Armidale City Swimming Age Champions for 2014 are:
Junior Girls: Madison Willis/Clio Knight
Junior Boys: Zoe McShane/Lauren Williams (Joint)
11 Years Girls: Heather Girard
11 Years Boys: Andrew Henderson
Senior Girls: Lucy Cook
Senior Boys: Clancy Roberts

A team of 40 swimmers will represent ACPS at the District PSSA Swimming Carnival to be held at the Monckton Aquatic Swimming Centre, this Thursday. We hope many personal bests are achieved on the day.

Trials are currently being held for the school Basketball and Cricket teams. The boys and girls cricket teams have been selected. The boys will be playing Ben Venue in round 1 of the PSSA knockout this Friday. The girl’s game is yet to be confirmed.

As seen on Prime News, Stage 3 recently enjoyed a skills clinic with the AFL Sydney Swans. The club is hoping to lift the profile of AFL in the country NSW. If your child is interested in playing Auskick (modified AFL), you can email Debbie Cartledge at contact.auskick@newenglandnomads.net or phone her on 0423579988.

This week’s winning house is Mitchell.

Mrs Paterson
Principal (A)

SPORTS NEWS
The temperature was sizzling hot and so was the competition in the pool. Congratulations to all the children who participated at the annual school swimming carnival. It was great to see so many personal bests being achieved.

SPORTS NEWS
The temperature was sizzling hot and so was the competition in the pool. Congratulations to all the children who participated at the annual school swimming carnival. It was great to see so many personal bests being achieved.
KINDER RED CLASS NEWS
Kinder Red children have made it into their third week of school and are making very pleasing progress. They have been busy learning the school routine and further developing their organisational and social skills, while also learning to read and write! What awesome little workers they are!

Kinder Red students were asked to share their favourite school experiences so far. This is what they came up with:

**Emelia:** writing numbers and letters on the SMART Board

**William:** making a lovebug

**Saho:** the Gummy Bear song

**Hollie:** making a lovebug

**Justin:** playing and watching things on the SMART Board

**Lilly:** playing in the playground

**Aahlia:** playing with dolls, writing numbers on the SMART Board and making a lovebug

**Oshada:** drawing pictures and playing

**Lillian:** making a lovebug

**Hughie:** doing reading groups

**Jack:** playing with toy animals

**Kaelen:** reading books and playing with Lego and cars

**Charlotte:** playing with dolls and dressing-up

**Kristen:** playing with dolls

**Bowden:** listening to stories

**Rosie:** everything! Absolutely EVERYTHING we have done at school!

**Danika:** watching the rock n’ roll bears on the SMART Board

**Lily-Mae:** making a lovebug and watching stories on the SMART Board

**Taylah:** playing dress-ups

Unfortunately, Yoyo and Maddy were absent.

We are looking forward to the rest of the term and hope that yours is just as enjoyable,

**Mrs Morris and Kinder Red**

NEWS FROM THE ROOM OF 1/2P

I like the Tumble Tops because they are cute and I want to cuddle them and have one as a pet. **By Chloe**

The Prickle backs are my favourite because they are blue and blend in with the environment. **By Xander**

The Snagglebites are great because they are sneaky and protect themselves with camouflage. **By Toby**

I like Puddlebutts, they are my favourite because they are very playful and cute. They look like bunnies and are not scared of people. **By Abby**

Have a great term everyone!

**Mrs Schultz and the awesome 1/2P**

3/4T CLASS NEWS
Visual literature has been a focus for 3/4T in the early weeks of this year, and in particular ‘Tuesday’ by David Wiesner. 3/4T students constructed some very clever newspaper articles describing the events depicted in ‘Tuesday’. Students made some fantastic observations about the facial expressions and body language in the book and used these to help construct their article.

We have been studying National Parks in HSIE and have looked into the important role that they play in ensuring that a high range of biodiversity is maintained for future generations. We are also looking at the wide variety of flora and fauna that are found in different national parks, as well as the park’s locations throughout Australia.

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the swimming carnival, particularly the students who were participating in their first swimming carnival. There were some fantastic swims and a very impressive level of student participation from 3/4T. Well done.

**Mr Brad Townsend**

3/4T Teacher

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Family Relationship Centre
- Exchange Students Families needed
- Stamps
- Tuition
- Babysitting
- After School Care
- Mini Basketball
- Hockey
- Uralla Market Day 8 March

If you would like more information on these events please call into our office and check out our Community Noticeboard.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Sat/Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February/March 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zoomobile</td>
<td>25 Healthy Harold Life Ed</td>
<td>26 School Photos Healthy Harold Life Ed 5.30pm P&amp;C Welcome BBQ 7.30pm P&amp;C AGM Meeting in School Library</td>
<td>27 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 2.10pm K-6 Assembly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 NW PSSA Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>11 Stage 2 -Blue Hole 3/4RT</td>
<td>12 Stage 2 -Blue Hole 3/4J</td>
<td>13 Stage 2 -Blue Hole 3/4KS 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15/16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Stage 2 -Blue Hole 3/4T</td>
<td>18 2.10pm K-6 Assembly</td>
<td>19 Stage 2 -Blue Hole 3/4R Harmony Day</td>
<td>20 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22/23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 K-2 Pet Care Visit</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March/April 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 2.10pm K-6 Assembly</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 9.30am-1pm SMASH Stage One 11.30am-12.15pm Stage 2 Choir 12.15pm-1pm Stage 3 Choir</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn to Swim
ARMIDALE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL

A Few Changes

Each year as part of the school self-evaluation process, all schools review several areas of school life. An area reviewed last year involved looking at the management and organisation of playgrounds and supervision.

The following changes are a result of the suggestions and ideas raised in the surveys returned by staff, students and parents in Term 4, 2013 as part of that evaluation process.

Most respondents believe our playgrounds are a fun and safe place to be however, staff, students and parents identified several aspects of the playground and supervision that could be investigated to better support students in our school.

For the remainder of this term several changes will be put in place as a trial only to evaluate options suggested by staff, students and some parents through the survey. A more comprehensive outline of survey results is in the ASR.

What are the changes?

1. **Increase the time for recess - 'MORNING BREAK' by 10 minutes from 11.10am - 11.40am.**

   Research in schools across the UK and USA and some within Australia around student break times indicate that students are often hungrier at recess as there is a greater time lapse between breakfast and mid morning break than recess and lunch.

   **It is our experience that children eat more at recess than lunch.** Research shows that by changing times and allowing a longer break time for eating earlier in the day student behaviour and academic performance is enhanced. Some children hurry eating at this time so they can have a few minutes to run around before going into school. By increasing the time at recess, children will have time to eat and digest their food before a short run around. Studies showed that through this simple change students were coming into class more settled in the middle part of the day.

2. **1st lunch, or 'AFTERNOON BREAK' will be inside from 1.10pm - 1.25pm**

   Children will eat inside with their teacher. This arrangement has been well documented as a successful strategy in modelling good eating habits and social expectations around food times.

   Eating inside allows teachers to monitor students and ensure they are eating their lunch and once again reduces waste. **Students will be required to take home lunch scraps and waste.**

Students who do not finish eating in 15 minutes will finish eating in a designated eating area in the 2 playgrounds.

**Play Brake will be the same time of 1.25pm to 1.50pm.**

The changed arrangements for lunch also mean that we have reduced the supervision roster in each playground allowing an additional teacher to be placed in the playground to support children in different ways during play time. In both playgrounds quiet areas have been designated where students can learn how to play minor games and play with more individual equipment.

A further change is the establishment of a reflection room for students who are experiencing difficulty in the playground and need support to develop problem solving and resilience strategies. This room will be staffed by executive.

This is a trial only and will be evaluated in Week 11.

If parents have any questions please feel free to contact the Principal.
Armidale City Public School
P&C Association
Welcome BBQ and AGM

The P&C are holding a BBQ
to welcome all new and existing families.

on
26 February 2014
5.30pm in the
Primary Playground

Please come along and meet parents and staff of this
wonderful school.

The welcome BBQ will be followed by the Annual General
Meeting of the P&C at 7pm in the Library.

Information on the role of the board members for the
P&C can be found at the front office