PRINCIPAL’S REPORT—WEEK 3

Our fete last Saturday was a huge success. It was wonderful to meet so many members of the ACPS community and I would like to congratulate and thank the fete organisers, P&C members, community members, school staff and students for their outstanding efforts in making the day a success. To the parents and family members who gave up so much of their time in preparation for the fete I thank you for your level of commitment to our great school. Well done to our K-2 Dance group – your item was superb. I look forward to the fete in 2015 and to continuing the great tradition of the ACPS fete.

During this week students in Years 3 and 5 are taking part in NAPLAN. During the week students in Years 3 and 5 will be sitting external assessments in language skills, writing, reading and numeracy. These assessments are a national assessment and are used to assist teachers to plan teaching and learning activities relevant to individual children’s needs. The cumulative results for each grade assist the school to plan teacher professional learning and help to establish direction when making long term plans for the school.

The Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and the Writing components were held on Tuesday 13 May. Reading was on today, Wednesday 14 May, and Numeracy will be held on Thursday 15 May. Friday 16 May is a ‘Catch Up’ day for students who missed any components on any day due to illness or absence. Results will be available in September. Please ensure your child arrives at school well rested and has a good breakfast on the days of NAPLAN.

From next week on Tuesdays (11.40am – 12.25pm) our school orchestra program will commence with students who already play an instrument taking part in orchestra lessons from experienced music teachers April and Ben. April and Ben are being provided as teachers to us by the New England Conservatorium of Music and we know the program will continue the great tradition of music programs at the school. At this point in time we have approximately 30 students who will be in our school orchestra. We have also had a high level of interest from 45 other students who will take part in a school percussion/marimba/keyboard/didge group that will commence at the beginning of Term 3. It is envisaged that the two groups will join together for some sessions and at other times work on individual items. For this program to work, parent volunteers are required to help out on a weekly basis when both groups are in action next term. If you are able to give up an hour of your time, please let the front office know. If you have any other questions about this program, please contact the front office for further information.

Our School Council Annual General Meeting will be held next Monday, May 19. I look forward to working with the School Council members on future directions for our school. If any parent is willing to take on the role of parent representative on the school council, please advise the front office before next Monday.

Last week I met with Robin Jones - Primary Ethics Coordinator for ACPS and she has indicated there are Ethics teachers available to start classes with students in Years 5 and 6. A note is going home with students who currently attend non-scripture in Year 5 and 6 to gather levels of interest for this program.
Notes will be due back before the end of this term so we can ascertain level of interest for the Ethics program at our school. At this stage we are commencing the program for Years 5 and 6 students and it will run at the same time as Scripture classes. The level of interest will determine whether the Ethics program will roll out to other year groups in the future.

This week was the first session of our vertical groups for this term. The groups are being led by our Year 6 students who participated in leadership training last term to help them with their group leadership skills.

The focus of the groups is on ‘You Can Do It’ Strategies and the lessons will help students develop strategies to communicate, get along and be considerate of each other. Groups will be held on Tuesday afternoons in the odd weeks.

Congratulations to Mangarchot Maluach who played as a member of the North West PSSA Basketball team at NSW PSSA championships in Bathurst last week. The North West team were runners up at the championships. Mangarchot was also selected in the NSW PSSA team to play at the School Sport Australia National Championships in Townsville during August. Well done Mangarchot - we are all very proud of you.

Well done to our Rugby League team who played and won against Guyra last Friday. Thank you to Kate Schultz and Jimmy Tanner who have organised and trained the team and to parents for their support. The team will play against Glen Innes Public School or Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Public School (Tenterfield) in their next round. The date for his game has not yet been confirmed.

The school has recently installed liquid foam and paper towel dispensers in student toilets and will review the use of these items at the end of this term. If parents could please remind their children about appropriate use of these items, it would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to remind parents that all notes sent home from school are also available on the school website along with the school’s newsletter. Please feel free to email me on the address below if you wish to raise any points of interest. Thank you to parents who have already emailed me with suggestions and questions. If you would like to come in and have a chat at any time, please contact the front office for a convenient time.

Mr Matt Hobbs
Principal
matthew.hobbs@det.nsw.edu.au
Found

BRONZE AWARDS
KR  Saho Brown
   Tillie O'Connor
   Bailey Howe
KG  Emily Grieve
1/2S  Angie Ovenden
     Chloe Neilson
     Olive Tutt
     Amy Showell

BOOK FAIR
Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair in Week 1/2. Your support sees another $400 being available to provide reading resources that our students can enjoy.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE
The time frame for reading to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge is at the half way mark. Students should have read at least 11 books at this point to be on track to finish the challenge before the 22nd of August. Students can enter books onto their challenge at home. The easiest way to access the site is to Google PRC. Students then use their school log-in to access their personal reading record.

Congratulations to the following 3-6 students who have now completed the challenge: Jessica Burgess, Kasey Cochrane, Lilly Green, Camiele Nadimi, Hamish Woods, Grace Worthing, Bailey Eather, Sophia Knight, Zoe McShane, Tabitha Petersen, Charlotte Thomas, Manar Al-Hassani, Lucy Cook, Britt Dell, Beth Do, Max Fairy, Andrew Henderson, Madeline Holmes, Henry Jackes, Isha Lal, Claudia Marshall, Andre Nadimi, Amy Showell, Ely Sisson, Jane Spencer, Olive Tutt and Lily Wilson.

Mrs Judy Docksey
Librarian

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
- Family Relationship Centre
- Exchange Students Families needed
- Stamps
- Tuition
- After School Care
- NERAM
- Bridge
- Hockey

If you would like more information on these events please call into our office and check out our Community Noticeboard.

Next Thursday our school will be hosting an NRMA Science and Road Safety Day. This is a new road safety program delivered by NRMA Motoring & Services as part of its commitment to road safety. Our school was chosen to take part in this free program that will visit 100 schools across NSW and ACT and educate 40,000 students. This program looks at road safety from a science perspective so that children better understand the forces that act on humans when in motion so that road safety messages such as "Wear your seatbelt" or "Wear your bike helmet" become more relevant. The students are invited to decorate their bicycle helmets and wear them along to the science show next Thursday.

Parents are also invited to attend a 30 minute Parent Workshop at 2:40pm. The workshop will be delivered by a science professional who will explain what parents can do to help their children stay safe on their bikes, including on their way to and from school. We encourage as many parents as possible to attend this session in the school hall.

Mrs Sue Kelly
Coordinator
Mother’s Day Fete a great success thanks to fantastic ACPS community support!!

The Fete was a great success – raising substantial funds for the School and providing a day of fun, entertainment and delicious food for many in the school and broader Armidale community. It has been running for over 30 years and is the P&C’s biggest fundraiser of the year – raising funds that go straight back into the school.

Adam Marshall officially opened the event with our new Principal Mr Hobbs. Mr Marshall paid tribute to Mrs Cherrie Patterson who has held the position of relieving principal for two and a half years. He continued by welcoming Mr Hobbs as the incoming principal to our fabulous school.

This year’s fete boasted a large number of stalls including craft, plants, fruit & vegetables, books, cakes and the very well-supported white elephant, used clothing & toy stalls. There was face painting and a variety of games, tractor rides, jumping castle, photo booth which proved again to be very popular and for the first time the best dressed toy competition was introduced.

The Labyrinth was a lovely peaceful time and Pet Show a great hit. Children brought all sorts of creatures along to parade in the show and then there were obedience & agility demonstrations.

Food stalls were a highlight of the day with the Garden Café, Indonesian & Japanese food, BBQ, fairyfloss, popcorn and Altitude Coffee.

The ACPS fete committee offers their sincere appreciation to the many school community members who supported the 2014 Mother’s Day Fete.

Leanne Cooper
Fete Coordinator

Photo’s Courtesy of The Armidale Express