Leader’s Report

NAPLaN Testing

This week all year 3, 5, and 7 students sat these tests of literacy and numeracy understandings. It won’t be until August/September that students will receive their results in comparison to National Benchmarks.

External Review

On Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th May our school is being reviewed by the DECD ‘External Review Team’. The team look at how APPS students are going with their education and we effectively support their learning. The team will talk to teachers, students and parents on these two days. An ‘opt out’ letter was sent home this week to all families asking to be returned if you don’t want your child to be part of the process. Some parents will also be ‘interviewed’. If you would like to be part of this process please contact me at school before Thursday 21st May.

Electronic Sign

Governing Council has approved the erection of an electronic sign to be placed where our current sign is on Marion Road. This will be a great addition to our school as information can be readily and easily displayed to the public, promoting our great school. We also hope to hire this space to local business on weekends.

INVITATION TO PARENTS /CAREGIVERS /FRIENDS

COME OUT EXPO – Tuesday May 26 from 5.30 – 6.30pm

This is a ‘walk through’ expo so you can decide how long to stay. You will see...

- Videos of students’ work in performing arts
- Models / designs / artwork etc. from class projects.

The theme for COME OUT is BUILDING BRIDGES so you will see lots of work connected to bridges using many areas of the Australian Curriculum. Our last expo was very popular so we hope to see you – even if just for a quick visit. Heather Smith
ANZAC DAY
On Wednesday 29th April we held an ANZAC day assembly in the Library to mark the 100th year anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. We heard the Choir sing 2 wartime songs and Ms Zollo’s class showed the models they made of the Gallipoli landing. We listened to the Last Post and our school captains read ‘The Ode’.

After assembly our Junior and Senior classes joined together to do some ANZAC inspired craft – poppies, slouch hats and medals.

Many classes have read the book ‘Anzac Biscuits’ by Phil Cummings in the library this week and we all got to taste an ANZAC cookie after the assembly.

KidsMatter Primary
You might start hearing more about KidsMatter in coming newsletters and around the school. KidsMatter is a way for our school to develop and improve our community and the wellbeing of everyone in it.

But before we start, we need your help! We will be asking parents to complete a short survey about our school. More information about how to do this will be sent home soon. Complete the parent survey and go in the draw to win a prize!

If you’d like to know more about KidsMatter, ask one of our Action Team Members: Di Johnston (counsellor), Michelle James-Martin (teacher) Renae White (parent, governing council). We look forward to working with you to build a better Ascot Park!

Student Wellbeing
As part of our processes to ensure that we uphold the right for all students to be safe, we conduct a bully audit at least twice a year.

Our first bully audit was filled in by students just before Easter in Term 1. In this audit, students identify places in the school where they have been bullied and the students by whom they have been bullied.

Following the audit, all students were spoken to in an assembly about the right for all students to be safe.

In classrooms, all students are now working through a program, with their teacher, focusing on building empathy and reducing
bullying. In this program students will continue their focus on "The Golden Rule – Treat others as you would like them to treat you".

The first session in this program defines bullying so that all students have the same understanding. “Bullying is the intentional and deliberate act of abusing the rights and dignity of another person by hurting them physically and/or emotionally with the intention of crushing their spirit”.

Parents of students who were identified more than 4 times through the audit have been informed. These students are also spoken to by a senior member of staff to make sure they are aware of how their behaviour and actions are affecting others.

Through these processes, we are aiming towards zero tolerance for bullying at Ascot Park Primary School.

**SPORTS NEWS!**

Wow it is already the end of week 3 of Term 2! How quickly time goes when you having fun. This term in PE has been and will continue to be exactly that FUN FUN FUN. I thought to share where we have travelled so far this term in PE and where we are heading for the rest of the term. With the junior primary we have had a focus on Fundamental Movement Skills. In particular to Dribbling and Hopping. We have incorporated a range of materials to practice our dribbling and hopping such as cones to create letters and numbers to dribble around, parachute to dribble and hop under as well as a range of team games to practice on our team work and successfully working with others. Here are a few snaps!

With the upper primary we have had a focus on Netball for the last fortnight playing a range of skill technique activities followed through by Netball games. It was fantastic to see the students asking questions on the game rules and players roles and responsibilities. After every unit students are involved in a theory assessment component.

Last Friday the 8th May 11 upper primary students represented our school in the Cross Country Carnival at Belair National Park who all ran and finished at the finish line. Thank you to those students. An extended congratulations to Braxton Meinel who came 3rd place and will be representing our school in the district race on the 11th June. Those who participated will be awarded with a certificate at assembly on Friday the 22nd May. So please come along and help us congratulate our students.

Next week is Indigenous Week so our PE focus will be on Indigenous games.

Reena Brinius

PE Teacher
We have been discussing FRIENDLINESS in the Barritt classroom and I thought I would share with you some of what we learnt together. Being friendly is about the behaviour required to bring smiles to people’s faces. It is about keeping our relationships intact and about repairing them if they have cracks or fractures. It is about caring enough about the other person to help them play with us, leaving them alone if they need some time by themselves, talking to them or being with them silently to grieve a loss or just to enjoy the sunshine.

Talking of sunshine, I came into the staff room brightly saying what a lovely day it was! I soon discovered that the few staff that were in the room at the time thought the opposite to what I had just said. “What are you saying?” “It is freezing cold outside!” “It has been raining.” “We are all busy with NAPLAN.” I felt the pressure on me to change my view. But did I need to change my way of thinking? As far as I was concerned the cold stormy weather brought well needed rain after the drought of the summer, the rain reminded me that I needed to get a new rain-water tank, the cold meant that I could wear nice warm winter clothes which meant supporting clothing design and manufacturing industries and the storms reminded me of the safety of my home and warm winter fires and cuddly warm beds. Besides – would not it be boring if we had the same weather all the year around? “No, I want summer all year round!” “No, I want spring all year round!” “No, I want snow but without bad weather all year round!” “But it is too cold and it has come in too early this year!” Well – yes – but then maybe we are making up for the short, not so cold and wet winters of the last couple of years.

So, you see, it all depends on what perspective you are holding at the time. So no – I did not need to change my way of thinking. But I did have to acknowledge that what the others were thinking also had a truth side and that by acknowledging this to them I was not contradicting myself but was rather adding to their sense of well-being. So, instead of disagreeing with the others or trying to convert them to my point of view which may have put a strain on our relationship, I merely acknowledged the truth of what they said and we all went away happy and with relationships intact.

BREAKFAST CLUB has been a great success so far this year. The children are getting plenty to eat from a wide choice of cereal, toast, juice, milo, eggs, yoghurt, milk and fruit. Thankyou to all those who have been donating goods and to FOODBANK and KICKSTART4KIDS for our regular supplies.

FREE FOOD

Liz Ling is able to access excess foodstuffs from FOODBANK and is making these goods freely available after school on Thursday afternoons after school to anyone who would like to take some home. Please look for the goods outside Mr LY’s classroom or in the junior primary court-yard area. Thanks Liz!!

Til next time
Karen Tromans
PCW

Community news

WANT TO DANCE?

Experience a fusion of dance styles in every class!
Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary with fundamentals of ballet!
Dance classes available for ages 3 years and up, of all experience levels!
FREE trial lesson
Low fees and family discounts
NO costume making
NO expensive shoes
NO need to join multiple classes
NO competitions or exam work, 100% leisure based
AMAZING performance opportunities
CLASSES HELD AT ASCOT PARK SCHOOL GYM!
18 locations across South Australia, check out our website to find a DanceSA class near you. www.dancesa.com.au

DANCESA School of Performing Arts
Enquiries & Enrolments
(08) 8345 1677 | 0408 988 483 |
info@dancesa.com.au
Australian Early Development Census

School newsletter

Playing our part to build a national picture of child health

In early 2015, our school, along with thousands of others across the country will begin preparations for the third Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

The AEDC measures five key areas of development in children during their first year of full-time school to build a national picture of health and wellbeing. Since 2009, the census results have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and target support for children and families.

Teachers are trained to assess each child and answer questions. Children don’t need to be present so no class time is missed, and parents/carers don’t need to supply schools with any new information for the census. 'Teachers’ individual assessments are then analysed by the AEDC and reported as anonymous groups of children in the final report.

> Optional information: summarise your school’s profile from the 2012 AEDC <

In the previous 2012 AEDC, our school profile indicated that …

> Optional information: ways the census results helped your school or improved community services <

We used the results to support …

In other communities across the country, census results have helped communities to plan new playgrounds and parental services; schools are seeing improved student performance through new literacy programmes; and governments are using the results as evidence to develop better policies for children.

Teachers have also noticed practical benefits in the classroom. Some said in previous years that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole. Others reported that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to school and for developing class programmes.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers don’t need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census.

To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website www.aedc.gov.au