Leader’s Report

School Culture

Ascot Park Primary School is committed to developing **Education** based around **Self-Motivation and Self-Management**. We embrace a values based approach to education and this underpins our culture.

We see it as a responsibility of the entire school community. Students, parents and teachers have a clear understanding of what is expected, in regards to how we manage ourselves and how we continue to focus on improvement. This ensures a welcoming learning environment that is supportive and safe.

Acquaintance Night and AGM

Thank you to all community members that attended our Acquaintance Night and AGM on Tuesday. The night was by far the best supported night in my 6 years at Ascot Park, in particular our AGM. Many thanks! Students did a terrific job escorting their families around classrooms and explaining all the work they had completed so far this year. Also well done to Mr Ly’s students who assisted with the BBQ and sold cakes and drinks.

A big thank you to all Ascot Park staff for providing such a welcoming atmosphere.

School Council

We had a great response this year by parents willing to join school council, in particular those parents new to our school. The council is an integral part of school planning, directions and community participation, meeting twice per term. This year members are: Lauren Lewis, Lisa Karnaros, Alison Morris, Julien Soubrier, Renae White, Debbie Gibson, Stuart Johnson, Bonny Shaw-Newland, Gordon Shaw-Newland and Saad Algraini.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD READ!!**
Specialist Sport

“Ascot Park Specialist Sport Class welcomes new divers to its program.”

Amelia Linton joins our class this term from Seymour College. She is in year 4. She joins Lily Stuckey (year 5) who started in Term 4 2014. Most mornings and afternoons the girls train with Diving Australia at the SA Aquatic Centre and have ambitions to compete for their state and country!

Welcome girls!

Finance News

School Fees are now due!

Thanks to all the families that have paid, returned school card forms or returned a direct debit form to the school.

What are school fees used for? They pay for all the educational materials your child uses at school such as pens, pencils, paper, craft and sporting materials, computers and resources in the library.

If you are having trouble paying school fees then direct debit is a great way to go with payments coming out regularly to pay off your account. If you are unsure about how to complete the form, how much you must pay or what you can afford then please come see me in finance. I will be more than happy to assist you.

Andrea

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the Canteen.

No experience is necessary as full training is provided.

Volunteering in the canteen is not only fun and rewarding, but also a way to get to know some other parents and carers involved in our school.

If you are able to help out please let myself or the front office know.

Kym - 0418 849 215 (Canteen Manager)

NACHOS

Only available Wednesdays at the Canteen

Corn Chips
Mexicasa Salsa
Melted Cheese

$2.00
By now your children have probably made you aware of the fact that they are learning Chinese. We are mandated in the Australian Curriculum to teach a language, but we have ‘held off’ for a while so we could decide the best way to deliver a language curriculum in a school where so many students already speak another language and have specialist sport and performing arts programs as well.

I suggested that I could introduce Chinese as part of our drama & music program even though I still struggle to learn Chinese myself. Knowing how our students learn we felt that if the language was part of drama and it could be used – and played with – and have fun with…we would be more successful.

Most of our students know I go to China to study every second year. I have been studying Tai Chi & Chi Kung at Beijing Sports University since 1996. (My husband has been studying there since 1988.) In the odd years that we stayed home one of our professors has come to live in our house and teach us there. We have a close association with the University and a long history of visiting China; my first trip was in 1989 my husband’s first trip was in 1987.

How I will teach

I have several courses of teaching Chinese language on DVD that I will use to introduce vocabulary and enable the students to hear correct pronunciation. In a unit of work we will view an episode from a language course, discuss it, practise the vocab and then use it in drama as a play or ‘skit.’ Students have already enjoyed being filmed performing their little ‘skits.’ The power of this is that they have to practise and learn through repetition. This helps them remember.

I think it is powerful for the students to have a teacher learning along-side them. Because I struggle to improve my Chinese language skills I am able to understand and help students who struggle…believe me I am very sympathetic! I often have Chinese friends in hystericis when I have used the wrong word.

This term all of Performing Arts will be very ‘China Focussed.’ We will learn greetings and manners, then raps and rhymes about Chinese New Year in the first half of term.

In the second half of term we will learn about Chinese dragons. Did you know the oldest Chinese dragon in the world is housed in a museum in Bendigo and that same dragon ‘Loong’ was used to welcome the Duke and Duchess of York to Australia’s Federation Celebrations in Melbourne in 1901? The Chinese museum in Bendigo is a very interesting place to visit. I recommend it.

A few words to share with your children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nǐ hǎo</td>
<td>Hello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐ hǎo ma?</td>
<td>How are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wo ye hen hao</td>
<td>I’m very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐ ne?</td>
<td>and you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hǎo</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiè xie</td>
<td>thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bù kè qi</td>
<td>you’re welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zài jiàn</td>
<td>goodbye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who speak Chinese at home.

I will endeavour to keep these students keen on sharing their language. The courses I present have Chinese characters displayed, as well as pin yin, as the presenters are speaking, so I have suggested to our Chinese speakers that they focus on reading the characters. One of the things they can also do is to help with pronunciation.

Research has found that if you teach something you remember it about 90% better than if you just learn it. This is one of the things I have told all students and hopefully everyone will be helping to teach each other.

Parents of Chinese speaking children are most welcome to visit me and talk about the program.
Welcome back to the Library everyone! Over the holidays and in the first few weeks I have been busy making the Library a great place for students, teachers and parents to be. A few of the new improvements include a funky reading chair, signs and cushions. Students have been busy getting to know the library and learning about fiction and non-fiction books. The Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays. Parents are welcome to drop in and look for books with or for their children. We are not always able to be open after school, but if we are there, you are welcome to come in!

Books for Parents

We have a special section of our library with books especially for parents. It is on the left as you walk through the door. There are many books about all sorts of topics to do with being a parent and raising children. You are welcome to come in and browse. Books can be borrowed on your child’s library account.

Library Borrowing

Students are able to borrow books from the library for a 2 week period. Please support your child with their routines by helping them keep their library books in a safe place and reminding them to bring it back on their borrowing day.

Borrowing Days

Ms Clifford – Thurs
Ms Aistrope – Fri
Ms Zollo – Tues
Mr Kennedy – Fri
Pam – Monday
Mr Ly – Tues

Lunchtime in the Library

The library is open at lunchtimes on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:10 until the bell. Students may come in to draw, play games or read during this time.

Looking forward to meeting you in the library!
Mrs Martin

Did you know?

Libraries have been around since Roman times with scrolls being what modern day books are.

One of the earliest recorded libraries was in England in the 1400’s run by the Kalendars, a group of clergy.
Did you know?

After hours the school is a very busy place with a number of wonderful groups using our facilities. If you are interested in any of the activities then please contact the relevant person below.

Monday – Thursday’s
  South Adelaide Basketball Club  
    Jo Fisher – 0412 789 190

Thursday - Dance SA School of Performing Arts – Emma 0438 803 212

Saturday –  
  Little Kickers – Angela 8449 9064
  Indian Classical Dance  
    – Jayanti 0404 652 872

Creating with COTA

Each week we are lucky enough to have the ladies from COTA come in and work with our students. They make cards and other things together.

This is one of the ways that Ascot Park Primary connects with our community. For families where grandparents may no longer be around or may live far away this is a great way for the children to interact with senior members of our community. We are very lucky to have these wonderful warm ladies working with our students.

This week’s spotlight is on LittleKickers.

LittleKickers is a soccer program for children aged 18 months to 7 years. Their classes are held at the school on Saturday mornings between 8:30am – 12:30pm. Through fun games and guided skill development young people gain skills in soccer. The ‘Play not Push’ method allows for lots of fun for youngsters, a great introduction into the game.

SASVI and Ascot Park Primary Link Together

Ms Zollo’s year 2/3 class has started science work with the year 3 / 4 students at SASVI (South Australian School for Vision Impaired) and discovered a few different ways of learning.

Working in groups with students from SASVI, we used a raised line drawing kit, braillers and stereocopy tactile pictures. All very interesting and we look forward to Wednesday afternoons.

Did you know?

Soccer is called Football in European countries and most parts of the world.

The origins of soccer are unclear as a foot based game using a ball was played in early China, Greece and Egypt.
"Aaaarrrrrgh" screamed a voice behind me. I had just walked into the big cool-room at FoodBank and grabbed a bag of apples when the ‘chilling’ scream occurred. It stopped me dead in my tracks and sent a shiver down my spine. It certainly scared me. I spun around to see a friendly face outside in the same spot at which I had passed it going in to the cooler. He did not seem too perturbed which puzzled me. I came out to see what was going on and noticed a youth being attended to by some adults. I had noticed him passing me as I went into the cooler and, as I watched, I heard him cry out again and noticed that he had some sort of disability. I have often actually experienced this behaviour before but that day was different because it was totally unexpected and for a split second I was completely unsure as to whether I was in any danger and what I should do next.

The reason I tell this story is that circumstances can very much dictate your reactions to the things that happen to you. Fear is one of the most powerful emotions. It is neither pleasant nor desired but it is also essential in helping us to learn to recognise danger. The antidote to fear is hope so it is essential that we share hope with each other. Thank you to all those that have been helping to allay the fears of those new to the school. Great job!!

I have noticed that even the Easter bunny has come early to the shops this year! Yes – next week the season of Lent begins with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday starting the countdown of the forty days until Easter when Christians celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cycle starts next Tuesday with the traditional feast of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday before the fast (limiting of food and drink) of Lent. Hot cross buns traditionally were used to break the fast on Good Friday but have become a symbol of the Lenten season with availability from straight after the Christmas/New Year season according to the laws of supply and demand. At least the traditions are being kept alive.

The timing of Easter is determined using the moon. Easter Sunday is held on the Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox set at March 21 (except for the Orthodox who use the Julian calendar for their calculations). Another system using lunar timing is that of the Chinese for their calendar. This year the Chinese calendar has its New Year on February 19th. So next week will be quite an eventful week for billions of people around the world. Fascinating isn’t it?

A BIG THANKYOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED MILo AND OVALTINE FOR BREAKFAST CLUB! The first morning was a real success with about 25 children attending. Next week we are planning pancakes for Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday and DONATIONS of EGGS, PLAIN FLOUR AND SYRUP would be appreciated.

Til next time

Karen
PCW
Play Is The Way with Miss Aistrope

Over the next 2 weeks our Play Is The Way life raft focus is - Be brave: Participate to progress! In our classroom we have been sharing stories of bravery and courage, and times we felt afraid or nervous, but persisted and had a go. This life raft focus aims to highlight the importance of participation in the academic and social journey of our students.

We would like to share some sentences with you -

“I felt brave when I first went on the flying fox.”  
Jasmin T

“I felt brave when I made new friends at school. Now I have two new friends.”  
Murad

“I felt brave when I road my bike without the training wheels.”  
Zahara

We also took a class picture looking our bravest!

Community Notices

We regularly receive information about events in the community and have notices in the front office. Please do drop by and pick up any of the flyers in the front office at any time.

We also have a range of free information sheets regarding a range of parenting topics from Parenting SA that you can take anytime.

Marion Outdoor Swimming Centre Open Day

February 15 - $2 Entry

Free activities and entertainment from 11am–4pm

- Free use of waterslide
- Rock climbing wall
- Bouncy Castle
- Inflatable obstacle course
- Live music
- Face painting
- Aboriginal art & craft
- Reptile handling show
- Roving entertainers
- Fundraiser BBQ
- Masterplan consultation

Parents must supervise children at all times.
Do you like to sing, dance or act?

Are you in Year 6/7? Want to try something new and challenging? Everyone is welcome! Then the Festival of Music Performance Troupe is for you!

Audition bookings open on Monday, February 9, 2015!
Audition bookings close on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.
Weekly rehearsals are held at 3 locations:
North - Parafield Gardens Primary on Tuesdays
Central - Gilles Street Primary on Wednesdays
South - Darlington Primary on Thursdays

Rehearsals are from 4.15 - 5.45 pm. There will also be a few Sunday workshops.
Each troupe will be involved in 4 performances accompanying the massed choirs at the Festival Theatre between the 8th and 18th September, 2015.

Ask your choir teacher for more information.
Check out our website: www.festivalofmusic.org.au or call the Festival Office on 8261 5438 for more information.

holdfastbay rhythmic gymnastics...

is coming soon to
Ascot Primary School
Classes for girls ages 5 & over
Mondays 3.30 – 4.30pm
Phone: Kara 0400877808
Email: holdfastbayrg@gmail.com