Amiens Whistler
Principal’s News

From the Principal’s Desk

Our thanks to school volunteers

There is a special week, in May, where we celebrate National Volunteers Week. Here at Amiens State School we’d like to recognise our own outstanding volunteers not only at this time, but to show our appreciation throughout the year. Our volunteers are with us in the classroom, providing our tuckshop and helping at sporting events and activities throughout all of the year. We’d like to thank you all for giving your time so generously. We value the contribution you make to our school community – thank you!

At Amiens, our list is very long, but we’d like to start with thanking:

Ms Candi Crowe, Miss Terri Lloyd and Mrs Sonia Kent for help with Technology in the P-2 classroom.

Mrs Cara Hall, Mrs Tricia Poole, Ms Candi Crowe and Mrs Sonia Kent for ferrying softball players around the Granite Belt.

Mrs Cara Hall and Mrs Tricia Poole for assisting at swimming lessons.

Mrs Lynette Spencer and her band of merry tuckshop ladies for making tuckshop happen.

Mr Shane Wilkins for hours spent on the mower taming our grounds.

Supporters of our Play Group.

Our P&C for all the time and effort put in to provide the extras (and essentials) for our school.

Mr Alan Kerr for making ours the best softball diamond on the Granite Belt.

CADENDAR OF EVENTS

February
Library…………………….24
School Banking……………….28
Bus Meeting………………….28
Tennis……………………….17,24
Nat. Red Balloon Day……….28

March
Library……………..3,10,17,24,31
School Banking…7,14,21,28
P&C Meeting………………1
Tennis………………..3,10,17,24
End Of Term 1…………….31

April
Good Friday……………….14
Easter Monday……………..17
School Resumes…………..18
**P&C**

The Next P&C Meeting is still to be advised.

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**Playgroup**

Playgroup is held on Monday mornings 9:00 to 10:30. All are welcome – Lots of activities for your child to enjoy and time for Mums to have a chat. Come along, bring a hat and morning tea and see what is going on. Teacher run programme.

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**Bumper Stickers**

Show your support for Amiens State School by purchasing bumper stickers for $2.00 from the school office.

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**Swimming lessons** conclude today, until November. It has been a struggle at times with the hot weather and the general organisation of groups and assisting the pool instructors with ensuring that our students have the best possible use of this time in the pool. Thanks to staff, students and parents (mentioned above) for their effort, tolerance and good humour throughout.

**A School Banking service** is provided by our school via the Commonwealth Bank. Many thanks to Mrs Kelley for the time she puts in to ensure that this is done. Please remember that banking is done on Tuesdays and that it is your child’s responsibility to deliver the book and money to Mrs Kelley by 9am on Tuesday, so that Mrs Kelley isn’t having to chase around and potentially miss a student’s banking. If the banking books aren’t with Mrs Kelley by that time on Tuesday, the banking won’t be done until the following week. Thank you.

The **Bus Committee is meeting** at the school on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm. Please note on your calendar and come along to support our school bus service.

We are already preparing for Anzac Day with writing in the Years 3 – 5 classroom for our Anzac Day display. Again this year, the students will be participating in our Commemoration at our Memorial on Monday 24th April at 2pm. We have also applied to the Department of Defence to have a serving member attend and address our Anzac Commemoration. We will be issuing special invitations to our community members and local and state government representatives. Please let us know if there is someone that you think should receive a special invitation.

I have found that some parents are interested in more details on what their child is learning for that week, especially in the Years 3 – 5 classroom. If you are interested, I run through some of the items, typically English grammar and maths being covered. If you want more information to talk to your child about what they’re learning, you are invited to stay for the half hour following assembly to get a “heads up” in grammar and maths, as taught in the 21st century classroom!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be **NO TUCKSHOP** this week. Thank you for your understanding.

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**P &C News**

Parents, please be on the lookout for the Easter Raffle tickets which were sent home yesterday. We are also looking for donations for the Easter Hamper. All donations are to be left in the box in the office. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 27th March. Please see Sonia Kent if you require additional tickets.

Also, any homebake / donations of produce for the Street Stall on Tuesday 7th March will need to be dropped off to school on Monday 6th March. Please speak with Sonia if you can help out with the selling for an hour or so on the day.

Have a great week. Dale
Congratulations to our Student of the Week for Week 4 – Bonnie. She showed that she could look after her belongings and was Sunsafe. **This week, we are focusing on Be Responsible** – be honest – make good choices and do the right thing.

During our Number sessions, all of the children will be working on recognition of number and number names and counting skills. The Prep children will continue to investigate the concepts of number, patterning and operations. Doubles plus one and subtract one will be our Number facts for the week. Rapid and accurate recall of numbers facts is necessary in order for children to perform their operations. The Year one children are continuing to write their teen number names accurately. Number names to 60 will be one of our focuses for Year 2. Thank you for help with Number Facts homework – we dropped below 70% last week. We are aiming for at least 80% of our class groups obtaining 90-100% this week.

Fine motor (to improve our handwriting), gross motor (Posture), recognition of letters and sounds (spellings and letter of week activities), reading and retelling (viewing, listening and comprehending), grammar (nouns, pronouns and verbs) and sharing of ideas and writing are a few of the activities planned. During this week, the children will be given several opportunities to plan, practise and present their retell of “The Rainbow Fish”. Hopefully, by Thursday/Friday, everyone will be ready to present. Maybe on Wednesday/Thursday night, the children will give you a performance at home!

“What’s in a Bean seed?” is a question that will be asked in Science for Prep and Year 1 Science lesson this week. Discussion, investigation and planting of seeds in a variety of situations will be part of our experiment.

Mrs Sutton and the children continue to look at toys and objects and the way that parts move in preparation for their assessment task during Technology time.

Thank you to the parents who assisted in any way to assist with our swimming sessions for this term.

On Friday afternoons, while the older children are playing Soft Ball, Mrs Yates and I have been taking the younger children for TBall skills. Most children are becoming more confident with throwing and catching the ball and hitting off the T. This Friday (weather permitting), we will have our first game of TBall. Come along and join in.

Thank you

Anna and Karen

**Playgroup**

Each Monday, Playgroup commences at 9 and runs until approx. 10.30. Everybody is welcome to attend. A variety of teacher-run activities will be available each week. Come along with a hat and morning tea and enjoy this time with your child. Feel free to invite a friend along to come and see what goes on at Amiens Playgroup.
The effort being put in by parents and carers to help students learn their times tables is certainly paying off. We are recognising all students who achieve 100% with their number facts with an award on Assembly on Monday. Keep up the good work – we’re up to the 8 times tables this week!

As mentioned earlier, students are already writing their Anzac Day stories. Using this picture as stimulus, students are writing an historical narrative about the soldier in the foreground. To prepare for this writing, students have been revising and learning how to best use noun groups and verb groups to make their writing more interesting. Their stories will be proudly displayed at our Anzac Day commemoration.

In science, students have been learning to group things based on observable features, and to justify their groupings. Our major groupings have been living and not living, with the “not living” being either “never living” (for example a golf ball) or “no longer living” (for example a basket made out of cane or a bone).

Next students will be going on a nature walk. Luckily we have such a great walk through our bush. First we will learn about “Tracks, scats and signs”. Tracks where sometimes an animal leaves its footprints behind in soft, wet or sandy ground. The animal is no longer around, but you can tell by its tracks that it has been in the environment. Scats (solid waste or “poo”) where sometimes, you can see where an animal has been because it has left some solid waste (poo) behind. Other signs that an animal has been in the environment can include things such as evidence of eating (chewed leaves or fruit), evidence of homes (nests or holes), and even things that the animal may have shed, such as fur or feathers. It will be interesting to see what our students find in our bush!

Dale, Leanne & Nathan
Congratulations to Students of the Week, Super Spellers and Maths Champs for Week 4 & 5.

Well done to everyone!!
We do lots of fun things at Playgroup.
The Border District Eisteddfod committee are holding a street stall on Saturday 25th February from 9am to raise funds for the annual Eisteddfod in May.

The committee are asking for donations of baked goods to sell.
If you can help, please drop your items off with the committee members outside Office Smart from 8.30am on the day.

If you have any questions or can help in another way please contact Amanda Reimers on 07 46856138 or info@borderdistricteisteddfod.org.au