

SAFE RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

17th March
P&C Disco

21st March
Harmony Day

22nd March
PSSA Netball Trials

23rd March
Deadly Cooking Program
Abermain Mission Hall
- Easter Program

24th March
Easter Hat Parade

25th March-28th March
Easter Break

30th March
Deadly Cooking Program

1st April
Cross Country
"Stories"

4th April
Assembly

8th April
Last Day—Term 1

26h April
Staff Development Day

27th April
Students Return—Term 2

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

This issue:

Easter Hat Parade
Cross Country
Harmony Day
Working Bee
P&C Disco
Zone Rugby League Trials
Zone Soccer Trials
PSSA Cricket
Abermain Mission Hall
- Easter Program
SMS Notifications
Year 7 Enrolment





**QUALITY WORK SHARED
WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Congratulations once again to all the people who attended the school Working Bee on Saturday. The effort put in by everyone has the school looking sharp. The lunch seats look spectacular, the new fencing and new painted Dots will help guide our children, gardens have been weeded and the canteen area is back in shape. Overall it was a great community day.

On Wednesday 23rd March, 2016 students will have the opportunity to walk to The Mission Hall for a special Easter program, "The Pretty Amazing Jono", who is a *unicycling, juggling, fire spinning, stilt walking, ballooning, unpredictable, escapological, acrobatical, hysterical, magical, doughnut sneezing, stunt clown. From dancing rubber chickens, balancing a full sized wheelie bin on his head or death defying straight jacket escapes on a 5 foot unicycle. The fun and madness never stops with the magically ridiculous "Pretty Amazing Jono."* An information note has been sent home with students. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.

**Toby H
Tyler B
Laura M
Tyson C
Angus S
Rai B
Elijah R
Shanaya B
Tyarah F**

Disco tonight! Come along and enjoy a BBQ and dance at our St Patrick's Day Disco. "Green" is the theme. What can I come as? Shrek, Robin Hood, a leaf, a caterpillar, grass, The Green Lantern, a lettuce, cabbage, zucchini, an Australian sporting hero in green, slime, oh the list goes on. See you there.

The Easter Hat Parade is only 7 sleeps away. This is an exciting time for the children and families as we all enjoy having some chocolate. I hope parents/carers have also marked it on the calendar for a lunch date with their children. A reminder to all parents/carers that the Easter raffles will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade, so please return your eggs and raffle tickets as soon as possible.

School attendance has been a focus for the school this year as we want every student to be at school as much as possible. Next term we will introduce a new SMS system to notify parents/carers of student absences. Parents/Carers will be able to reply directly to the SMS by adding a reason and sending it directly back to the school. Therefore, it is important to keep your phone details up to date with the school office. Please refer to further information included in this newsletter.

Also being introduced in Term 2 is a new Principals Award which will be presented to one student a week from each class for outstanding effort and contribution to all aspects of school. Parents/Carers will be notified by SMS on Thursday if their child is to receive an award on the following Monday afternoon at the assembly. The choir will start to sing some of the songs that they have been practising. It's a great time to be coming along to our school assemblies every second Monday at 2:30pm.

As this will be my last newsletter for the term, I always like to leave a safety message for the break ahead. Talk to your children about stranger danger, road safety and water safety before the holidays because we want to see you all back at school next term. Have a great Easter break and school holiday at the end of term. I'll be thinking of you all.

Ian Lamph
Principal



INTRODUCTION OF SMS NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

In Term 2, 2016 Abermain Public School will commence using a Short Messaging Service (SMS) called SMS Absence alerts to send parents/carers notification of absence for their children on a daily basis. As a parent/carer you are required to send your child to school everyday unless you have provided a reason for them to be away.

Class rolls will be marked by teachers at the start of the school day. A list of absences is then generated and will be used to automatically send a SMS early in the day to a parent/carer of each child on the list, alerting them to the fact that their child is currently marked absent from school. Parents/Carers will then be asked to respond by SMS to provide a detailed reason for the absence. Each response is then checked and determined if the absence is justified (eg sick, doctors appointment, funeral) or unjustified (eg holiday, running late, parent appointment, transport) The absence is then recorded as explained and each message attached to the students' electronic attendance file. Please note: the exact message you reply is what is recorded on the student's electronic attendance file.

Parents/Carers do NOT need to send in a note of explanation if a return text explanation is provided.

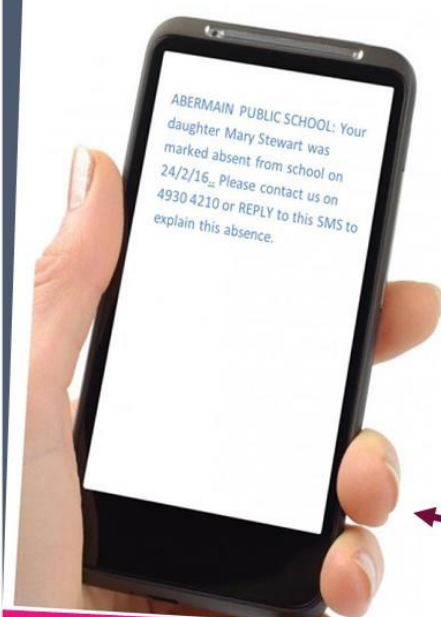
If a parent/carer believes his or her child is at school he/she can telephone the school at which point staff will endeavour to confirm the students' attendance at school, and then communicate this to the parent/carer and, as necessary adjust school records, or refer the matter to the relevant class teacher for follow up.

Whilst the school's phone number is included in the SMS, we would appreciate if return phone calls responding to the absence texts only occur where the parent believes the child is at school.

Absence explanations by reply text are preferred

It is essential that the mobile phone numbers which we have recorded are accurate. Please ensure that you notify us of any changes to your phone number by contacting the school on 4930 4210 or sending an email to the school - abermmain-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

The Sentral SMS notification system uses the mobile phone number of the primary carer. If you would like a different mobile number to be used, please contact the school.



← Example of the SMS notification sent to parents/carers



LIBRARY

Thank you to all the families that support Book Club within our school. Book Club is a great way of our school receiving extra funds for the library as well as giving families the opportunity to buy fantastic literacy resources to read at home. Our first order for the year raised approximately \$200 for the school which has been used to buy new books for the library for all students to use.

Book Club is available twice per term and is now in one easy to use catalogue. You can order online through the 'Loop' orders or you can send in payment and ordering slip to the office. This year orders will be placed on Thursday's during Librarian administration time, so all orders need to be returned to the front office or submitted online by the Tuesday of that week. Unfortunately no late orders will be accepted once orders have been placed. We will endeavour to notify of due dates in the letter, but it will usually be Week 3 and Week 8 of each term.

When returning your slip to school please ensure your child's name is clearly marked and that it is clear which items are to be ordered. If you require additional forms either ask at the office or see Miss Craig.

YEAR 7 ENROLMENT 2017

Expression of Interest forms regarding enrolment into Year 7 in 2017 must be returned to the school by **Friday 18th March, 2016**. If you have any concerns regarding your child moving into Year 7 next year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.



ARE LOOKING FOR A MID-YEAR EXCURSION FOR YOUR STUDENTS?

\$14.00
per student

Introducing School's Week during Snow Time in the Garden at Hunter Valley Gardens. This great value package is a full day out for your students and gives all children the opportunity to experience our Snow Play Zone, Ice Skating Rink, Ice Toboggan and much more!

INCLUSIONS - \$14.00 per student

- 2 x large areas for Snow Play
- The opportunity to participate in a snow man building competition
- 1 x Snow Ball Challenge area
- Ice Skating including skate hire and helmets
- Ice Toboggan
- 4 x large inflatables including a jumping castle and obstacle course
- Several arcade games with unlimited play
- Gift bag for the children to take home

For more information and to secure your preferred date, please contact our team today

BOOKINGS Charise.Foulstone@hvg.com.au - Phone 02 4998 4006 - Fax 02 4998 4001

HUNTER VALLEY
Gardens

Broke Road Pokolbin NSW 2320 - PMB 20 Metford DC NSW 2323 - www.hvg.com.au

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Monday 4th April, 2016

School Hall—2.30pm

All welcome to attend



ABERMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C

will be holding a family DISCO on

THURSDAY 17th MARCH, 2016

Where: School Hall Time: 5:30pm—7pm

Theme: "GREEN"

GOLD COIN ENTRY

All families invited to join us

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS AND LOLLIES
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT**

NB: Only Abermain Public School students must be signed in/out if parents/carers are not staying for the Disco. Other children not enrolled at the school must be supervised by a parent/carer during the disco.

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is on every Wednesday during school terms from 9.30am until 11.00am. It is for children of all ages prior to school age.

Children at playgroup get used to the school environment by participating in school events, such as the Easter Hat Parade, Book Week Parade and joining with Kindergarten when the fire fighters come or for National Reading Day!

Activities during playgroup time introduce sounds, numbers, shapes, facts and reading in a fun way. Social skills are developed through free play time too.

Playgroup also is a great place for carers to meet and get to know others!

Cost is a gold coin donation, each week!

We look forward to seeing you there!





SPORT

Cessnock Zone Rugby League

Zane Stone will be representing the Cessnock Zone in Rugby League this Friday at Raymond Terrace. We wish him the very best of luck and hope that he makes it into the Hunter Team.

Zone Soccer Trials

On Tuesday 15th March, 2016, 8 students from our school attended the Zone Soccer Trials held at Abermain Soccer Fields.

The students had an exciting time, they even got to play in the rain which was a bit of a novelty. Congratulations to Breanna Bunn, Nicholas Turkington and Jackson Fitzgerald who have been selected from the zone trials to be part of a Zone Football team to participate in the Hunter PSSA s Football (Soccer) trials being held on Friday 8th April, 2016.

PSSA Cricket

Congratulations to our representatives who played a great game of cricket in their match against Kearsley Public School. Many of our cricketers had not played before, but put their training to good use to post a score of 6/51 for the innings. Kearsley did catch us at 6/52, but we enjoyed the game.

Thank you to our wonderful parents and carers who assisted with transport and supported the team.

Cross Country

On Friday 1st April, 2016 Abermain Public School will hold the Annual Cross Country Carnival. This event will be held on school grounds with all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participating. Students will need to wear their sports uniform or a shirt in their house colour, sensible shoes and a hat. Permission notes will go home with students this week. Parents/Carers most welcome to attend.

HARMONY DAY

Our school will be celebrating Harmony Day on Monday 21st March, 2016 in our classrooms. Each class has been assigned one of the Top 10 Countries of Birth within Australia as of 2014. The countries each class will be celebrating are as follows:

KS	New Zealand	KH	Italy
1PC	Malaysia	1/2J	India
2G	Vietnam	3/4E	United Kingdom
3/4H	South Africa	3/4M	China
Stage 3	Philippines/Germany		

If you would like to come along and find out about any of these wonderful countries that help to make us a Harmonious Country please feel free to drop by.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS OF 4 -5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 -5 year old children free vision screening.

Drop in clinic for Charlestown, Morisset, Kurri Kurri & Singleton 9am-12 noon for 2016.

Drop in clinic for Raymond Terrace & Waratah 9:30-12:30 for 2016.



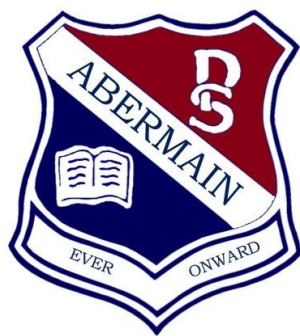
Raymond Terrace 2nd Thursday of Month <i>Raymond Terrace Health Centre Room 1003 4 Jacaranda Ave, Raymond Terrace.</i>	Charlestown 4th Wednesday of Month <i>Community Health Building Level 2 Charlestown Square</i>
11 th Feb, 10 th March, 14 th April, 12 th May, 9 th June, 14 th July, 11 th Aug, 8 th Sept, 13 th Oct, 10 th Nov, 8 th Dec	24 th Feb, 23 rd March, 27 th April, 25 th May, 22 nd June, 27 th July, 24 th Aug, 28 th Sept, 26 th Oct, 23 rd Nov.
Waratah 4th Thursday of Month <i>Child & Family Health Building <u>Turton Rd</u>, Waratah</i>	Morisset 1st Friday of Month <i>Morisset Multipurpose Centre 143 Dora St Morisset</i>
25 th Feb, 24 th March, 28 th April, 26 th May, 23 rd June, 28 th July, 25 th Aug, 22 nd Sept, 27 th Oct, 24 th Nov.	5 th Feb, 4 th March, 1 st April, 6 th May, 3 rd June, 1 st July, 5 th Aug, 2 nd Sept, 7 th Oct, 4 th Nov, 2 nd Dec.
Kurri Kurri 1st Monday every 2nd Month <i>TACP Building (behind main hospital building) Meeting Room 4, Hospital Road Kurri Kurri</i>	Singleton 1st Monday every 2nd Month <i>Singleton Community Health (hospital grounds) Small Group Room <u>Bogona</u> Street Singleton</i>
7 th March, 2 nd May, 4 th July, 5 th Sept, <u>7th</u> Nov.	4 th April, 6 th June, 1st Aug, Oct 10 th (2 nd Monday in Oct due to Public Holiday.)

It is **highly recommended** that this age group participate in the screening, as many vision problems remain undetected.

If you have any questions regarding the StEPS service.

Please contact StEPS Vision Screener

Telephone number: 49853401



SAFE, RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

SCHOOL APP

The school app is available to the whole community

To download the school app visit the Apple App store or Google Play store and search for Abermain Public School.

Log in using - Username: community Password: abermainps



**CORRECT FOOTWEAR
TO BE WORN AT
ABERMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL**