Principal’s Report

Dear Families,

The Optimistic Child

We want more for our children than healthy bodies. We want our children to have lives filled with friendship, love and high deeds. We want them to be eager to learn and be willing to confront challenges. We want our children to be grateful for what they receive from us, but to be proud of their own accomplishments. We want them to grow up with confidence in the future, a love of adventure, a sense of justice. We want them to be resilient in the face of the setbacks and failures that growing up always brings. Extract from ‘The Optimistic Child’, by Martin Seligman.

Resilience 2015

Australian psychologist Andrew Fuller defines resilience as “the happy knack of being able to bungy jump through the pitfalls of life”. It would appear that there are common qualities amongst those individuals who are able to ‘bungy jump’ through their pitfalls and keep thriving.

The Resilient Child

A great deal of research effort has gone into distinguishing the characteristics of resilient children from their non-resilient peers. These findings consistently show that resilient children tend to display the following attributes:

Social Competence

Resilient children tend to be responsive, socially adept, capable of initiating and sustaining close relationships with adults and peers, and able to show appropriate empathy. They have good communication and conflict resolution skills, and possess a healthy sense of humour.

Problem-Solving Skills

The resilient child is typically able to think creatively and flexibly about problems, to make plans and take action on them. They are able to ask adults for help when needed, and show resourcefulness in dealing with problems.

Autonomy

Resilient children show a healthy degree of independence, are able to think and act autonomously from adults, and are able to reflect critically on their environment. They have a well-developed sense of their own identity and believe in their own ability to effect changes in their environment.

Optimism

Optimism encompasses the sense of having a bright future, a tendency to see challenging situations in positive terms, and a belief in one's ability to deal with whatever life brings.

At the core of these qualities is: Their awareness of those who support them (who I have)

How they view themselves (who I am)

The degree of confidence that they have in their own abilities (what I can do)

This week in SMILE we are talking about what I can do. Last week we discussed who I am. Ask your children about what they have learnt about themselves. You might like to share as well.

Getting to Know You Meetings

Parents have an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher this week. It is an opportunity to share your child’s strengths, main interests and any other relevant information. It is also an opportunity to build a relationship with the teacher. The previous year’s teacher has had an opportunity to pass on any relevant information and academic results.

School Council Nominations

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4 pm on Wednesday 25 February.

Free Dress day this Friday

Please wear free dress and bring a bottle for the Mystery Bottle stall.

GIDSSA Swimming

Congratulations to those who will be moving onto the Booroondara Division swimming meet to be held on Thursday the 26th of February (more information provided on student invitations). Students will need to organise their own transport and supervision for Division, Regional and State representation. Scott Bent

Natalie Nelson
Principal
**Diary Dates**

**TERM 3**

**Friday 20 February**  
Free Dress Day  
Bring a Mystery Bottle

**Monday 23 February**  
House & Vice Captain Badges awarded at assembly

**Tuesday 24 February**  
School Council Meeting

**Wednesday 25 February**  
No Prep at School

**Wednesday 25 February**  
PA Meeting 7.30pm

**Monday 2 March**  
SRC badges Assembly

**Thursday 12 March**  
Fair Meeting 7.30pm

**Friday 13 March**  
Sibling Photos Today

**Sunday 15 March**  
Fair-2nd Hand Goods drop off 11-2pm

**Wednesday 18 March**  
School Council 7.30pm

**Saturday 21 March**  
Drop Off Lego Exhibits  
Hall 10-2pm

**Sunday 22 March**  
GRAND FAIR

**Tuesday 24 March**  
Curriculum Day Students do not attend school

**Tuesday 24 March**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

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**ASHBURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**GIDSSA Swimming**  
On Monday 16th of February some of the best swimmers at Ashburton Primary School participated at the Glen Iris District Swimming Sports at the Harold Holt Swimming centre. Throughout the day, 10, 11 and 12 year olds competed in races against 7 other schools. It was a beautiful 23 degree day, the sun was shining, birds were chirping and the day was filled with exciting races and tight finishes that everyone enjoyed. We are proud of everyone that represented our school on the day.

The school would like to thank all the parents and teachers that helped make the day successful and fun for everyone. We are proud to announce that overall we finished third, and would like to wish those competitors the best of luck that will be going onto represent Ashburton at Division. Thank you again. Scott Bent

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**COMPASS ATTENDANCE**

Thank you for your patience as we learn the new Compass system.

Previously when the teacher marked the roll, they included a code from the Department of Education that explained why the student was away. These range from sports events, medical appointments and family holidays. Depending on the reason the system would adjust the absences on the student report.

So, if your child was at the GIDSSA swimming this week they would be deemed “at a school event” although they weren’t on site and this would **not** count as a school absence. Obviously if you go on a family holiday, that time absent from school shows in the Department data and on school reports.

In the new Compass system, some of the approvals for absences become the responsibility of the parents and an alert will appear on your homepage. We understand some people have received these over the last week. We are working our way through to ensure school activities where your child travels out of the school do not appear on your homepage for your approval.

**The current situation as of today is:**

Children should be marked as attending and parents should **NOT** receive an alert for events such as GIDSSA swimming and Somers camp where only some students attend Whole class excursions e.g. Year 5 and 6 Museum excursion. Parents should **NOT** receive an alert for Wednesday Prep Testing. The Wednesdays of February should be removed from the roll.

Parents **WILL** receive an alert if their child is absent from school.

Parents need to go into compass and approve the absence and give a reason. A Parent Guide on how to mark Absences will be coming home this week.

**Late Arrivals / Early Leavers**

At present we still ask parents to fill out the ‘Late Arrival’ book and Melissa will enter this into Compass as a late arrival. As you will be aware the Office can be a very busy place in the mornings so we will monitor this process.

You can enter absences prior to the date or on the day which will alert the teacher immediately.

**Family Holidays**

Families are required to enter the dates they will be absent from school and approve this in Compass prior to departure. Please provide a written note to your classroom teacher. Please make sure you still talk to the teacher about long absences as well.

Again thank you for your patience, this system is new and ever evolving for us.
**SRI-CRE Religious Education**  
A reminder that forms are due back by Friday March 6th

**School Photos**  
All payments for school photos must now be made online directly to Advanced Photography or call them on 9852-1133. Due to the hot weather the sibling photos did not take place and will occur on March 13th. Payment for sibling photos can still be made at the Office with correct cash or cheques only (not online).

**House and Vice Captains**  
Congratulations to the following students who have accepted the positions of House and Vice Captains for 2015. House Captain Badges will be presented at assembly on February 23.

- **Bradman Captains**: Abigail N and Jacob M & Vice: Hannah C and Mackenzie R
- **Fraser Captains**: Amelie M and Eddie G & Vice: Josie P and Daniel D
- **Goolagong Captains**: Liv S and Artan W & Vice: Victoria G and Casey K
- **Landy Captains**: Anneliese B & Hugh L & Vice: Dominique B and Hugh T

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**Silent Auction**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

To make our Silent Auction a great success, we are seeking your help. We are looking for quality donations of items/services that will encourage bidding from our community.

Our school community is blessed with talented people that can provide valued services. We are seeking these services to become part of our Silent Auction in the 2015 Fund Fair.

In light of this, we invite you to consider:

- Are you a handy man/woman – can you donate a half day or even an hour of handyman services?
- Do you have a holiday house – could you donate a weekend or week accommodation?
- Are you an artist – could you donate a piece from your collection for others to appreciate?
- Do you have a business that can offer a great item for our auction and give you excellent marketing within our local community?
- Do you have a skill that others would get great value from – we can help you with making a services voucher to auction on the day.
- Are you a child care qualified – could you donate some babysitting time for a family in desperate need of a night out?
- Does your employer have something to offer?

Your business or family is known to more than 300 families that attend our school and the more than 3000 visitors to the fair on the day.

If you can provide with photos contact Tash Hall on 0403 225 669 or via email tash.hall@bigpond.com.au. Alternatively, please forward all donations (together with your name & contact info) to the school office. We will update the auction catalogue in the school office by Friday 27th February 2015, so items can be catalogued and prepared for the Silent Auction.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Tash Hall, Alison Buckley & Sam Keatley
Silent Auction Committee
### Smile Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John P 1LC</td>
<td>For always using beautiful manners and trying his best on all set tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milly J 1ET</td>
<td>For being a kind and helpful class member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conrad I 1ET</td>
<td>Excellent work with numbers, number champion!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra T 1SN</td>
<td>For a great start to Year 1 and for ‘having a go’ at writing so many words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack P 2JB</td>
<td>For concentrating on improving his writing skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada T 3DS</td>
<td>For coming to school with a big smile every day and working cheerfully with everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucinda R 3EM</td>
<td>For a successful transition into life at Ashburton Primary School, well done and welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassie B 3KA</td>
<td>For being a wonderful friend to new people in our year level respecting others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan P 3CR</td>
<td>For making a good start in 3CR. Well done Ethan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max G 4DW</td>
<td>For his wonderful approach to group work and encouraging his peers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jules B 4KH</td>
<td>For focusing on the positives and his great explanation of gratitude and its importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade M 5LP</td>
<td>For her mature and enthusiastic approach to her learning. Well done on a great start!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena H 5DF</td>
<td>For her positive attitude and demonstrating how contagious a smile or a laugh can be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline B 5KE</td>
<td>For taking initiative both academically and socially. Well done for showing concern for your peers and inviting them to work in your group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie T 6CS</td>
<td>For his excellent attitude, manners and willingness to help out anyone in need.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### School Vegetable Garden Result

The Vegetable Garden has been a great success for the last 12 months it provides all school children with an idea of how food grows, looks and tastes. It also helps promote without anybody having to say anything ‘Healthy Eating’.

On Wednesday the 11 February we raised a $191 that will be used for soil and seedlings. Children from all different levels helped harvest the produce from our garden. The Grade 5 children prepared and sold the produce at the market. They learned about the different variety of fruit and vegetables and practiced their maths with costing of the produce.

Thank you to every one who donated the beautiful colourful fresh produce. Special thanks to the Evans family and all families involved maintaining the garden. A thank you to Grade 4 mum’s who came to help harvest and sell on the day. We look forward to the next crop that will soon appear in our garden.
Invitation....

Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program
2016

Canterbury Girls’ Secondary College is pleased to announce the introduction of a SEAL program in 2016.

Parents and Guardians of Grade 6 girls are invited to attend an information evening at the College on Thursday 19 February at 6.30pm in the Performing Arts Centre.

The Accelerated program is designed to cater for the needs of very able students. It differs from the mainstream program by providing a faster paced curriculum with the opportunity to work on more abstract, complex and in-depth material. Learning in core subjects will be accelerated for these students and it is anticipated that most students will complete Years 7-10 in three years, giving them an extended range of options for their final years of schooling.


Please book for the information night at: http://trybooking.com/120339

Contact for further information:
Ms Georgina Pedulo (Assistant Principal) Ph 9822 0300
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AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL

Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program

Auburn High School offers an accredited SEAL program for students entering into Year 7.
The program provides highly capable students with the opportunity to complete Years 7-10 in three years instead of four.
They may then be able to choose to do a three-year enriched and extended VCE program and a university enhancement subject in Year 12, equivalent to a first-year university subject.

Selection process
To gain entry into the program in 2016, students must achieve high performance results in a range of tests that will be held on 9 May, 2015.
Please visit the school website for application details or call Nola Cofa on 9622 3247.
Dates to Remember

Tuesday 3rd March at 3:45pm in the Ashburton Primary School Gym
"Come & Try Session" This session is for potential players seeking more information about the Club.

Friday 6th March
Winter 2015 Registrations due.

Tuesday 10th March at 5:45pm in the Ashburton Primary School Gym
Grading Session for Under 12 Girls. All interested or potential players are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 11th March 5:45pm in the Ashburton Primary School Gym
Grading Session for Under 12 Boys. All interested or potential players are welcome to attend.

The Department of Education and Ashburton Primary School do not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education and Ashburton Primary School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.
Important Dates

Mystery Bottle Free Dress Day:
THIS FRIDAY
Friday 20th February

Next Fair Meeting:
Thursday 12th March 2015
7:30pm in the Conference Room

2nd Hand Goods Drop-off Day:
Sunday 15th March 11am - 2pm

Fair Date:
Sunday 22nd March 2015

News

February Newsletter
The February Fair Newsletter has been issued today and it is jam packed with information and requests from stalls. You will find a copy on the APS Grand Fair website for your convenience too.

Postcards
2 postcards per family have been sent home this week but there are some in the office if you would like a couple more. This is a fun way for the students to invite family and friends to the Fair.

Kids information
Entry forms for the LEGO Exhibit and Lunchtime Live are in the Fair Newsletter, at the office and on the Grand Fair website.

Checklist
Look out for the Fair checklist which is based on each year level’s commitments and summarises what needs to be done.

2015 Gold Sponsor proudly supporting Ashburton PS

Graham Watt MP
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2015 Grand Fair Co-convenors
Amanda Booker: 0418 748 310
Janine Mowat: 0410 444 228
Sue Syme: 0402 471 503
Email: grandfair.aps@gmail.com