



THE AUBURN WEST DRUM

Telephone: 9649 6774 | Website: www.auburnwest-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

11 December 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Extended holiday or moving at the end of the year?

Is your family moving house or extending a holiday into the new school year? We are organising our school for 2016 and need to know if students are leaving our school at the end of the year to enrol in a different school, please let our office staff know if this applies to you. If you are taking a holiday before the end of the school year or at the beginning of the school year, families need to apply for leave, please collect a form from our office.

2015 - an innovative year

The year of 2015 has been one of new learning, friendship and personal best for all our students. Thank you to our whole school community who have supported each and every student with a successful year of learning. Thank you to all our teachers, admin staff, learning support officers, Mr Gary, our canteen staff and all our volunteers for their support to make this year an exciting year of learning; a special thank you to our Executive staff who have led each of our teachers and students throughout 2015.

We say farewell to some of staff this year. Thank you and farewell to Mrs Spadina, Miss Gandham, Mrs Nguyen, Ms Yi and Mr Gerber. We also wish Miss Manners and her family all the very best as she takes maternity leave at the end of the year.

As teachers it is important that we know where each and every student is with their learning. In 2015 we continued to build on this understanding so that our students can articulate their own learning. Learning goals, bump it up walls & data walls are the key to our students understanding what THEY as a learner can do to help them achieve their next target. Our Semester 2 school reports will acknowledge the success of each and every child and provide an understanding of the 'where to next' in our students' academic progress.

Our learning experiences have been both within and beyond our school gates. Students participated in our successful athletics, swimming and cross country carnivals and PSSA teams. Our students experienced a variety of excursions from the Year 5/6 Camp, sleeping at Taronga Zoo, visiting the Opera House, the

farm, the wildlife park, the bakery and even our local botanic gardens.

We have developed the leadership skills of our students through our very successful play leaders who assist our K-2 students at lunch time, our SRC leaders, our Year 5 leaders who assisted our 2016 Kindergarten students to our House captains and our Student leadership team.

This year we have focused on developing skills to assist all our students to learn anywhere, any time. Learning takes place in the classroom, the playground, at home, on-line, off-line....but one of the most important aspects of learning is around how each and every student can demonstrate the 4Cs 'Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking' (or 6Cs if we include Citizenship and Character as well).

Each and every grade throughout our school has connected to the 4Cs in a range of ways; from our Year 5 and 6 students sharing their STEM & SOLE skills with Hilltop Rd PS to our youngest students in Kindergarten who connected strongly with their visit to the farm. The farm visit resulted in the idea for students to hold a cake stall this week to raise money to buy one goat for a family overseas through Oxfam. So successful was this event (after they advertised and made many cakes) that they raised \$367 - this will buy many goats as well as many other items for families, (Thank you to Mr & Mrs Chebib in our canteen who generously matched the dollars raised to support our students). *(continued back page)*

TERM 4 2015 & TERM 1 2016 EVENTS

Wed 16 Dec	Last day for students
Thur 28 Jan	Students Years 1 to 6 return to school
Thur 28 - Mon 1 Feb	Best Start Kindergarten interviews.
Tues 2 Feb	Kindergarten students start school Welcome morning tea for Kinder parents in the Hall
Mon 8 Feb	Playgroup begins, 9-10:30am



Congratulations to all our Year 6 students who graduate from their primary school years next week. We hope that you will remember AWPS as a place of fun, friendship and learning. Enjoy the new adventure that you are undertaking in Year 7, we hope to hear about your new educational journey; I wonder what jobs and careers our students will have in the future?

A snapshot of our school year:

- This year we have explored learning across and within grades. We have learnt STEM skills, where students have collaboratively learnt from each other and have even shared these skills across the world through Twitter;
- We have explored deep questions through SOLE and we explored the things we are passionate about during Genius Hour;
- We focused on science with our Ms Kim and Science Room - a powerful learning space for our Stage 2 students;
- Our Dance group created dances and performed for our many special assemblies;
- Our Drum group have performed both at our special events and beyond our school gates;
- Our choir represented our school at Our Spectacular at the Sydney Opera House;
- We have had visiting teachers and principals from Northern NSW, the Shire, local schools and overseas to see the great work we are doing here at AWPS;
- We have celebrated and acknowledged many special days with our community this year: Harmony Day, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC Week, Book Week and Intercultural Day;
- This year over 500 students from K-6 were awarded a Star Badge, we hope even more will achieve this next year;
- Our teachers have learnt with and from each other as we have undertaken Spirals of Inquiry where we undertook a learner-related challenge;
- Some of our teachers have travelled interstate and to other schools to learn from of our colleagues;
- We have had the support of some great

organisations from the Salvos, SPARKs and Foodbank to ensure our students have healthy food for our Breakfast Club and a range of activities held during and after school;

- Next year will bring strong connections with Macquarie University with a focus on STEM, links to University of Melbourne through joint research projects and a connection with the Australian Film and Television School; and
- We will work with Hilltop Rd PS, Camdenville PS, Turramurra North PS, Campelltown Performing Arts HS & Ambarvale HS through a focus on collaborative learning between our students and staff.

Congratulations to all our students for a great year of learning. I hope all our all our staff, students and our wider school community have a safe and relaxing holiday break. We look forward to seeing our students next year when we return on **Thursday 28 January 2016**.

Ms L Hodges



KT @MissKim_K1 Dec 5
What a success! Thanks 2 everyone for your generous donations. We even raised enough money for sev...



We're on Twitter
 @AuburnWestPS



AuburnWestPS @AuburnWestPS Nov 24
Fantastic day for our swimming carnival! This year we're at Bering Pools, great fun in & out of the water!

LEARN SHOW CARE

RESPECT BE SAFE