Dear Parents and Families:
Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

Prep 2013:
Yesterday was a very exciting day at ANPS. A special welcome to our new Prep families. Our 2013 Preps all arrived for their first transition session with Mrs Paterson and Mrs Kam. All students settled in superbly and were provided with an engaging program. Staff take this opportunity to get to know our new students and to allow them to make friendships before they start school in earnest next year.

The staffroom was available to new parents to meet each other and to talk through the joy and the slight trepidation; for some, of this new stage in their life’s journey. It was nice to meet and greet you all. Once again welcome to our ANPS community.

Continue the Learning: It is so important at this stage of the year that students remain focussed on their learning. Parents can help with the little things at home that make a huge difference:

- Have children to school on time.
- Ensure that regular reading is carried out at home.
- If homework is on the agenda, then sit with your children and support them to ‘persist’ with their learning tasks.
- Talk about their school day in a positive way - ask general questions like: “Did you face any learning challenges today at school?” / “What excited you most about your school day today?” / “Did anything different happen at school today?”. A little time together goes a long way to building stronger family relationships and also; in this case, a love of learning.

Sandpit area revitalised: Finally we have managed to revitalise the sandpit area between the Block A and Block B. The area has been freshened up with artificial grass and on the weekend the sand will be placed into the sandpit.

The addition of our first boat has attracted keen student interest as well. It was delightful yesterday to see the younger students sitting, sailing and talking in the boat.

This area will need to be maintained well and as a result has become a ‘no eating area’. I must congratulate all students on the positive manner in which they have taken to using this relaxing spot.

Sandpit area revitalised: Finally we have managed to revitalise the sandpit area between the Block A and Block B. The area has been freshened up with artificial grass and on the weekend the sand will be placed into the sandpit.

The addition of our first boat has attracted keen student interest as well. It was delightful yesterday to see the younger students sitting, sailing and talking in the boat.

This area will need to be maintained well and as a result has become a ‘no eating area’. I must congratulate all students on the positive manner in which they have taken to using this relaxing spot.

Special thanks to those students who have also spent their personal time on keeping the area clean and tidy.

Concert preparations: As the days and weeks tick by, it becomes more important to have all of the elements of the concert, gradually but strategically, come together. Costumes should be with teachers and rehearsals are well underway.

Please encourage your children to practise their routines at home and offer them positive encouragement to do so.

Essential Supplies: All documentation for next years Essential Supplies was sent home last week. It is important that families address this as a priority so that we can finalise all the necessary supply orders well before the end of the year.

Attendance and Home phone calls: Our office staff have been calling the families of all absent students on a daily basis each morning. Our recent school review highlighted, yet again, the extremely high number of student absences which occur.

We are keen to increase/improve student attendance. As the research is clear; ‘if students are at school their learning outcomes improve dramatically’. You can help us by calling the school before 9.15am if your child is away ill.

We are finding that a good number of absences are defined as ‘parent choice’. A good example of this might be: “Oh, little Bluey is staying at his Grandfather’s today”. This may be a wonderful opportunity for your child to spend time with grandparents, however, it is not something that should become a regular occurrence as it diminishes learning opportunities. Please stop and assess the number of times your child is absent.

Reports: Last Friday I sent home a letter to all families concerning the recent Australian Education Union bans on writing comments on student reports. This action is being taken under correct protected action procedures, as part of negotiations between the Union members and the State Government. I am aware that many schools are in the same position as ours. For parents and students this will raise a number of questions about this years reports. If you have a concern or question please drop by the office and we will endeavour to address it for you.

School Bus: Some exciting news for our school. We have been fortunate enough to obtain a second-hand 21 seat school bus which we will be sharing with Altona Meadows Primary school. We take delivery of the bus next week and hope to have it in operation between the two schools in about two weeks.

Thought for the WEEK:
“Knowledge is the eye of desire and can become the pilot of the soul”
Will Durant.

Have a great week,
Brendan O’Brien, Principal
On Tuesday the 30th of October a man came to our school. He taught us about Living and Non Living Things. Ella and I were collecting bugs to put in the microscope so we could look at them. We enjoyed exploring and had a fun day. By Jana 3/4T

Last Tuesday we had an excursion with bugs. Matt, Alex, Scott, Paul, Anmar and I were on the same table. Matt found a tadpole and it was very cute. The eyes were big and cute. There was a small microscope where we had to put the bugs on. By Leah 3/T

At the incursion I learnt about Living and Non Living things and Fresh Water Habitats. We got some water and put it on the plate. We put the plate under the microscope and saw the water spider. It was very scary. By Boushra 3/4T

The man was talking about ecosystems. He drew the sun and water. We each had a magnet of an animal and had to place it in the right habitat. I learnt there are lots of different habitats in the one habitat. By Azahra. 3/4T

At the Fresh Water Habitat Incursion we learnt about the wetlands. The wetlands are a habitat. There are many habitats in a wetland. I also learnt about food chains. This means that animals rely on each other for food. Abdull 3/4T

FREE study for overweight teens looking for help!

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children's Hospital is doing a study to find a better way to support overweight young people, aged 12 to 17 years, to make healthier choices about weight management. Participation involves completing online questionnaires and having height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured at the beginning and then at 3, 6 and 12 month follow-ups. Parents are also invited to take part. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those who have kept their appointments. The results will help us to find out a helpful way to teach young people about weight-related behaviours during adolescence. We need overweight young people aged 12- 17 living in metropolitan Melbourne to join in!

Enquiries: Karly Cini 03 9345 6954 or stayingfit@mcri.edu.au
For more info: www.rch.org.au/cah/research/The_Staying_Fit_Project/