Once again we have had a busy week with the wind up of Auskick, the AFL football clinic and the SAKG program, actually we really have had a very busy term - half a year gone already! A special thank you goes to Bart Nolan and Olly Close who have been running the Auskick program with the students every Monday. The students have further developed their skills and we really do appreciate the commitment they made weekly.

This week we also said farewell to Mr Wood our Marc Van teacher. Rob has been filling in for Mr Vaughan while he has been away on long service leave. We thank Rob for coming to our school and I think he enjoyed teaching our students just as much as they enjoyed having him.

Next term we are going to be collecting the Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers again. Please let all your relatives, neighbours and friends know to drop them off here at school or at the collection box at Woolies. In previous years we have done really well out of this program with community support. Our aim is to collect 10,000 this year.

Last week our Year 5/6 students participated in the debating grandfinal via the polycom unit against Peranbin Primary College on the topic of “Today’s children are smarter than their parents.” The competition was extremely tough, but our students were successful in winning by a “whisker”. This task has seen the students develop their leadership and public speaking skills. It took a great deal of courage to stand up and talk to an unknown audience. Well Done students!

School Reports went home yesterday and I hope all parents received them. If you would like to further discuss these with either myself or Mr Bruce please contact the school to make an appointment.

Mrs Pretlove will still be away on sick leave for next term and I will continue in the role as Acting Principal and Mr Bruce will continue to work two days a week. I would like to thank all the staff for their continual support along with all our school families.

Please have a happy and safe holidays and I will see everyone again at the start of term 3 which commences on Monday 13th July.

Tanya Turner
Dear Apsley and District Community Member,

I would like to update you on a new initiative that has started at the Apsley Primary School. As you are likely to be aware, the Apsley Primary School has critically low student numbers. This is something we would all like to see turned around.

A school which has previously been in a similar position of low numbers is the Frances Primary School. A few years ago this school had approximately 15 students. In an attempt to increase enrolments they engaged Keryn Smith who is a professional in pre-school play/learning groups. Enrolments almost immediately began to increase once Keryn’s program began, to the point where the school’s numbers have now doubled. Those who have watched this turn around have unanimously attributed it to the well-organised and inclusive program that Keryn has been running. Most families that came in to the school to attend her sessions have then stayed on at the school.

Before committing ourselves to trying to get a similar program started at the Apsley Primary School, we got a few heads together a make a list of potential students that could come to this program. Surprisingly we discovered there are over 40 children in the district (on both sides of the vic/sa border) we think may be able to come. We were then encouraged to approach Keryn and were very pleased when she accepted our invitation to start a similar program at the Apsley Primary School, and so was born the new initiative, The Apsley Alligators. The Apsley Alligators is a play and learning group for pre-school aged children to encourage families to start coming in to the school for these sessions.

We began sessions eight weeks ago and are delighted with the huge support and encouraging feedback we have received. In these few weeks we have already had over 20 different pre-school children through the door. The sessions are held at the Apsley Primary School every Tuesday during the term from 9.30 – 11.30 am. Everyone with pre-school children of any age is welcome to attend with no bookings required.

The hope is this initiative will significantly grow the enrolments at the Apsley Primary School over time. The Apsley Alligators is run by a committee purely made up of volunteers and is not for profit. We do however have costs to cover each term for equipment and to pay the ongoing fee of our facilitator Keryn to run these sessions.

It is for this reason we have decided to have a fundraising SHEEP DRIVE. We are encouraging anyone who is able, to donate a sheep (or two!) to the Apsley Alligators to help keep our doors open. Alternatively people are welcome to make a monetary donation.

**What:** Sheep Drive.

**Donate:** Any type of sheep you can spare (dry ewe, wether or lamb).

**When:** Sheep will be picked up on **Monday 20th July 2015** ready for sale on Tuesday in Naracoorte.

**Who:** Rich Hawker, Nick Mueller, Matt Treglown or Damian Merrett will pick up your sheep on this day.

**What I need to do:** Contact one of the below people to express your interest.

**Extra details:** You will need a filled out vendor declaration form and a sheep animal health statement ready to be collected with your sheep.

Thank you very much for your time and we feel confident that you will also see and share our vision to grow the Apsley School Primary through this fantastic initiative. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

The Apsley Alligators Committee

**Contacts**

Rich Hawker: 0429 861 297
Nick Mueller: 0427 642 153
Damian Merrett: 0429 861 349
Matt Treglown: 0409 262 737
Sarah Joubert: 0427 300 682
On Tuesday we had Auskick. The kids played footy against the adults. We had lots of fun. Bart was the coach of the kids and Vanessa was for the adults. The kids started off with two goals, but the adults kicked more. In the end the adults won. It was a very tough game. There was a presentation by Olly and Bart and then Hayden and I presented Olly and Bart with a present for training us. We had hotdogs for tea.

By Darcy
Sunday 28th June

The students are having a stall this month at the market. Pop down to have one of Brooke’s and Rachael’s special coffees with a home made chocolate or a marshmallow treat. The students also have a range of other things they are selling.

AFL Clinic