Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to welcome old and new families to our school for 2016. We have had a wonderful start and it is fantastic to see students settling into new routines and building relationships with staff and other students. Our Welcome Breakfast went well and it was wonderful to see so many families attending.

If you need to talk to the teacher or senior staff do not hesitate. Teachers are usually available to discuss any issues before or after school. If it is something that needs to be confidential or a long discussion make a time with the teacher to make sure we are working together to improve outcomes for your child. We endeavour to have an open door policy and we welcome parent input.

If you would like to have input on school issues the School Association meets regularly and we are keen to have as many members of our school community as possible involved. If I am not available there is usually a senior staff member to discuss any issues.

We are a part of the LIFT program. This is an exciting program that will enhance parent engagement at our school. Parents/carers are an important part of each child’s education and we are keen to make sure that there are opportunities to work together. This will have a positive impact on children’s learning. We value partnerships between parents/carers and during the year we will be working together to make sure that everyone can contribute, connect and participate in the education of children in our school. There are already opportunities for parent engagement across the school, including LIL, and we will be making sure that this is an area of focus for all grades.

We have staff on leave and we have had an increase in school numbers. Due to this we have a number of new staff. We would like to welcome new staff to our school and congratulate them on the way they have started their year at AFPS. They are all very professional and competent and we are lucky to have them as a part of our team. I hope our whole school community will make them welcome.

They are:
Lauren Guard – Prep/1
Karaleigh Foster – Prep/1
Ipshita Nair – Kindergarten
Lindy Sherrin – 5/6
Susie Best – 1/2
Anne Kibbey – 1/2 (one day)
Francis Fish – Prep/1
James Lillas – School Psychologist
Austin Armstrong – P.E.
Keegan Bailey – P.E.
Alison Lowe - Japanese

We are all looking forward to a productive term

Anne Douglas
Principal
**School Association News**

Easter Raffle tickets will be handed out shortly. Additional books will be available from the office.

Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th March.

Student Validation Forms will be sent home with students shortly.

Please advise the office if you wish to collect the validation from the office for personal reasons.

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**Nut Aware School**

Just a reminder that Austins Ferry Primary is a Nut Aware School. A number of our students have a severe allergy to nuts and products containing nuts.

Please do not send nuts or nut related products to school in your child’s lunch box.

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**Payment of Levies**

There are several ways options for the payment of levies.

- BPay
- Service Tas
- At the school office

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**AFTERNOON PHONE CALLS REGARDING LIFTS HOME ETC**

We have been receiving phone calls after 2.30pm regarding change of pickup arrangements for some students. As messages are attached to bags that are collected from the office at 2.30 each day, it becomes very difficult to contact students with your message.

The later the phone call is received the more difficult it is to guarantee that we will be able to deliver your instructions.

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**UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES**

Every day we have students with unexplained absences. Notices are then sent out to parents who are asked to contact us either by return message or by phoning the school.

If we do not get a reply these absences stay as unexplained and are tracked by the Education Department.

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**School Banking**

School Banking is on every Thursday. There are exciting new reward items for 2016.

- Flying Snake Tail and Wildlife Writer Set for term 1.

Make 10 school banking deposits to receive an award. Please make sure that the deposit slip is filled out for each student, thank you.

If you have any spare time on a Thursday morning to help with student banking it would be greatly appreciated.

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The next School Association will be held in the Conference Room on Tuesday 22nd March commencing at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

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**SKOOLBAG APP**

This is a very useful app for either iPhones or android phones. This app is free. Can be used for advising absentees and the school uses it to advises various events. See more information on back page for installation instructions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT (Assemblies commence at 1:45pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th February</td>
<td>Assembly for 56 J Cook, 45 H Watson, 45 E Laird, 12 P Kiddle, 23 L Morris, 23 M McArthur, P1 L Gard, P1 K Foster, KC A Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Year 3—6 Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th March</td>
<td>Assembly for 56 R Slater, 56 L Sherrin, 45 R Quinn, 12 G Crichton-Gill, 12 S Best &amp; A Kibbey, 12 J Ormerod &amp; E Fenton, 23 K Barnbrook, KA A Casey, KB I Nair, P1 F Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>SPSSA Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 23rd March</td>
<td>Assembly for 56 J Cook, 45 H Watson, 45 E Laird, 12 P Kiddle, 23 L Morris, 23 M McArthur, P1 L Gard, P1 K Foster, KC A Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25th March to Tuesday 29th March</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st April</td>
<td>SPSSA Champions Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th April</td>
<td>Assembly for 56 R Slater, 56 L Sherrin, 45 R Quinn, 12 G Crichton-Gill, 12 S Best &amp; A Kibbey, 12 J Ormerod &amp; E Fenton, 23 K Barnbrook, KA A Casey, KB I Nair, P1 F Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th April</td>
<td>Last day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
<td>Student Free Day (Moderation Day)</td>
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**SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS**

- **PRINCIPAL:** Anne Douglas
- **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** Kerrie Riewoldt
- **RAISING THE BAR/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** Carolyn Murray
- **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/AST:** Aaron Guilliamse
- **ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER:** Chris Raspin
- **ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER:** Annabelle Parker
- **ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER:** Jonathon Cook
- **SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER:** Graham Hyde

Address 13 Brodie Street, Claremont, 7011
Ph 03 6275 7222 - Fax 03 6249 2349