Attendance continues to be a focus area for Ardrossan Area School. Our aim is to reach an attendance rate of 93%. Our 2015 term 1 rate was 90.1%. This equals the 2014 term 1 rate. While it is pleasing to see no decline, it is concerning that we continue to be short of our target. The main reasons given for absence are illness and family; however we have had an increase in the number of absences with no reason provided. It is important that parents/carers call the school before 11am if their child is absent. This way you will not be sent a text message. If you miss the 11am time, you can respond to the text message, call the school or provide a note via your child’s diary or home book. It has been disappointing that calls or notes from teachers requesting a reason for absent are sometimes ignored. Schools are required to follow-up unexplained absences. Referrals to the Attendance Officer will occur for frequent or patterned absence.

Based on term 1 data in any given week 93 students were absent; 38 of these absences were for family reasons, 29 for illness, 15 were unexplained and 11 for other reasons (such as exceptions due to extended family holidays and for behaviour issues). A student who misses 10 days out of the 207 of school each year will effectively miss 2 and a half terms of school. For those students missing 10 days every term, this equates to approximately 2 and a half years of school. This type of absence has a direct effect on their learning and, therefore, the likelihood of the successful completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). I encourage attendance to school for all students each day with the understanding that illness can, at times, prevent attendance. I ask families to consider carefully absence due to family reasons.

Next week is NAPLAN assessment week. Literacy assessments will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Numeracy on Thursday morning. I know that teachers have been working with Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students on familiarisation with the test structure and question types. I remind parents/carers that this assessment program is a snapshot on student achievement and growth and is used at the school as one data set that assists with informing school directions, planning for teaching and learning and decisions on access to intervention programs. It is helpful for students to be familiar with the structure and question types, however, I encourage parents/carers to not over emphasis this assessment program. Students should feel comfortable about the program and not be unduly stressed about their performance. A ‘give it a go’ attitude is the best approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students participating in the AAS Cross Country this Thursday the best. Also I wish our students competing in Adelaide on Friday 15th May in SAPSASA Lawn Bowls every success.

Regards,

Karen Bond
Principal

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**School Lunch Orders**

We remind all families to ensure that you are referring to the 2015 school lunch order price list when you are ordering student lunches. Price lists are available from the front office and will be posted on the schools Facebook page.

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**WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**

Friday, 22nd May

Students are invited to join a ‘virtual school bus’ and walk to school from various ‘bus stops’ around the town. The SRC will provide breakfast for all students before school.

More information will be sent home with Junior School students. Any Middle or Senior School students that would like to be part of a ‘virtual bus’ are asked to speak to Miss Eglinton.

Names of all interested students need to be given to the front office before Friday, 8th May.
Yr 11 Aquatics

Earlier this week (May 4 - 6), Year 11 Outdoor Education students took part in a 3-day aquatics program held at Pt. Vincent Aquatic Centre as part of their Stage 11 SACE topic. Unpredictable weather meant students were forced to take on kayaking instead of sailing & windsurfing. Strong winds and icy sea temperatures made for tough going but everyone had some success along the way. Students learning ranged from basic kayak handling and paddling skills, safety procedures, controlled capsizes/rolls and rescues. A special mention goes to Logan Ames for the first accidental capsize of the program and for maintaining calm throughout this ordeal.

Andrew Lawless
Outdoor Education

R-6

May is National Family Reading Month. To celebrate this month we have planned several activities (information in this week’s newsletter). We hope families will be able to join us on the 27th May for our big Celebrate Reading Day. Students will be sending home invitations to family members.

The AAS Cross Country is this Thursday, commencing at 9.15am at the Ardrossan Football Oval. We invite family members to come along and cheer on the competitors.

There will be a Junior School Assembly this Friday, commencing at 2.40pm in the Gym. Hosts are the Year 5/6 class.

Margaret Roads
Deputy Principal

Leonie Peterson
Student Counsellor/Librarian

• 1st-12th May: Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

• 1st May: Premier’s Reading Challenge commences at Ardrossan Area School

• 27th May: Celebrate Reading Day - Reception to Year 6
Parents, Grandparents, family members & friends are invited to attend (students will be sending home invitations)

Program
9.00 am R-6 Classrooms open for family members & friends to visit and participate in reading activities
10.15 am Storytelling by community members
10.30 am Morning tea with families
Each family is asked to supply a plate of food to share
11.00 am National Simultaneous Storytime in the Gym
11.15 am National Simultaneous Storytime Classroom Activities
12.00 noon Conclusion of Celebrate Reading Day activities

Ardrossan Kids’ Club

Term 2 Dates
Friday, 15th May
Friday, 29th May
Friday, 12th June

Meet Kids’ Club Leaders by the Library at 3.05 pm. Collection at 5 pm from the Uniting Church Hall.

Join our Facebook group

Ardrossan Kids’ Club

to receive updated information about events.
Contact Eric (0498996297) or Kallie (0409284380) for more info.

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME
Wednesday 27 May 2015

The Brothers Quibble

by Anne Bailey

Penguin Books Australia

The story of the Brothers Quibble is about the love of a good story and the importance of sharing it with others. The story is set in a fictional town called Quibbleville, where the Quibble family runs a small bookshop. The family consists of the father, mother, and three children, each with their own unique quirks and passions. The story begins with the father, Mr. Quibble, who writes a column called “Quibbleville Chronicles” in which he shares his favorite stories and insights on life. As the story progresses, the children, who are all passionate about reading, start to share their own stories and inspirations, leading to a magical transformation in the town. The story emphasizes the importance of sharing stories and the power of imagination, inspiring readers to find their own stories and share them with the world.

The Brothers Quibble is a heartwarming tale that celebrates the joy of reading and the power of stories to connect people. The story is beautifully illustrated with colorful and whimsical illustrations that capture the charm and charm of the fictional town of Quibbleville. The story is written in a way that is accessible and enjoyable for children, while also offering deeper insights into the power of storytelling and the importance of sharing those stories with others. Overall, The Brothers Quibble is a delightful and inspiring story that invites readers to open their minds and hearts to the magic of stories and the joy of sharing them.
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