

# Ajuga Newsletter

*Together We Achieve*



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Issue 6 – Term 4 – Week 6

Monday, 16 November 2015

## From the Principal's Desk

Hello parents, carers, students and friends of Ajuga,

Well what a term it is shaping up to be. The end of the year is always such a busy time with assessments, reports, exams and of course the normal every day amazing things that the staff of Ajuga do for your child- excursions, sport, structured games on playground, assembly, swimming, maths groups and singing to name but just a few. I feel blessed each and every day to be working with such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals who all have the best interests of the students at heart.

At Ajuga School we have introduced the concept of White Ribbon and all classes are learning about what it means to be a white ribbon school. Violence in the community is not ok and as a school we are doing our part to ensure that we say no to violence and have our voices heard.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tenille our amazing silver class teacher. Tenille received an award at the annual Principal's Celebration on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. She was nominated in the category of Early Career Teacher and awarded for her extraordinary resilience and commitment, exemplary growth and leadership and outstanding success and impact in supporting the Ajuga School vision. We are lucky to have you as a member of staff at our school.

Remember our connect:ed now runs every week and we invite all families and friends to attend the sessions before our school assembly on Tuesdays. If you require transport or a lift from the station please call the school and speak with Jo who is more than happy to help you out.

Tickets for our Ajuga Christmas raffle have been sent home, please ask friends to support this event and remember to keep sending in your items to make up the hampers. I look forward to seeing you all at out end of term bbq and assembly.

Amanda Kowalczyk ☺

## Upcoming Events

### Week 6

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov HSC Luncheon

### Week 7

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov Hilltop Collaboration Tour  
'White Ribbon' Assembly



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 'White Ribbon' Walk to Gate

### Week 8

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Purple Excursion

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov



Assembly

### Week 9

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 'White Ribbon' Cricket  
Reports sent home

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec Assembly



Ajuga Art Show

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Level Excursion

### Week 10

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Primary Excursion

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec Assembly



### Week 11

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Assembly



Family BBQ

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec Last Day of School

## Classroom Catch Ups!

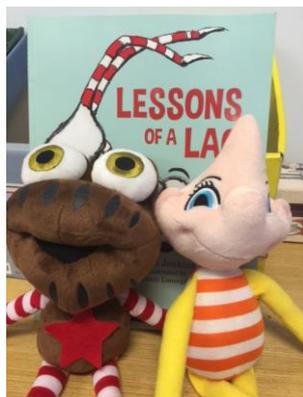
### Red Class

This Term Red class has been busy learning about Water. We have conducted various water experiments that showed many elements of water, such as evaporation, cloud making, precipitation and condensation. During Maths Red Class enjoyed playing all the games, working together and have demonstrated positive peer learning throughout.



Every morning during social skills Red Class are reading

Lessons of a LAC. This book is about a creature whose name is LAC, which stands for Little Anxious Creature. Throughout the book LAC focuses on the negatives till calming Calmster comes in, she is a happy creature who looks at any situations on the bright side.



In our PDH unit we are studying Road Safety and have been looking at the danger of having distractions when we are walking and driving. For swimming we are all practicing how to blow bubbles underwater, floating and diving safely, we all enjoy free time as well.

Red class are great cooks, cleaners and helpers in the kitchen, so far we have made a delicious watermelon salad, fresh bread rolls, broad bean dip and yellow chicken curry. Next week we are cooking rice lettuce cups and roasted vegetables, YUM!

**Antonia, Kristina and Anne ☺**

### Yellow Class

This term in Yellow Class we have been extremely busy. Term 4 always brings plenty of fun and exciting things. It is hard to believe there are only five weeks left of the year and looking back on 2015 Yellow Class have achieved so much.

We started the term off with our exciting Integrated Unit called Natural Disasters. The students are focussing on Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Floods, Droughts and lots more. They have enjoyed building the classroom display, researching on the Internet and making their own Seismographs.

In PDH we have been concentrating on Road Safety. Yellow Class have enjoyed classroom discussions, role playing and learning all about Safety of our roads. Later in the term (Week 10) we will be heading to Campbelltown for our primary excursion - definitely all excited.

We were given a very thrilling project to undertake and complete this term, which the students have taken very seriously. Our very own garden outside our classroom. We have planned the garden, decided which plants would suit best, planted and most importantly learning to fertilise and water frequently. And so far it's looking amazing. A big thankyou to Dale (our fantastic gardener) for helping us with our garden.



For PE we have loved getting back in the pool this term and have been working on life saving drills each and every week. We have been especially excited to practise our diving - and we must say, they are looking pretty good too. For Sport we are mastering Taekwondo. We are learning new skills; all while exercising and having fun.

In between all of this we have looked after our Chickens and Frogs, helped out in the School Garden and loved being Chefs in the Kitchen - cooking up some delicious recipes.

We must not forget to mention our class involvement in White Ribbon - we are saying NO to violence, not only in our school but our whole community. The students and teachers in Yellow Class are definitely very passionate about White Ribbon. We have created an amazing display in our classroom with all students contributing and writing their own oaths.



Yellow Class would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. See you in 2016.

**Belinda and Peta ☺**

### Silver Class

This term in Silver class we have been very busy! Even though it is Term 4 we are still busily working away. For our integrated unit we have been learning about natural disasters. So far focussing on natural disasters, enjoying doing some experiments, as well as learning how volcanos work.



For PDH/PE we have been learning about road safety. Silver class are very passionate about the road rules, we always have lots of great conversations that is very relevant about the now on the roads. For PE we have been swimming. Silver class love the water, it always seems to be raining and cold on a Tuesday, but that does not stop us. This term the students have been enjoying the sink and swim toys in the water.

For creative arts the primary students have been singing together. It is great to see Silver class enjoying



themselves whilst singing some of their favourite songs. We can't wait to show everyone at the end of year assembly. Some of our students as a part of white ribbon celebrations got to meet Reece Mastin.

We can't forget our newest class member Kieran, who came at the end of term 3.

Silver class is now very full with 7 students. We have welcomed Kieran with open arms, it feels like he has been here all year! Goodluck to Jordyn and Ben who are off to High School next year! We will miss you ☺

Tenille and Jo ☺

### Blue Class

This term we have been learning about Natural Disasters including Earthquakes, Tsunami's, Meteorites, Floods, Volcanoes Droughts and Bushfires. After exploring Disaster Mapper online to discover where these may occur in Australia and the impact on the community, the students created Word-clouds for each disaster as prompts for our writing, research and speeches. Blue class have modelled a



seismograph where we were all parts of the machine and simulated a Tsunami in a tub.

We participated in a videoconference titled 'Disaster! Writing Action Narrative' with author Paul Stafford and



Penny Packham (from the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum). They helped us to begin planning and writing our own Disaster story. The students were also fascinated by being

shown the T-Rex skeleton in the Museum and were amused by the Museum patrons photobombing our presenters!

During gardening class we were encouraged to do something crazy with the flowers, leaves, fruit and veggies by experimenting and smashing them into unique colourful art. Next time the veggies might make it into our cooking...



In PD we have been identifying and practicing our Road Safety skills and participating in White Ribbon activities which encourage us to say No to violence against women. The students decided that mentally 'tough' men are the ones who walk away.

Every Tuesday for PE we have been learning about pool safety, First Aid and practicing and improving our freestyle and breaststroke. And yes, some Tuesdays at 9am we have shivered our way into the water, but once



we were in it was definitely worth it, as was the game of Marco Polo at the end! Inspired by our swimming, David Hockney's swimming art and other underwater photographs, Blue class created our

own swimming self-portraits. We focussed on using colour, texture and wavy lines to create the sense of moving water.

Blue class wish you a safe and happy Christmas holiday.

Sharyn and Mark ☺

**Purple Class**

It's the last term of the year, and Purple Class has made it an awesome one! So far, we have been studying an integrated unit on Aboriginal Australia. We have been learning about colonisation and the effects that it has on Indigenous Australians. As part of this unit, we have



heard Dreaming stories, and reflected on their significance to the Indigenous people of Australia. We have also looked at how the Aboriginal people have viewed

identity and reflected on our own identity through presenting an icon to the class. We have been preparing for the Ajuga Visual Art show by decorating our own boomerangs for display.

As Ajuga is a White Ribbon school, we have been learning about White Ribbon and the types of domestic violence in our community. We have embraced the program and each student will be taking an oath to pledge about not being silent about domestic violence. As part of this program, we have also started our White Ribbon tree, where students place a White Ribbon on the tree when they take action against violence towards women and men.



Purple class did a great job helping to organise Grandparent's Day this term and were very proud of their efforts. We have also been going to Putt Putt and Bowling as part of our sports program, where we are able to get active by participating in the games and socialising with our peers. We are



very excited in the lead up to the end of year and are busy finalising all our assessment tasks.

Purple Class would like to thank all the Ajuga staff for their support this year, and we wish the whole Ajuga School community a very safe and happy Christmas.

**Kate and Kate 😊**

**Green Class**

Term 4 has been a very busy so far for Green class with lots of changes going on. We spent the first few weeks adjusting to a few new class members joining us from Orange class as well as a new classroom layout and structure. We are really enjoying all the new things going on in Green class.

For English this term, we are looking at the genre of Science Fiction by studying the novel "Ender's Game" written by Orson Scott Card. We are working our way through the book as a class and we have been surprised by how many of the author's ideas about the future are

actually in use today, like iPads and zero gravity simulators. As a part of our look into Science Fiction, we created our own future world by looking at different parts



of our daily life and imagining how they would look and function in the year 3015. A lot of creative and thoughtful ideas were uncovered as you can see from the photo of our classroom display board.

We have also been working on Australia's regional and global links in Geography, printmaking in Art, food equity in Food Tech and resilience in PDH as well our regular White Ribbon lessons as a part of the whole school program.

There is a lot going on in Green class as we approach the end of the year. It wouldn't be an end of year message without acknowledging those of us in Year 10 who will be moving up to start their HSC studies in Orange class next year. Daniel, Charlee, Jasmin, Richelle and Corey will all be leaving Green class at the conclusion of the year. We wish them all the best as they begin the final run towards the end of their schooling.



Green class would like to wish the whole school community a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday and we looking forward to what amazing things are in store for us next year!

**Scott, Rose and Margaret 😊**



We finished Term 3 off with two informative sessions on Teens and Drugs run by Mark, cooked up a storm in the kitchen with Grace and finished our Building Resilience program. We would like to express a huge thank you to both Mark and Grace for sharing their knowledge and skills with us.

Term 4 kicked off with Ajuga, Campbell House and Glenfield Park joining together to participate in the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity program. This is run by the NSW Government Health South Western Sydney Local Health District. So far we have covered what good health and healthy eating looks like and the importance of physical activity.



To finish off this term, we have two more sessions of the Healthy Eating Program; Good health for children and Recipe modification, label reading and food safety. This will be followed by a session on drugs and alcohol, then Drama Therapy and to finish off a successful and fulfilling year, our Connect:ed luncheon.

Our partnership with Campbell House will continue next year. Chris and I are already working on our 2016 calendar. We are both really excited to continue our Connect:ed program and meet with our wonderful parents/carers each week.

If you are interested in being part of this positive school community network, Connect:ed runs each Tuesday



from 10am and all parents, family members and carers are invited.

For upcoming sessions please visit the Ajuga School website at <http://www.ajuga-s.schools.nsw.edu.au/> or our Ajuga Facebook Page and Twitter.

Remember our end of year Christmas BBQ will be held Tuesday 15 December 2015. Details will follow shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

## SMOKE-FREE CARS

Children are particularly susceptible to the negative health effects of passive smoking. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke by children can lead to an increased risk of asthma, lower respiratory tract infections such as pneumonia and bronchitis, coughing and wheezing. Even being in a car with a smoker for short amounts of time can be detrimental to a child's health.

Smoking in a car with a child under the age of 16 is an offence under *the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008*. A\$250 on the spot fine applies to the driver and any passenger who breaks the law and this is enforced by NSW Police.

### HOW IS THE LAW ENFORCED?

NSW Police enforces the ban on smoking in cars with children.

### WHAT IS THE FINE?

A \$250 on the spot fine applies to the driver and any passenger who breaks the law. If a person elects not to pay the fine and have the matter dealt with by a court, the maximum fine that may be imposed by a magistrate is \$1,100.

### WILL I BE BREAKING THE LAW IF I WIND THE CAR WINDOW DOWN WHILE SMOKING?

Yes. Winding down the car window is not enough to stop tobacco smoke affecting children.

### IF I AM DRIVING AND ONE OF MY PASSENGERS IS SMOKING, WILL I ALSO BE FINED?

Yes a \$250 on the spot fine applies to the driver and any passenger who breaks the law.

### WHY IS THIS LAW IN PLACE?

The NSW Government introduced laws to protect children from second-hand smoke. Second-hand tobacco smoke harms children's growing lungs. Other laws include placing tobacco products out of sight in shops and increasing penalties for selling tobacco products to children. The fact is that there's simply no excuse whatsoever for smoking in vehicles with children present

### SO HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

Contact your **local police** 9605 0499 (Macquarie Fields Police Station) and provide them with the specific details of the offence. To assist the Police to effectively stop this unacceptable behaviour, it's important to be able to provide them with the following important information.

- Car Registration
- Make & Model of Vehicle
- Time of offence
- Date of offence
- Location of offence
- Identification of the offender
- The police will also want your details.