SELF PORTRAITS
Languages students in Year 2 have been busy painting self-portraits with Mrs Nairouz while learning about body parts for their topic: Caring for Self. The students first used lead pencil to sketch their portraits, then they used water colours to paint them.

Mrs M Nairouz

Pictures by Rihanna, Hussam, Ayman, Ola, Aya, Leah, Nawal, Mohammed and Alisa

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Harmony Day
What a wonderful day we had to celebrate Harmony Day 2015. Thank you to the organising committee who ensured that Harmony Day was an event to remember. Our school looked amazing, colourful images hung around the courtyards, flags in the hall, wonderful guests, great food, and a fantastic parent program to start the day off. Our parents drew, coloured, cooked, ate and celebrated with us. Our students, staff and community enjoyed a wonderful assembly where our Drum group proudly performed, the world flags entered the building with the help of 6T and KM and our guest speaker Sheikh Wassam encouraged us all to show respect and be super cool. A great day of community pride where ‘Everyone Belongs’.

Our Drum group was in popular demand for Harmony Day, they were invited to perform at Auburn North PS last Monday for their Harmony Day celebrations. Although I warned the audience that it would be very loud, I think the first beat made many in the audience jump! Congratulations to Mr Gerber and the drummers. Thanks to Miss Manners and Miss Heather who helped to drive us all to the performance. Mr Harris, Principal of ANPS, sent an email to congratulate our drummers.

Star Badge Winners
Congratulations to our next group of 76 students who have achieved a Star Badge this year. We now have more assemblies and have updated the criteria for students to achieve a Star Badge. As a result, on Tuesday 154 students had the opportunity to attend our Term 1 Star Badge treat by going Ten-pin Bowling. Thank you to the whole PBIS committee who ensure these awards and treats are provided to our students each term.

Sydney University
For the past few weeks AWPS has hosted three visits from University of Sydney students who were keen to experience a day in a primary school. Each Monday we have had 28 additional adults in our school and they have visited classrooms from K-6. They were very excited to see what we do in our school, we hope to see some of these students again as teachers in the future. Thank you to all the teachers who supported these students.

School and Sports Uniform
A reminder to our parents and students that we wish to see all students in FULL school uniform each and every day. We also expect our students to wear black shoes as part of our uniform. Please do not send your child to school in brightly coloured shoes as this is NOT school uniform.

In Term 2 we will be seeking opinions from our school community about a new school sports uniform. We would like to introduce a new sports uniform in 2016 and as we have a range of sports uniform designs we will be asking your opinion as the best uniform for our students to wear.

Happy Holidays
I would like to wish all our school community a very happy and safe holiday break. To all our staff, as we have had a very busy start to the school year, I hope you take the opportunity to relax, rest and recharge ready for Term 2. Thank you for all your hard work in the classroom, playground and the office, it has been a great start to 2015.

The last day of Term 1 is this Thursday and students return Tuesday 21 April for the beginning of Term 2.

Ms L Hodges

TERMS 1 & 2 2015 EVENTS
Thu 2 April Last day for Term 1
Tue 21 April Students return for Term 2
Wed 22 April Anzac Day Assembly
Fri 1 May Winter PSSA starts
On Friday morning as the staff, students and parents entered the school they were greeted with the courtyards festooned with bunting that the children have been busily making over the last few weeks. Based on the Harmony Day theme of “Everyone Belongs”, the students at AWPS created over 600 triangles of art work that was strung up throughout the school. Mrs Haddad and her team of dedicated installers had put the bunting up after school on Thursday so that everyone could get a big surprise on Harmony Day.

The parents at AWPS spent Friday morning creating art work to become part of their very own bunting display which was then draped over the lectern in the Hall for the Harmony Day assembly. Whilst all that was going on Mrs Farzana did henna decorations on the other mother’s hands.

The AWPS school community of student, parents, teachers and special guests held a Harmony Day morning tea that saw the parents and the teachers serving the children lots of delicious fruit. The adults were then able to have some quality time together talking and then eating the magnificent traditional food that was on offer.

The AWPS drum group started proceedings at the annual Harmony Day assembly with some of the most exciting drum renditions the audience has ever seen. Mr Clarence did the Welcome to Country followed by students at the school who did the Acknowledgment to Country in English and Arabic. Special guest, Sheikh Wessam, had the opportunity to engage with the school community as he talked about setting high standards for living both as a youngster and as an adult. His talk was very poignant and nearly brought the audience to tears. Then Ms Hodges read the Mem Fox book “Whoever you are” which encapsulated the whole theme of Harmony Day, then she cut the Harmony Day celebratory cake provided by Mrs Natali Mastroianni.

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the success of the day by being involved in the programs and activities throughout the day. Also, a big thank you to the AWPS student leadership team of Mert, Maryam, Farouk, Noor, Yahya, Jale, Jiselle who were brilliant in their running of the Harmony Day assembly. (Iclal was away on the day but had been involved in the organisation of the assembly throughout the week.)

The day was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and share in our vision of belonging in Australia.

Ms Suzanne Galvin (AP ESL)