



Good Evening

During the pandemonium of first day action yesterday morning I was asked a number of times if I was happy to be back and was everything organised and ready to go. Of course my answer was "yes" and "yes". Absolutely I was happy to be back and in taking everything into account, (570 children starting school) what could possibly go wrong?

In actual fact we've had a fantastic start to the New Year and I am really happy with the way the children have settled in after such a long break. Our staff have been really well prepared which has contributed to the smooth start for the children. What really caught my eye yesterday morning was a new Kindy kid; well I'm assuming she was because her top said "I'm an Applecross Kindy Kid", running along the veranda eager to get to her room with her mum struggling to keep up. She had the biggest smile on her face which instantly made me feel that no matter what may go a little awry during the day, it was all worth it just to see the smile. I later caught up with her in the Kindy where she was eagerly explaining to her mum how to draw.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to Applecross. Hopefully your settling in period will be short and you begin to enjoy the wonderful school that Applecross is in a very short space of time. Next Friday evening, 9 February, our School Board and P&C Association will be holding a parent welcome event in the library from 6pm until 8pm. You should find a flyer in your child's school bag today outlining the details of this. We would certainly love to see as many families represented as possible.

You will certainly have noticed that we have been having some alterations made to our school buildings over the holiday break and unfortunately, regardless of our well made plans, these haven't been completed on time. Thank you for your patience in working with us to ensure that children haven't been hurt as a result of going too close to any construction work. If you have walked between the main school building and Rooms 20 & 21 this week you would certainly have noticed that the large Queensland Box trees have been removed and it's rather bare at the moment. Unfortunately these trees had reached their life span and had begun to die back presenting a significant danger to anyone walking beneath them. Our intentions in this now very large space are to grass three separate areas with new garden beds between them. The grass will be available for the children in Rooms 20 & 21 to use as passive areas. We also intend to replace the trees with smaller but more spectacular Red Flowering Gums (4). This work will commence on Saturday 9 February and be finished by the 14th.

One of the most stressful things for any parent at the start of a new school year is uncertainty around the events and programs in their children's class and if left unanswered these questions can certainly grow into something much larger than they need to be, and in doing so cause unnecessary angst in the whole family. Please, if there is anything you are unsure about simply make a time to speak to your child's teacher, preferably approaching them after school as opposed to the very busy morning time. They will be only too willing to answer any queries you have. If it's a query about the school organisation please seek out either myself, Louis Shepherd or Jude James and we will be only too pleased to try to answer your questions. You will shortly be offered the opportunity to meet formally with your child's teacher either in a one to one conversation or as a more general teacher parent group meeting in the coming weeks.

Oh I forgot to say, one of the other reasons I love coming to Applecross each day is when I can walk out the front door of the school and see these guys happily perched in one of the beautiful gum trees.

Kind regards
Kim Guelfi

