Principal's Report

Hello parents, carers, students and friends of Ajuga,
Welcome to Term 1 of the 2013 school year. It is great
to see our students have returned happy and healthy
after the holidays. Of course we have said good bye to
some as they have completed our program and returned
to their mainstream school or an alternative setting. I
would also like to welcome those students and their
parents and carers who are new to our school.

This term our students have already had the
opportunity to plant, nurture, harvest and cook
vegetables from their class gardens. They have learnt to
use the ‘claw’ and others skills necessary for food
preparation, which they put to good use in our Stephanie
Alexander Kitchen. Hopefully you are all benefiting from
having young cooks in the kitchen at home. Our students
keep learning about the environment and how to care for
our school. It is great to see classes working around the
school on their Environmental Education program. The
learning hasn’t stopped there! Our Primary school
students participated in swim scheme, and secondary
students have been ice skating and learning new skills at
PCYC. Our parents and carers are learners too! Ajuga
School parent group, along with the combined Hilltop
parent group provide a wonderful opportunity for you to
network and learn about what works helping your
children at school and at home. Our parents and carers
have fun too! Just ask Kyle J and Shannon. Their mums
joined some parents from Glenfield Park School and
Campbell House for a day of sailing. Thank you to those
of you who have joined us at parent groups and
assemblies. The students have put up fantastic displays
for you to see, and they feel very proud when they
present at assembly and receive their certificates while
you are there.

There is still a lot more to come! Class excursions are
coming up, our swimming carnival is in Week 9, and the
Level 3 excursion has every one working hard on their
behaviour goals so they can go to the Royal Easter Show.

Our teachers have been visiting the student’s home
schools to meet their teachers and plan for another
successful year - while our School Learning Support
Officers have been going along to the schools to support
our students in their classrooms. Staff have also been
attending professional learning about Quality Literacy
Teaching to make sure students achieve their learning
outcomes.

Thank you for taking the time to read about what’s
happening at Ajuga, our classes are very excited to
report what they have been doing. If you enjoy reading
our newsletter and would like to see what’s happening
around the school more regularly go to the website:

Natalie Armstrong

Upcoming Events Term 1 2013

Week 8

Monday, 18th March Blue Class excursion

Week 9

Monday, 25th March Swimming Carnival
Tuesday, 26th March Student Voice
Thursday, 28th March Level Excursion- Easter Show
Friday, 29th March Good Friday- no school

Week 10

Monday, 1st April Easter Monday- no school

Week 11

Tuesday, 9th April Assembly and Parent BBQ
Friday, 12th April Last day of school for students
Classroom Catch Ups!

Red Class
Red class have begun the year busy as ever. We've been involved in the Stephanie Alexander Program and we've been keeping busy with all our sport and swim scheme activities, which has kept us all active and busy.

Also this term Red Class has been studying “Celebrations” for our integrated unit. Throughout this unit we focused our art and HSIE time on learning about celebrations from all over the world. We’ve made masks for shrove Tuesday, we made heart shaped flowers for Valentine’s day and created some great firework etchings.

We’ve also been keeping a close eye on our ever growing veggie garden, which has really come to life. Hopefully we’ll start sending home some veggies and salad ingredients soon. We had great fun looking after our chickens too, making sure we collected their eggs, fed and watered them and cleaned their house. We’ve even had a go in the kitchen too, making some eggplant pizzas. Overall, we’ve had a good start to our year. Hopefully we can keep it up.

Silver Class
Things are looking a little bit different this term in Silver Class! This year we have moved to our new classroom (which is much bigger and better!) and we also have a new teacher, Jacquie. Although, we still have 3 of our best students with us: Kyle, Antony and Ben. We have been very busy with our cooking this term, and so far we have cooked spinach and feta fritters, pizza and chocolate pasta (that was quite an experience!)

Silver class has also launched their new website www.ajugasilver.weebly.com where we have been displaying all of the pictures of the fun activities we participate in. We were lucky enough to go to Featherdale Wildlife Park for our excursion, and even had each of the students’ mums come along to enjoy the day. The students have participated in Swim Scheme and are looking forward to the Ajuga Swimming Carnival.

Yellow Class
Yellow Class have been learning about the ocean and the importance of sustainable fishing to preserve fish stocks. Next week we hope to visit the Sydney Aquarium to see ocean life in action. Swimming scheme has just finished and all the students from Yellow class did exceptionally well, making great progress from day one to the final day. They should be very proud of themselves.

This term the students picked salad greens from the veggie garden and took them home. We cooked Warm French Bean Salad with our Purple King beans we planted last year. The beans were delicious!! We are planning more cooking before the end of term.

Blue Class
Term One 2013 has welcomed back some familiar faces; Anthony, Josh, Ahmad and Emma, as well as introduced some new smiling faces; Mohamad, Dale and Mokotoa. This term Blue Class have been working together as a team and learning to accept each other for our differences. Our team building activities have included pool games and life rescue skills, scientific investigations and our excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. We are also focusing on healthy lunch boxes and active living – Elyse even randomly inspects our lunch boxes for healthy items and we receive bonus points for each healthy item. So far, Blue Class are accomplishing their goals and set off the year 2013 with a bang!!

Anthony, Josh, Ahmad, Emma, Dale, Mokotoa, Mohamad, Elyse and Kaysan

Purple Class
In purple class we have been learning about the universe and the big bang!!!! Did you know....

- 12 billion years ago there was no time, matter or space.
- The big bang was caused by a mass of energy smaller than atom. The atom expanded to create the universe.
- There are 100 billion galaxies in space.
- The discovery of the big bang was an accident.

We are also learning about the universe and going on an excursion to the Sydney Observatory in week 8. We hope to look through a big telescope to see other planets and stars.

Written by Shiloh

Green class
We had a great start to the year in our freshly painted classroom, each student has put in a fantastic effort and they have made a lot of progress with their distance education some students are already weeks ahead.

This year we have been studying Australian History from 1900 to 1914 and have discovered how challenging life was back then.

Jessica was amused to learn that in the early 1900's Australians could not swim at the beach in the daytime, as it was against the law to do so.

Josh found work life was very difficult saying "I found it interesting that they didn't get paid very much and how dangerous the work conditions were".

Jason said “In green class we have been doing ice-skating we all liked it and I liked doing English and History with my mates Michael and Josh”.

Great effort guys keep up the good work.

Orange Class
Students have been very busy visiting Sydney Distance Education High School, this term. Kellie has become very creative with her Food Tech and Textile and Design. We have enjoyed some nice culinary dishes and her sewing skills are developing nicely.

Sarah's and James are enjoying great success in the IT field and Sarah has been highly commended by the Principal of DE for her diligence and continued hard work in IT. Shannon is experimenting with plant growing and is off to enjoy the world of Agriculture at Camden Farm next week with SDEHS.

Uniforms
Available from the Front Office
Ajuga School has a fantastic looking school uniform. Unfortunately a small number of students seem to have found an excuse to wear various coloured jumpers, hats and pants. Students who are not in uniform do not look part of the Ajuga 'team'. Please assist us by ensuring that our school uniform is worn each day.

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Ajuga Student Representative Council (SRC)
Congratulations to all of those who were elected as our 2013 S.R.C representatives! These are our Class Reps: Jaide (Red), Jordan (Yellow), Kyle (Silver), Dale (Blue), Jason (Green), Kellie (Orange).
We held our first S.R.C meeting this term. At our meeting we talked about future fundraising activities to help raise money to buy sporting equipment and other important schooling needs.

Parent Group
The fund raising BBQ, for the Hilltop Parent retreat held at Bunnings was successful, raising $900. It was great to see everyone working together and having some fun. Thanks to all who put in the time and effort on their precious weekend.

This week some of our parents joined the hilltop group to enjoy a day of sailing with Jo Lewis and Chris Walker, what an amazing experience. Thanks to the organisers and Sailing with Disabilities for donating their yacht and time.

Fundraising for the Retreat continuous and the Expressions of interest have been sent home and places are quickly being filled, be quick and get in its a great way to spend a couple of days being pampered.
Swimming Carnival
You’re Invited~!

We would like to invite all parents and caregivers to attend our annual school swimming carnival on Monday 25th March. It will be held at Ajuga Hilltop Pool at 12 noon. This is a fun event with a focus on participation and sun and water safety. Students will be graded in ability and novelty events are included for the less confident swimmers. We also will be running a war-cry and poster competition for the students and a raffle for all parents and caregivers who attend to support our annual swimming carnival.

We look forward to seeing you there!