Dear Parents,

What a beautiful night...
We started Tuesday evening with our Portfolio showcasing and what fabulous feedback the children received about all their learning this year. They have been incredibly proud of all their work and I am sure you enjoyed reviewing their portfolios with them. Please keep these and show them to your children much later on when they have grown into adults!

How gorgeous then was the Carols in the Quadrangle, we were blessed with the weather, the sound system worked, although we hope to upgrade it for next year and everyone commented how glorious the children’s voices were. I declare the Carols as the best ever! A huge thank you again to Lauren Rich and Vita Vampatella for their superb organisation and wonderful conducting and a special thank you to Peter Cracknell, Colleen Johnson, Malcolm Dow and all the teachers who supported Lauren and Vita through the rehearsals.

Thank you so much to Liza Chancellor for sending through these wonderful photos.

Exciting news to share..
I am delighted to announce the appointment of the following staff for 2014:
Stephanie McIlroy will join the Level 4 team and will teach Grade 3 and 4 students. Stephanie met her class for the first time yesterday and to their delight, all the students were handed out lollipops – that’s a smart move Stephanie – so long as it doesn’t happen too often!
Lisa Vollugi will join us next year as the Performing Arts teacher. Lisa is quite experienced at teaching speech and drama and has directed many musical productions.

We will be sad to say goodbye to Lauren Rich who has worked incredibly hard as our Performing Arts teacher this year, she has made her classes enjoyable for all the students and has done a wonderful job with the Senior choir. We wish Lauren all the very best with her teaching positions next year.

Principal’s report continued over page...
Donna Brammer has been appointed as an Integration Aide for the next 4 years and we are delighted to have Donna in her role as she provides fantastic support to students and teachers. We are equally fortunate to secure the services of Brett Leyshan for next year as an Integration Aide, Library and ICT technician – a jack of all trades.

So Many People to Thank!
The success of Armadale PS just doesn’t happen by chance – it stems from the collaboration and community spirit that is created when students, staff and parents come together on a shared journey bound by common purpose and expectations. I would therefore like to thank all members of our wonderful school community for helping to make our school a great government school during 2013!

Some special mentions:
To our amazing staff at APS, I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude. They all work so hard to provide the best learning environment and opportunities possible for their students. I am incredibly proud that Armadale is such a high performing school, mainly attributed to the dedication and commitment of our teachers and all our education support staff. All of our children are so wonderfully cared for and looked after; their wellbeing is at the forefront of all that we do.

To our wonderful office team, Christine, Maggie and Alison – a huge thank you from everyone for always being so approachable and helpful with all day to day administrative enquiries at the office. As Business Manager, Christine keeps us in the black and does an amazing job managing the school’s finances and resources.

To our School Council President, Rachel Power, many thanks for leading such a dynamic and supportive council body in 2013. So much has been achieved this year as a result of Rachel’s leadership and I thank her most sincerely for her professionalism and wonderful integrity that she brings to our meetings. To all our councillors for their guidance and wisdom and enormous efforts into ensuring that APS is a sustained high performing school.

To our wonderful PFA Co-Presidents Mish McGrory and Brig Warwick, I extend an enormous thank you. Both Mish and Brig have contributed countless hours to support the social fabric and fundraising elements of the school. Thank you also to Nicki Batagol, Janine Sheean and Kim Hyde for their hard work in the PFA. Through their dedication, we have enjoyed many special community events as well as raising for the very first time, $53,000 for the school. A truly sensational effort and ladies you have set the bar incredibly high!

To our wonderful OOSH team – Katie, Ben and team do a wonderful job with the befores and afters programs. We thank them sincerely for the extra yards they constantly put in to make the program fun and engaging and in particular the holiday program that is like a Club Med for children!

To Kate Pilgrim who has taught 6W this last term magnificently whilst Amanda has been on family leave. We hope to have you back Kate for CRT work next year!

My deepest thanks to my highly dedicated leadership team – Malcolm Dow, Peter Cracknell and Connie Apostolos. I am so lucky to have such a supportive team of talented leaders helping to manage the day to day operations of the school as well as charting the future success of the school.

And finally ..to all the wonderful children of our school thank you for all that you do, you bring joy into my life, you make me laugh every day and you make me happy in the job that I do. I love your visits to my office and all of your gifts and treasures that you make me. I feel incredibly lucky to come here each and every day.

Principal’s report continued over page...
Principal’s report continued ...

Student Reports
Just a quick reminder that student reports will be distributed this afternoon. Enjoy reading these with your children and celebrate their achievements. Remember to take on board the teacher’s advice to maintain the children’s learning in readiness for next year.

Armadillo
Hopefully by now you would have had a chance to read this year’s edition of the Armadillo. Thank you to Mat Sweetlove, Maggie Brown and Liza Chancellor for putting such a wonderful magazine together.

Final Assembly for 2013
The final assembly for this year will be held on Friday 20th December at approximately 12:45pm. Students will be dismissed at 1:30pm to begin their summer break. Please note the OOSHC will be operating from 1:30pm. Students will only require their play lunch on the last day as they will be able to go home for lunch after the final assembly.

School Resumes
We look forward to seeing all students in Years 1 – 6 back on Wednesday January 29th for the start of the 2014 academic year. Our 2014 Prep students will begin on Thursday 30th January. Just a reminder to our Prep parents to make sure they have made a time for their family interviews.

Well that’s it for another year.....
It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to be the Principal of Armadale Primary School. Our context is such a fortunate one and we have so much to celebrate and to be thankful for.

I wish all of our graduating students much success and happiness for their secondary schooling and life beyond formal education. I know that we have played a large role in establishing these students as lifelong learners and I am sure they will hold dear treasured memories of their time here for years to come. Farewell to all the families and students leaving Armadale through overseas postings relocations, moving suburbs and those students going to independent schools. We wish you well for the future and hope you take fond memories of your time at Armadale with you.

Best wishes to all families in our community for a very happy Christmas, a wonderful festive season and safe holiday period. Enjoy the opportunity to spend quality time with the children and your extended families.

See you all in 2014!

Warm regards,

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
I would like to acknowledge the great work done by our Green Team this year. They have worked in lots of ways to make our school more sustainable and to get the message out to the children in the classes that they represent. Special thanks to our Green Team Leaders this year; Daisy Evans, Lily Baxter and Joe McKenna and to the Green Team staff; Pippa Cox and Jen Drew. I am really looking forward to doing some great things with our Green Team next year.

Nude Food
Speaking of great things with the Green Team, one of our exciting initiatives next year is to move to being a totally Nude Food, and therefore Rubbish Free school. Only a handful of schools have successfully achieved this status, but they have reported excellent outcomes from being rubbish free. They do not have rubbish bins in their school grounds and litter is just not an issue. What a lovely way to have a school. As we are well on the path of sustainability and about to apply for our 5th and final star in the Resource Smart Schools program, I think we are ready to make that step. It will require a little adjustment and perhaps a little inconvenience for some parents as they make the transition to preparing 100% Nude Food lunches and snacks, but I am heartened to see how many students already bring all their food in reusable containers. It would be great for families to start thinking about the containers they will need for next year over the coming holidays. Perhaps there will be some bargains in the pre-Christmas sales. We will publicise this much more next year, and give parents plenty of lead time to make the full transition.

Thanks again Ray and Tonga
Once again we are very grateful to two of our wonderful parents, Ray Skinner and Tonga Kelly, who have helped the school in all sorts of ways over the course of the year. Ray and Tonga have helped repair and reinforce the gate on the prep shed, when it was damaged by vandals last weekend. In addition Ray spent all day Monday putting together two desks which were more difficult than anything that Ikea have to offer. It is so good for a school like us to have people like Ray and Tonga who are prepared to give up hours of their time to help the school. Between them they have saved the school thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance bills, money that we can now direct to important educational resources.

Holidays
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.
Hi everyone,

“Good tidings to you and all of your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ...

Have a wonderful break everyone and we look forward to seeing you in 2014 when we get Back To The Future!!

Exciting Things Happen At Armadale Primary

Mish McGrory and Brigid Warwick
0412554434  0412128164
Email: mish@mcgromyonline.com
brigid@warwick.com.au
PFA Co-Presidents

FOUNDATION BULLETIN: THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER

It’s hard to believe this is the last week of the school year. Where has the time gone?

If you have taken some toys home to wash, thank you and could you please bring them back either this week or in the first week of next year?

If any family/families would like to look after our friendly stick insects or fish over the holidays please come and see us on Friday or send us an email. They are easy pets to maintain even if you are going away for a few days.

Thank you for all your support during the year.

We hope you all have a safe and refreshing holiday and look forward to seeing you in the playground next year.

Happy Christmas!
The Foundation Team

News of former APS student

Congratulations must go to a former student at APS, Alexandra Simpson, who was a school leader here in 2007. Alex completed her VCE this year at St Michael’s Grammar, and was awarded Dux of the School, the Music Award, House Captain Award, General Academic Award for Year 12 and the Ann Dennett Memorial Prize, awarded to the top female Science student.

Well done Alex, on your wonderful achievements – surely a reflection on your efforts and persistence during your whole school life. Alexandra will be performing a violin medley with her brother Adam (year 6) at this year’s final assembly on Friday. 

Robin Nicolson
130th Birthday for Armadale Primary School

It’s nearly 2014….and you know what that means…..Happy 130th Birthday Armadale Primary School!

We have some wonderful activities and lots of fun planned but to limit our costs we need your help…..

We are hoping to tap into the wider APS community and your talents and ideas - we would love as much help as possible. We are hoping to utilize the wonderful resource of you all.

Our aim for our celebration is to combine modern day APS with our wonderful history and allow our community to experience some fun of past years in a wonderful day of celebration....

◊ Do you know a photographer who will take the 130 birthday whole school photo for us?

◊ Do you have a contact in a band who may like to play at our APS family/community celebration day on the 29th March?

◊ Do you know a performer who would love to do some tricks or dance or…….? 

◊ Do you have some ideas/contacts for historical activities that would be fun for our kids to experience; such as a spinning wheel, a game or another handicraft....

◊ Can you think of some innovative marketing opportunities?

◊ Do you know where we can source some marquees or tables and chairs for the day?

Remember we are just after your help with names or ideas......you don’t have to come to any meetings if you don’t wish to (although we would love you to) - we will follow it up....we just want your help, support and ideas!

We are so lucky at APS to have such a resourceful community-

So PLEASE if you have or know someone who may help us then please email or contact your class rep or Sarah Scotti on s.scotti@hotmail.com.

Thanks so much and have a wonderful festive season.