Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2013 Academic Year

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all families as we begin the 2013 academic year. Judging by the excited and eager faces on the first day of school and the buzz in the yard all students looked refreshed and ready to begin their learning programs for the year. So many of our students have grown taller and I was pleased to see there were no tears as we started the day. We will excitement welcome our new Foundation students to start their schooling on Friday. Malcolm and I enjoyed our welcome back to each and every classroom and it was fantastic to see the students already enjoying their new learning spaces and reflecting on what they enjoyed the most about their holidays.

The children will be quite tired at the end of this week as it is always an adjustment for us all to be up early and organised for every day, no longer sleeping in and taking things at a slower pace. Perhaps hold off on any after school activities for the next two weeks and just allow the children to wind down and play after the busyness of a full school day.

As most of you are aware our start to the new year was an incredibly sad one, with the tragic loss of Ilan Lock, one of our former students at APS and current OOSHC staff member. Ilan passed away New Year’s Day from a brain haemorrhage which came on quite suddenly and was not caused by any fall, knock or blow to the head. Ilan was only 24 and about to complete his last semester of his law degree and he was going to complete it at one of the universities in the Netherlands, leaving in February 2013. Monash University recently awarded Ilan his Law Degree, posthumously. The school provided Ilan’s family the venue for the celebration of Ilan’s life after the funeral. It was a very moving service and the celebration afforded the OOSHC staff and Ilan’s friends the opportunity to honour his memory and to celebrate his many wonderful attributes and strengths. I placed a notice in the Age newspaper on January 8th on behalf of the entire school community and will arrange a memorial tree to be planted in Ilan’s name, once the school year gets underway. The loss of Ilan is still very raw and I commend the professionalism and resilience of both Katie and Ben and the entire OOSHC staff to provide an outstanding holiday program in the light of such loss. Ilan loved his work with befores and afters, he babysat for a number of our Armadale families and his death will be difficult to come to terms with for many of the children. Should any of the children experience difficulty with this tragic loss please contact the school or me personally to access some guidance and counselling should you wish to.

Life is incredibly fragile, please cherish your family and friends and the happy times you have and hold those you love close to you and bring those who are more distant in a little closer as we never know what tomorrow will bring.

2012 Staffing and Grades

This year will be operating with 16 classes across the school.

- 3 Foundation Classes (Preps): Pippa Cocks, Pauline Eldredge, Connie Thermos and Jennifer Drew

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LUNCH ORDERS
Lunch orders from the local milk bar will resume on a Monday for 2013. The price list can be found on the school website under the Parents tab and Forms with all the details.

5 Level Two Classes (Years 1 & 2): Jocelyn Evans, Jennie Pearse, Angela Sozzi, Colleen Johnson and Kylie Ashton (nee Thompson)
5 Level Four Classes (Years 3 & 4): Virginia Wallace, Anita Frankel, Gillian Brown, Rosanna Caruso and Mat Sweetlove
3 Level Six Classes (Years 5 & 6): Robin Nicolson, Zaim Zeneli and Amanda Wilson

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a particularly warm welcome to Lauren Rich who joins the APS team this year as our Performing Arts teacher.

New Parents morning tea
The PFA will host a welcome morning tea on Friday 1st February at 9.00am in the MPC to welcome all new parents and families to our school. It would be wonderful to see as many new parents as possible and offer you this opportunity to meet other parents and cement friendships as you all embark on this educational journey together.

Thank you Ray Skinner!
Not a day goes by without seeing Ray in our school, drill and screws in hand, fixing bouncy decking boards, or repairing broken things. These Christmas holidays Ray installed our 2 new bike racks, we now have junior and senior bike racks. How lucky are we to have Ray and please read Malcolm’s section to glean more details.

I feel incredibly privileged and blessed to work with such a highly professional and dedicated teaching; administrative and support staff who work tirelessly to ensure that your children receive an outstanding education. Equally I look forward to our ongoing partnership and involvement in your child’s schooling in 2013. In subsequent newsletters I will detail the opportunities for parents to become more involved in our school. Armadale Primary epitomises what it means to belong to a school that prioritises the academic excellence and wellbeing of its students. I encourage you to be a part of it!

Have a wonderful week.

Warm regards

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
Assistant Principal

Welcome Back

It was fantastic to see all the children back at school yesterday looking so happy and eager to get back into some great learning in their new classes this year. There are so many exciting things happening this year it is no wonder they are so keen to get back into school.

Thank You 1

As you saw late last year we had four large established Manchurian Pear trees delivered and planted with assistance from Jason Vickery, parent of Luke and Olivia. Of course trees that large need a great deal of water to help the roots recover and start growing again, and, as we had virtually no rain for the entire holiday period, we are very grateful to Jason and Cherie for very diligently watering our trees right through the summer break. In no time at all these trees will be providing a lovely canopy over our new play equipment.

Thank You 2

Another thing that was mentioned right at the end of last year was the set of new bike racks that we received from Bicycle Network Victoria because of all the great things we had done to encourage walking, riding, skating and scooting to school through our Walking Wheeling Wednesdays program. Ray Skinner, parent of Sami and Aidin, very kindly offered to install these over the holidays. Not only did he do this, but he also resurrected the old bike racks, repainted them and divided them to be used as our new scooter racks. So now we have two fantastic sets of bike and scooter racks ready for use. The senior racks are just outside Robin’s classroom, close to the old OOSHC gate in Northcote Road, and the junior racks are located beside Mrs Evans’ classroom, near the single gate in Densham Rd. So now we would encourage as many children as possible to take advantage of these great new parking facilities and ride or scoot to school. Many thanks to Ray for all the hours he put in installing these new racks.

1 to 1 Netbooks

It was very exciting to receive a delivery of all our new netbooks for the Level 6 students (Year 5 and 6) for our 1 to 1 Netbook leasing program. Kevin Wiley, our school ICT technician, spent considerable time over the holiday break installing all of the appropriate software onto these so that they are all set to go. The lease document will go out today. Please sign and complete the payment details and return to school ASAP. As soon as we receive the lease document we will be able to assign a new netbook to each student.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal
EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

Today (and tomorrow for our Foundation students) your child will bring home an excursion levy form which details the excursion and incursions planned for the term.

Please look out for it in your child’s bag and remember to sign and complete the teacher copy and the office copy part of the form and return it by Friday 8 February.

Chess Coaching

Play & improve your game!

Where: TBA
When: Wednesday Lunchtimes
       6th February – 27th March 2013
Cost: $85 per term ($65 for 2nd Sibling)
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self esteem, attention span in class, lateral thinking, team work, analytical skills.

For more info contact Phil on 0421 901 530

Forward this section in an envelope marked “Chess Coaching” with your payment to your school office.

_____________________________________________________
Child’s Full Name: ________________
Grade: ______
School: __________________________
Email: ___________________________

Payment Due: Wednesday 6th Feb.

Cheques: Payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”
EFT: Bank: cba   Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd
      bsb: 063201   Acc: 10049289
* please place child’s name on transaction*

$85 cash: □ cheque: □ EFT: □