Dear Parents,

I was thrilled to read in yesterday’s The Age an article reported on the State Budget which included a $1.1 billion education package and the commitment to build Prahran High School. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our community to have a state of the art secondary school for our children to access. One of our parents, Erz Imam (Mavi’s dad) is working hard to be part of the NSPG (new school planning group) and has attended many meetings with the Education Department. Erz says that there is some good momentum building and a strong desire to create something special for this new school in the heart of Stonnington. Erz has offered to chat with any other parents from our school so if you are at all interested, please let me know and I will pass on his details.

Many of our local schools in the inner south are experiencing population explosions and you would have heard about the overcrowding in Port Melbourne, Albert and Middle Park Primary Schools. In response to this there will be 2 new primary schools built in South Melbourne which will help with the population growth.

Here at Armadale we have also had a growth spurt and on Monday, Malcolm, Michael Martin and I met with a department representative to discuss the possibility of double storey portables on the site where 2J; 2S; 3C and 4E currently are. If we were fortunate to be given these, it will also accommodate the potential enrolment growth from the Toorak Park site. Although not earmarked for completion until 2017, I have already had enquiries from families who have purchased there. Siting the 2 double storey portables in that location will also fix up the landscaping that currently causes concern around the pathway from the Densham Road gate. I will keep you updated on the progress of these new portables as it comes to light.

Unfortunately we are not earmarked for any upgrade or renovation funding in this year’s budget, therefore we remain reliant on the generous support of our wonderful Armadale community.

What have you noticed?
Our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) articulates our strategic direction for 2016 and details the specific key improvement strategies that I hope will lead to school improvement. The AIP in its entirety spells out “What actually is it that we do at Armadale Primary School?” The main priority I have identified in this year’s AIP, is “Excellence in Teaching and Learning”. Without explaining that in more detail to you, I am curious to know what if anything have you noticed that is different for your children this year compared to last year. First time Prep parents may just like to comment on anything that perhaps has surprised them about their children’s first year so far and certainly what have they noticed. It might be about anything at all. Please feel free to email me your thoughts to cukier.rochelle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Swimming
Our swimming program finishes up next Tuesday and I would like to thank Peter Cracknell for all of his organisation which enabled the Year 3 -6’s to have 9 days of intensive lessons at Lauriston. A very special thank you to all of our parents, carers and adult helpers who were able to walk with the teachers and children up and back and help out with all swimming logistics. We are very grateful for your help.

Address: Densham Road, Armadale 3143
School Phone: 03 9822 7003
Website: www.armadaleps.vic.edu.au
OOSHC Phone: 03 9822 4912
School Fax: 03 9824 8954
E: armadale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
OOSHC E: ooshc@armadaleps.vic.edu.au
Tri skills starts again for the Preps to Year 2's

This gymnastics and gross motor skill program is so important for developing young muscular and skeletal systems in children’s bodies and also their brains – the two go hand in hand.

Parent/Carer Helpers’ information session is on Tuesday May 3rd at 2.45pm in the MPC

I will be running this session for any family members who are interested in assisting our staff during the day whether it is in the classroom, for PMP or for excursions. This will be a fairly informal session that will cover the protocols, expectations and guidelines when working with children in a learning environment. Please let me know if you will be attending by Monday afternoon.

Enjoy your Long Service Leave Ms Johnson and Mrs Leyshan!

We wish Colleen Johnson safe travels as she ventures to Italy to celebrate a special milestone for one of her dear friends. During Ms Johnson’s absence, Mrs Rodder who is well known to the children will be looking after 2J. Ms Johnson will be returning to her teaching duties on May 17th and we look forward to hearing all about her wonderful trip.

We also wish Mrs Christine Leyshan some exciting annual leave as she travels to Sydney for a special conference. Mrs Leyshan will be well known to everyone as she keeps our school running beautifully.

Calling all Dads to cook breakfast for our Mums at the Working Bee next Saturday, May 7th!

A newly established tradition at our working bees that are scheduled prior to both Mother’s Day and Father’s Day is that breakfast gets cooked and provided to all for coming to the Working Bee. As next Saturday’s Working Bee is before Mother’s Day, our Dads will do the cooking. For all new Prep parents who want to go to Auskick, park near the school, go to Auskick and come back for the Working Bee as it doesn’t finish until 12ish. Looking forward to seeing as many of the children here as well, many hands make light work!

Have a wonderful week.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal

Head Lice

We still have some cases of head lice reported in various classrooms.

Please check your child’s head tonight and if head lice or eggs are found, treat your child’s hair and advise your child’s class teacher.

Health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. This refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to lice eggs.

The Arts News

Honk! Jr Auditions

Auditions for the years 3-6 musical Honk! Jr are now completed. Thank you to everyone who auditioned - call backs will be held next week and the cast list announced at the end of next week.

Stockings

We are still in need of stockings (old or new) for the drying racks in the arts room. If you are willing to donate any, please drop them straight to the Arts Studio. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Laura Welch
The Arts Teacher
Welch.laura.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Feedback on Literacy at Home

The Department of Education and Training is currently undertaking research on literacy in Victorian schools, and the Department’s literacy programs, such as the PRC. The Department has engaged Andrews Group – an independent research firm – to conduct the research on its behalf. Andrews Group would like to conduct a discussion group with parents at our school to get parents’ feedback on some of the Department’s initiatives. This discussion with parents will provide valuable insight which will help to shape Victoria’s literacy programs and ensure they’re delivering maximum benefit. The group will run for 60 minutes, and all parents who participate will receive an $80 Coles Myer voucher. They are flexible with the time and we have suggested a 5-6pm timeslot at school might be the most convenient. If you are interested in participating please let me know ASAP by emailing me at dow.malcolm.l@edumail.vic.gov.au The group is limited to 8 participants and it will be selected on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

Keeping Your Children Healthy

There seems to be more and more information coming out from a range of studies and research about the importance of children playing outdoors. This week’s Catalyst program on the ABC highlighted the growing visual problems that are besetting our children simply due to the lack of time spent playing outside. Here is another article from the Australian Parenting Website about the same issue, and it sets out all of the benefits of outdoor play for children. These are all good reasons for encouraging your children to actively travel to school, and as we head into the winter months it is worth remembering a saying that is very popular in the northern European and Scandinavian countries: “There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing”.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Working Bee donation

For those parents who will be unable to attend the Working Bee on Saturday 7 May from 9.00am to 12.00pm, we would be grateful if you could make a $30 contribution to our Working Bee fund for ongoing maintenance.

☐ I would like to make a $30 (or other amount) donation to the APS Grounds fund

Family Name: ________________  Amount: $30.00 or $________  Pay by:  □ Qkr!

☐ Direct Deposit to Armadale PS Account BSB 083298 A/C No: 028911383 please note on your direct deposit transaction your Family Name & Working Bee
Swimming Lessons for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Well done to all the students on their participation in our swimming lessons. We still have three more lessons to go:

**Week 2**
- Friday 29th April

**Week 3**
- Monday 2nd May
- Tuesday 3rd May

Each lesson will be approximately 40 minutes with trained swimming instructors provided at the following times:

- **6P & 6Z** (9:30-10:10am)
- **5B & 5G** (10:10-10:50am)
- **4C & 4Z** (10:50-11:30am)
- **3C & 3E** (11:30am-12:10pm)
- **3W** (12:10pm-12:50pm)

Students will be leaving school half an hour before their lesson time.

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Sports News

**Tri Skills Gymnastics**

All students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in the Tri Skills gymnastics program commencing tomorrow, Friday 29 April.

Please remember:

- Shoes and socks off 5 minutes prior to the scheduled lesson start time (gymnastics lessons)
- No jewellery or watches
- Long hair tied back
- Shorts, bike shorts or tracksuit pants
- No skirts or tights please!
- Signed permission with term 2 excursion levy form needs to be returned to school.

**Division Cross Country**

Selected children will be participating in the Division Cross Country event on Friday 13 May. Information has been handed out to the participating children.

**Year 5 & 6 Touch Rugby gala day**

Our next gala day will be held on Friday 3 June. More details to follow.

*Peter Cracknell*
*Sports Co-ordinator*

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Library News

**Premiers’ Reading Challenge:**

Please ignore the request for the return of a signed form; this was an old feature/request in previous years’ PRC, I left this information on the forms sent out last week by mistake.

**Book Club:** Just a reminder that these forms are outside of the Library and there is a listed return date for these forms on the wall. Any enquiries about Book Club please see Alison in the office.

**Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notables:** These have been announced, the library purchases these books each year and they will be available to browse in the coming weeks, and then next term available to borrow.


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Library:
The Library has been turned into a Footy Paradise for some, with a lot of AFL flags and posters up to celebrate the new season. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Olivia for your covering of all those footy books (and more).

Thank you to Felicity and Brig Dixon for your donations to the Library, they are always welcomed.

Happy reading,

*Brett Leyshan*
*Leyshan.brett.f@edumail.vic.gov.au*
Parents and Friends of Armadale (PFA)

Hi everyone,

Another short week, and it is almost May. This term is flying by...

**Mother’s Day Afternoon tea**
For our wonderful mothers, this year our Mother's Day afternoon tea is scheduled for Wednesday **4th May at 2pm**, and will include an exciting guest speaker from our own community Nicki Batagol, representing PANDA. (There will also be a Raffle in aid of PANDA).

Tickets are available for purchase from the office at $10 per head, or can also be purchased on the day on the door.

Come and support a wonderful cause, have a bite to eat, a cup of tea and a chat to the other mums and grandmas.

**Volunteers**
We are looking for volunteers to provide a plate of food for the event, a list has been placed in the school foyer. Please sign up there.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in wrapping the Mother’s Day gifts. Wrapping will take place from 9.00am onwards on 6th May, so if you are able to assist we would really appreciate your help.

**Mother’s Day Gifts**
Please remember $10 to be sent with your child on Friday 6th May to purchase their mug.

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Cocktail Parties
There are still a few Cocktail Parties to go......

- Year 1 Friday 20 May
- Year 3 Friday 3 June
- Year 6 Friday 17 June

For more information on your year level cocktail party, please either see your class representative or please contact our class representative coordinator: Janine Sheean janinesheean@gmail.com

PFA Meeting
The next PFA Meeting is on **Tuesday 10th May at 2:30pm** in the Staff Room.
This meeting is open to all Armadale Parents, so everyone is WELCOME.

Before we go, we would like to say thank you to all the parents, class reps and PFA members who continue to help us with our fundraising efforts.

Kind regards

*The Armadale PFA Committee*
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com
Program background
As part of the Victorian Government’s Affordable Uniform Program, every Prep government school student who is a recipient of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualifies for a uniform pack voucher. Each year, State Schools’ Relief (SSR) provides tens of thousands of children with school clothing, shoes and other essential items. For the first time SSR has received government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance, and ensure no one is left behind.
Eligibility requirements for CSEF can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

What uniform support is provided?
SSR will provide:
- A basic windcheater and tracksuit pants
- Or one of the following
- A bomber jacket, rugby top, hoodie or zip jacket

How can parents apply for the uniform?
Parents must apply for CSEF by the closing date listed at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef before they approach the school to apply. Primary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents at www.ssr.net.au/schools.
Once approved, the voucher will be dispatched electronically to the school, uniform shop or uniform supplier. The school will provide the voucher to the parent/student to present at the uniform retailer (and not at SSR).

What if parents have already purchased their child’s uniforms?
Eligible parents who have already purchased their child’s uniforms for the year can select items of a larger size from the retailer.

Can parents who are ineligible for CSEF or, who have children in other year levels receive assistance from SSR?
Yes. Applications for parents requiring financial assistance for uniforms, text books or shoes are encouraged via the regular SSR services - www.ssr.net.au/schools. SSR only responds to requests from schools (not from parents directly). Parents are encouraged to talk to their school principal, assistant principal or student welfare coordinator about their situation and they will assess their eligibility.

Terms and conditions
- Only CSEF recipients are eligible for the uniform packs.
- Each student is eligible for a single uniform pack.
- A voucher is dispatched electronically to the school, uniform shop or uniform supplier on approval. The school will provide the voucher to the parent/student to present at the uniform retailer (and not at SSR).
- The order is valid for 45 days from date of issue.
- Once expired, a new application must be lodged.
- Expired vouchers cannot be redeemed.
- Each voucher specifies the individual items funded by SSR.
- No change to the items can be made unless through the school.
- Changes made in store will not be honoured by SSR.
- The maximum voucher value is $57 and any short fall will not be covered by SSR.
- The value of the voucher is a maximum value rather than an entitled amount. Should the value of the item be less than $57 the difference will not be credit towards other items.

More information
Parents: For CSEF application details please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Schools: For SSR applications please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/ssr

State Schools’ Relief
Telephone: 03 8769 8400  Email: contact@ssr.net.au  Website: www.ssr.net.au
 Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.

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New School Banking rewards now available!

Exciting new Term 2 rewards with an Outback Savers theme are now available, while stocks last!

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their regular savings habits. There are 2 new items released each term so be sure to keep an eye out for them!

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Tuesday is School Banking day!
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