Dear Armadale Community,

How gorgeous was the Celebration Concert in the Quadrangle on Tuesday evening, we were certainly blessed with the weather. All of the classes sang beautifully and the Glee Club added an extra dimension of talent. A huge thank you again to Vita Vampatella and Lynsey Shand for their superb organisation and wonderful performing flair and energy that was clearly showcased on Tuesday evening. A special thank you to Gillian Brown and Steph Eden-McIlroy for their conduction of the Glee clubs and to all the teachers who supported Vita and Lynsey through the rehearsals.

I was also thrilled by yesterday’s assembly where for the first time in six years, I had the Armadale School Orchestra perform and I have wanted to have a school band or an orchestra perform for our community ever since I arrived. I told the children it was like all my Christmases had come at once.

Staffing appointments
I am very excited to announce the appointment of new staff to the school and the appointment of some familiar faces. We welcome Allira Zeneli to teach Year 4; Christina Cameron to teach Year 3; Jennifer Hemingway to teach part time in Year 3, Laura Welch will be the Arts teacher; and Nikita Coleman will be teaching Prep. We also welcome back Mat Sweetlove from a year’s leave to teach Year 2.

Grade structure
Prep: Connie Apostolos, Angela Sozzi, Steph Eden-McIlroy, Nikita Coleman and Amanda Wilson (1 day)
Year 1: Pippa Cocks, Pauline Eldredge, Jenny Kourkouvelis and Jennie Pearse (2 days)
Year 2: Colleen Johnson, Mat Sweetlove
Year 3: Virginia Wallace and Jennifer Cameron
Year 4: Rosanna Caruso and Allira Zeneli
Year 5: Gillian Brown and Lucy Gorman/Vita Vampatella
Year 6: Zaim Zeneli and Kate Pilgrim/Rachel Jackson (1 day)

You will notice that some teachers are part-time for next year for a variety of reasons and I wholeheartedly support staff who wish to only work part-time.

These teachers are Virginia Wallace (working 2½ days), Jennifer Hemingway (working 2½ days) who will share a Grade 3, Pippa Cocks (working 4 days) and Jenny Kourkouvelis (working 4 days) in Grade 1 with Jennie Pearse teaching 1 day in each grade.

Lucy Gorman (working 4 days) in Year 5, with Vita teaching that class for one day. As our Curriculum and Pedagogy leader, Connie will be released one day per week to work with the other teachers across the school and her class will be taught by Amanda Wilson for one day. Amanda has taught at our school before.

Laura Welch our new “Arts” teacher will be teaching Visual Arts, Dance, Drama and Performance to the students.

There may be some parents who are under the misapprehension that two teachers are not as effective as one, and in fact to the contrary, students do benefit from the variety of teaching styles and strategies.
Graduation Evening photos

Specialist Teachers
Heath and PE: Peter Cracknell
LOTE: Vita Vampatella
The Arts: Laura Welch
Library: Jennie Pearse

Education Support Staff
Christine Leyshan – Business Manager
Maggie Brown/Alison Crone – Office Administration
Donna Brammer, Rosa Salemme, Jane Hutchins, Janine Sheean – Integration Aides
Brett Leyshan – ICT/Library Tech/OHS/Integration Aide

Rochelle Cukier and Malcolm Dow: School Principals

Thank you Angela Mathioudakis and Tonga Kelly
The staff enjoyed a magnificent lunch yesterday that consisted of a variety of delicious gourmet sushi and miso soup generously provided to all the teachers from Angela and Tonga.

We are incredibly grateful for such kindness and generosity. If you ever go to Federation Square, pop into Chocolate Buddha – that’s Angela’s restaurant and it’s amazing!!

Student Reports
Just a quick reminder that student reports will be distributed this afternoon. Enjoy reading these with your children and celebrate their achievements. Please heed the advice offered by the teachers, continue to support your children’s learning and make every holiday adventure and experience a learning opportunity!

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

Final Assembly for 2015 and Farewell to Robin Nicolson
The final assembly for this year will be held on Friday 18th December at 12.30pm. Students will be dismissed at 1:30pm to begin their summer break. Students will only require their fruit snack and play lunch on the last day as they will be able to go home for lunch after the final assembly.

Please remember that Classroom Cuisine will not be available on Friday. Please note that OOSH will be operating from 1:30pm.

School Resumes
We look forward to seeing all students in Years 1–6 back on Thursday January 28th for the start of the 2016 academic year. Our 2016 Prep students will begin on Monday February 1st. Just a reminder to our Prep parents to make sure they have made a time for their family interviews.

Student farewells
I wish all of our Year 6 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.

So Many People to Acknowledge
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 continuing to ensure our school is a great school!

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, David Portnoy, many thanks for leading such a dynamic and supportive council body. So much has been achieved this year as a result of David’s leadership and I thank him most sincerely for his genuine care and warmth that he brings to our meetings. David also has many followers now because of his public speaking prowess, his recent speech to the graduating Year 6 class of 2015 was again a highlight of the evening. Thank you also to Georgie who superbly supported David throughout the year and to Laurie Conheady for his superb financial acumen as our treasurer. 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 Sarah Monahan and Caz Laughton, I extend an enormous thank you. Both Sarah and Caz have contributed countless hours over these years to support the social fabric and fundraising elements of the school. When I look around and see the ‘greening’ of the school, which includes our new grass and our new fences I am very grateful to our community. Thank you also to Nicki Batagol for her incredible hard work, not only on school council but with her amazing Fun Run efforts, to Nikki Rickard, Sarah Barlow, Mel Labrosse, Pam Johnston, Janine Sheean, our Class Rep Co-ordinator, Emma Morrison, Alex Champion de Crespigny, Mel Cooper, Alicia Smith, Sam Haydon and Bronte Neyland, for their hard work in the PFA. Through their dedication, we have enjoyed many special community events as well as raising in excess of $46,800 for the school. A truly sensational effort ladies and you continue to set the bar incredibly high!

To our wonderful OOSH team – Ben and his team do a fabulous 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! We are also incredibly grateful to the School Council support for OOSH, particularly under the leadership of Simon Gowland, Nicki Batagol, Laurie Conheady, Michael Martin and David Portnoy.

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 direction 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 grateful to be able to come here each and every day.

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 and cherish the precious moments that we have.

See you all in 2016!

Warm regards,

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
Assistant Principal

Bike Ed Excursion
On Monday Peter Cracknell, Brett Leyshan and I took 16 very keen year 4 students on our annual Gardiner’s Creek Bike ride with Malvern Valley Primary School. This excursion marked the final stage of our Bike Ed program for selected Year 4 students, during which they learnt skills such as bike care and maintenance, handling a bike, etiquette and safety. On Monday’s excursion we teamed up with the Malvern Valley students to do some special activities with Cycling Victoria. We had some lunch and then continued along the bike path for a few more km, enjoying the beautiful weather and scenery. We are hoping that these students, now equipped with a greater knowledge and skills, will continue some bike rides with their families over the summer holidays. Current year 3 students, it will be your turn next year, so keep an eye out in Term 4 for information about the Bike Ed program. Many thanks to parents Craig Ypinazar and Richard Harris for their wonderful assistance in providing transport for the bikes and assistance and guidance for our students along the way, it was very much appreciated.

Thanks and Farewell Tonga Kelly
Yesterday we had our special thank you presentation at assembly to all the parents who have helped over the year in a range of capacities. I know that the parents who help in the classroom and on excursions are very much appreciated by the classroom teachers. Many of you will know that over the years I have often mentioned Ray and Tonga in my thank you notes as they have assisted around the school in so many ways with our physical facilities. Luckily Ray will still be around for a few more years with Aidan about to go into year 4, but unfortunately with Jett having just completed Year 6, that is the end of the era for the Kellys. We will sorely miss Tonga’s skill and expertise on so many repair and handyman jobs around the school, and I know that Ray will also miss having Tonga to assist on so many tasks. Perhaps there is a mum or dad out there who would be willing to take Tonga’s place next year. Please let me know if you might be interested. To Tonga, thank you so much for all your great work and all the best at Jett’s new school, I am sure that the administrators will soon work out what a valuable resource you are.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Excursions for Term 1 2016
Dear parents, at this time each year the school would normally send home the Excursion Levy form for Term 1 as per the Excursion Levy Policy.

Due to the introduction of the Units of Inquiry at all levels, some of the planning for 2016 will not take place until a couple of weeks into Term 1, thus delaying the issuing of these levy sheets.

The permission form and list of known excursions will be issued as soon as the staff finish their planning.

As a guide, the cost for Term 1 is an average of $50.00 and we suggest that you keep that in mind when budgeting for the start of 2016.

Christine Leyshan
Business Manager

Prep Bulletin
Please click on the following link to read this week’s news from your child’s year level:
♦ Prep bulletin
or go to the Students tab on the website and then your child’s class for all the latest news.

OOSHC News
Dear OOSHC families,
The 2016 January Holiday Program is now out and available on the school website - or click this link for all the details.

Please return the signed Holiday Program form, as well as a 2016 OOSHC Registration form for each child which is also available on the school website - or click here. We also require parents to complete an Ezidebit form.

Please hand in booking forms ASAP, as days will fill up quickly. Any enquiries, please email or call Ben.
PFA news

The PFA would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holidays!

The subcommittee signup sheets are available outside the office, so if you can, please put your name down on the subcommittee lists outside the office. The lists include:

- Fun Run Committee
- Trivia Night Committee
- Major Fundraising Committee (Includes Family Fun Night)
- Mothers Day & Father Day Stall Committee
- Special Event Cake Stall & BBQ Committee
- Armadale Cares Committee
- Cookbook Committee
- PFA Administration role
- Treasurer / Finance role

The role of the PFA plays an extremely important part in the sustainability of our school, so if you would like to be involved and have the time to assist, we would LOVE to hear from you. If you have any questions or would like to know more about each role/committee please contact either one of us or Rochelle on cukier.rochelle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Before we sign off, we would like to give a big thank you to all those parents that gave their time and energy to support the PFA and the School this year! Thank you, without your help we would not have the school we do today!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Caz Laughton and Sarah Monahan
PFA Co-Presidents
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

PRC Parent Survey

The Department of Education and Training is conducting research into the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge (PRC) to understand parents’ experiences and needs, as well as any improvements that could be made to the program.

We invite you to complete this survey if your child was registered for the 2015 PRC. The Department has engaged Andrews Group, an independent research firm, to conduct this research and your answers will remain confidential.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Click here to begin the survey

If you are having difficulties accessing the survey, please copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser: https://qau1.au1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9Rd7MoKOiVVAM3r

If you have any queries about the research, please don’t hesitate to contact Jillian Harriott, Research Manager at Andrews Group on (03) 9654 4480 or jillian@andrewsgroup.com.au. Alternatively please contact the Reading Challenge on (03) 9637 3624 or readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you in advance for your time.
The 12 Do’s of Christmas

1. Buy good quality decorations that can be reused or make your own.
2. Check that your work Christmas party organiser sets up well-signed recycling options for the event.
3. Find out what your recipients really want, or choose an experience or charity gift.
4. Choose reusable or recyclable wrapping, like paper.
5. Download the new free RecycleSmart App for all your household recycling needs.
6. Prevent food waste – plan ahead and serve smaller portions. Compost or worm farm your food scraps.
7. Most food and drink packaging is recyclable. Sort and flatten it to fit as much as possible in your bin.
8. Recycle old mobile phones, printer cartridges, computers and tablets that get replaced.
9. Give a recharger pack with any battery-operated gifts – it’ll save money and reduce the gift’s impact.
10. Ensure your car runs efficiently by inflating the tyres and tuning the engine, and recycle your old car oil, tyres and batteries.
11. De-clutter the house – recycle from the yard, garage and attic.
12. See if your council has a special mulching service for live Christmas trees or take it to the garden section of your local recycling facility.

For more information on these recycling tips, to find local options and to reduce your eco footprint this Christmas visit 12dos.planetark.org

Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.
Summer Reading Club
For Kids
Lost Worlds
1 December - 15 January

Register online here

Calling all explorers! Are you ready to journey beyond your imagination?

Children aged 5 – 12 years are invited to join in our Summer Reading Club, and search for lost worlds, hidden caches and mysterious occurrences – all within the pages of a book.

Be brave, be bold, and choose your own adventure! Our libraries are jam-packed with stories to suit all reading tastes and ages. Books, zines, graphic novels... whatever the story, it all counts towards some great prizes!

- Read 10 books and score an exclusive invite to our Summer Reading Club Party**
- Read 20 books and receive a MYSTERY prize
- Read 30 books or more and you’ll go in the draw to win an iTunes voucher to the value of $30!

Enter as many times as you like. The more you read, the greater your chance to snag a fantastic prize!

Be sure to collect your free activity book at any of the Stonnington Libraries or download a copy here: The Summer Reading Club Activity Booklet (Primary) (PDF, 3MB)

** The invitation-only Summer Reading Club Party will be held on Wednesday 20 January, 2.30-4.30pm, at Phoenix Park Library. Enjoy an afternoon of games, crafts, entertainment – and most of all, fun!

The Summer Reading Club is delivered in partnership with the State Library of Queensland and the Australian Library and Information Association.

ABC COMMUNITY GARDEN

is a new fully communal community garden in Stonnington and is now accepting members.

Please phone Maria on 0425778179 to organise a tour and discuss membership.