Dear Armadale Community,

What a fabulous time was had by all at our wonderful Family Fun night last Friday night.

The weather was a little cold and we were lucky that it didn’t rain. The children had the most amazing time on the giant slide and other inflatable world equipment, plus having wonderful photos taken in the photo booth. The children were well looked after by our OOSHC team, having their face painted, nails and hair done and playing games on the courts and play equipment. Other popular treats were the popcorn, the raffle, the luck dips and the lolly stall. Many of the adults enjoyed the sausage sizzle and refreshments and the opportunity to catch up with friends.

On behalf of the whole school community we are incredibly grateful to the terrific PFA team who worked tirelessly throughout the day and evening. Heartfelt thank yous to Sarah Barlow and Pam Johnston, Christie Kelso, Niki Rickard, Dimity Millear, Janine Sheean and Mel Cooper who made sure everything was set up and ready to go. Special thank you also to Simon Gowland, David Portnoy, Dean Park and Chris Norbury for sizzling the sausages and to all our other parents for all their help and assistance and apologies to anyone else I have inadvertently not mentioned.

Thank you to all our families for attending the fun night and we are very grateful for your support. Though there was no emphasis on this being a fundraiser for the school, the PFA were delighted to note that we raised just over $2,500.00.

Lauriston Swimming Program Prep-Year 2
This nine lesson intensive program is half way through. You may have noticed that the children are more tired and perhaps more hungry. You may want to up their snacks and lunch quantity during this program. Thank you very much to all the parent and community volunteers who have assisted in walking up to the pool and back and helped with changes out of wet costumes. Thank you to all the teachers for your preparedness to be flexible with your programs and to the children, congratulations on all of your achievements and I know you will enjoy a much safer summer with better mastery of swimming. I know for some families swimming is a regular after school activity and I thank you for also supporting our school program. Lastly, thank you Peter Cracknell for your organisation and overseeing of the entire program.

Class Placement Policy
The teachers have been working hard determining both class placements and class structures and composition for 2017. In line with our school vision and philosophy, we will always enact what we believe are decisions that are best for the students and always having their interests at heart. I feel it is timely to remind parents of our class placement policy which takes into account a set of four criteria with the first two more heavily weighted than the third.

“Staff will place students into classes, taking into consideration the following in priority order:
1. Achievement levels
2. Learning orientation (dispositions/attitude & behaviour)
3. Peer preferences
4. Special needs”

The reasoning behind this is to ensure that all classes are equally balanced in terms of...
academic achievements and learning orientations. It is absolutely critical that classes aren’t loaded and teachers have the opportunity to support all of our children who present a range of learning needs. We also aim to balance the distribution of the year levels within a multi-age class as well as optimising a gender balance. This can require a great deal of finessing, drafting and checking that we have indeed the mix right. The number of children in each level will determine whether the school runs multi-age or single year classes. I also wish to reiterate that there is no research to support that either multi-age or single age classes offer an academic or social advantage to students. As we are committed to targeting the teaching and learning for each individual child, the groupings of children are purely for administrative purposes.

**Transition**

Our whole school is undertaking transition and change in a variety of ways. The Preps have been focusing on an inquiry into change, the year 5’s have been focusing on leadership and the 6’s have been re-enacting life in a Year 7 classroom. The Year 1-4’s are looking at ways of engaging with the other levels, interviewing and chatting to other students. The purpose of this transition is to familiarise the children with some of the expectations, learning activities and curriculum of the next year level. The teachers who will take the children for these sessions are not necessarily their teachers for next year.

All of the children will meet their 2017 teacher on Thursday 16th December at 10.30am.

**Prep Teachers for 2017**

I am delighted to share with you the following staff will be teaching our Preps for 2017:

- Angela Sozzi
- Steph Eden-McIlroy
- Nikita Coleman

All of our new Preps will meet their teacher next Wednesday 7th December at 9.45am.

**Celebration Concert in the Quadrangle Tuesday 13th December at 6.00pm**

I hope all families will save this date: Tuesday 13th December in their diaries and will be able to join us for our annual concert in the quadrangle. We will be starting promptly at 6.00pm and hope to conclude by 7.00pm. Could all parents and family members please bring their own chairs to sit on, the children will all be seated in their class groups in front of the stage on the asphalt. It may be wise to ensure the children are fed before you came back to school and this will help them sing with more gusto! Laura, the class teachers and Vita have been working incredibly hard to ensure this will be an enjoyable evening.

Have a wonderful week.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal

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**Head Lice**

We have some cases of head lice at school. Could parents please check their child/ren’s hair over the weekend and let your child’s class teacher know if you find any lice. Once treatment has commenced your child may return to school.
Assistant Principal

Second Semester Student Reports

The teachers are just in the process of completing the student reports for second semester and they should be ready for distribution within the next two weeks. As in first semester these reports will only be available through Compass. It is therefore essential that all parents have the correct login for Compass. I was amazed to see recently that there are still some families who have not done the first login for Compass. This means that they would never have received the Semester 1 report for their child.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

I need to stress the importance of all parents being connected to Compass. If you do not do this you will not receive your children’s reports, or be able to give permission for any excursions or approvals for absences. I urge all parents to make sure that they can log in to Compass and know how to access the student reports and notify the school of reasons for absences. We have started a trial run of excursion permissions for a year 3 and 4 excursion and a Junior Choir excursion, and these have been working well. Next year all excursion permissions will be done this way. To log in to Compass click on the logo above or go to the homepage of the school website and follow the link.

If you are having any difficulty logging in to Compass, please see Maggie, Alison or Christine in the front office.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Parents & Friends for Armadale (PFA)

Family Fun Night
Thank you to everyone who braved the cold to come to the family fun night. The kids in particular didn’t seem to notice the cold and all enjoyed the inflatables and I understand a few of the adults did too. These night couldn’t run without the people who volunteer so a few thank yous to the people who helped out on the night:

The fabulous BBQ boys and ladies David, Simon, Andrew, Dean, Al, Chris, Nathan, Kristy, Jane and Mel. Nicole and Niki on the Lolly Stand, Christie, Bronte, Misha and Kira Saito who ran the popcorn and icy poles. Pam who with the help of William (grade 4) raffled and spun the tombola, to Hayley, Chali and the Grade 6 girls who operated the photo booth and finally to Dimity and Janine who kept us refreshed. Thank you to Trevor and Ben and the OOSH C staff who helped us set up and arranged the entertainment. Emily Atkins thank you as always for taking home the tablecloths and washing them for us. I apologise to anyone who has been missed but I thank you too.

Helping Others at the Festive Season
This year we are asking the Armadale Community to consider those less fortunate than ourselves as Christmas approaches. Armadale PFA is working with TPCC and PJFC to collect gifts to donate to local children in need. If you are able to, please consider purchasing a gift for a child up to 15 to donate. We will have a box in the office to collect any donations. Thank you so much for your support.

The Armadale PFA Committee
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Student Banking

The following students have qualified for a Silver Dollarmites Certificate for making 20 deposits this year:

♦ Zach Larner
♦ Gabriel Margitta
♦ William Strangward

Well done everyone!

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator

Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com
Swimming Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 students
Swimming lessons for Term 4 continue on the following days:
- Friday 2nd December
- Monday 5th December
- Tuesday 6th December
- Thursday 8th December
- Friday 9th December

Lessons are at the following times:
- 2S & 2J (9:30 - 10:10am)
- Prep C & Prep E (10:10 - 10:50am)
- Prep S & Prep N (10:50 - 11:30am)
- 1E & 1K (11:30am - 12:10pm)
- 1P (12:10pm - 12:50pm)

Parent assistance is required walking to and from the pool, leaving school half an hour before the start of each lesson. If you are able to help please see your child’s class teacher. Click here for full details.

Year 5&6 Ultimate Frisbee Gala day
Friday 2 December
The Year 5&6 students will be taking part in an Ultimate Frisbee Gala day tomorrow Friday 2 December.

Peter Cracknell
Sports Co-ordinator

PEDAGOGY CORNER – Value depth over speed

As I reflect and draw upon my own experiences as a student, I consider myself as ‘one of the lucky ones’. I managed to get through most of my schooling believing that I was ‘really good’ at maths because I could answer times table quizzes accurately and quickly and as I progressed through secondary school, I was ‘really good’ at memorising a formula and applying it to solve problems. Hence my test results were always ‘really good’ because I was fast and I could memorise formulas to solve problems in a textbook.

However, my biggest challenge came when I was in University and continued to study Maths. It was then that I was confronted with the challenge of applying my understandings of mathematical concepts. I was ‘really good’ at knowing how to solve problems using formulas but I didn’t really understand why these formulas worked. As far as I was concerned, they just did! Limitations in my knowledge and understanding began to become more apparent. This had huge implications on the way in which I viewed myself as a maths learner. I realised that I was not used to taking risks and nor did I have the opportunity to learn from my mistakes or learn from others. My earlier days of learning maths were considered to be very much a solitary act, where speed was valued.

A defining moment for me was when I was confronted with the task of applying basic mathematical knowledge such as adding and subtracting numbers. However the number system I was to use was not a base 10 system, as is our system. I was to add and subtract numbers using a base 6 system. My brain was in turmoil! What on earth were they asking me to do? Why was I asked to do this? How can 12+4=30? I was left with no option but to delve deeper into understanding number systems. This learning enabled me to reflect and evaluate on the effectiveness of learning experiences that children may be exposed to at school and how these impact on developing their understanding of how our number system works.

I wonder why we chose to use a base 10 system? Is it simply because we have 10 fingers or is it really the most efficient number system? Why not base 12?

As a parent, I recognise the impact school has on developing my own children’s perceptions of themselves as maths learners. As a parent, I too can recognise my own impact in this development. Although tempting, I cannot expect my children to simply apply a formula in order to complete their maths homework. I need to work with them to help them see the relationship between the why and the how.

The following article (on page 5) is a simple read that supports my own personal dilemma about the importance of valuing depth over speed in relation to maths learning. Perhaps educators and parents will need to work collectively in order to raise our children’s capacity to be great maths learners.

Connie Apostolos
Curriculum and Pedagogy Leader
6. Value depth over speed.

Many people incorrectly believe that being good at math means being fast at math. It doesn’t and we need to dissociate math from speed. When we value fast computation (as many classrooms do) we encourage a subset of learners who compute quickly and discourage many others, including deep slow thinkers who are very important to math (see sidebar).

We no longer need students to compute fast (we have computers for this) we need them to think deeply, connect methods, reason, and justify.

1. Tell students you don’t value fast work. Mathematical thinking is about depth not speed.
2. Don’t let mathematical discussions be driven by the fastest students.
3. When asking for hands up, don’t always take answers from the fastest students.
4. Don’t use flash cards, speed competitions, timed tests, instead value depth, creativity, different ways of thinking about math, and different explanations. A paper showing the research suggesting timed tests cause math anxiety is here: http://youcubed.org/pdfs/nctm-timed-tests.pdf

“I was always deeply uncertain about my own intellectual capacity; I thought I was unintelligent And it is true that I was, and still am, rather slow. I need time to seize things because I always need to understand them fully. Towards the end of the eleventh grade, I secretly thought of myself as stupid. I worried about this for a long time.

I’m still just as slow. (…)At the end of the eleventh grade, I took the measure of the situation, and came to the conclusion that rapidity doesn’t have a precise relation to intelligence. What is important is to deeply understand things and their relations to each other. This is where intelligence lies. The fact of being quick or slow isn’t really relevant.”

- Laurent Schwartz,
Winner of the Fields Medal
(A Mathematician Grappling with His Century, 2001)
Years 3 & 4 —

Italian mini-mercato

Ciao a tutti

Venerdì, Friday, 2nd dicembre, the Year 3 & 4 students will hold a mini-mercato in the Italian room.

We have been learning about shops, negozi, e prodotti, products, during our Italian lessons, and we will have stalls set up displaying our prodotti.

Parents/carers are invited to come and view the mini-mercato at the following times:

◊ 9.45am - 10.15am  3W & 4Z
◊ 11.45am - 12.15pm  3E
◊ 2.00pm - 2.30 pm   3C & 4C

Grazie

Tom P & Lucie A - 3C
Please complete a 2017 OOSHC registration form to enrol in the January holiday program. The form is available on the school website.

**JANUARY HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Monday 16th January – Monday 30th January 2017

**Fees**

- **Cost:** Excursion (out of school) $70.00 per child per day*, full days only
- **Excursion (at school)** $60.00 per child per day*, full days only

Parents eligible for Child Care Benefit will have their daily fee reduced accordingly.

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**Day 1**

**Monday 16th January**

**Geelong Adventure Park**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Monday 23rd January**

**Black Rock Beach**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Tuesday 24th January**

**Superzoo**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Wednesday 25th January**

**Australia Day Public Holiday! No program**

**Thursday 26th January**

**Parc**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Fr星期 27th January**

**Movies at Jam Factory**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Friday 28th January**

**Andrew’s Adventure**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Saturday 29th January**

**Neighbours Day Out**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

**Sunday 30th January**

**Mum’s Day Out**

- **Child/ren’s Name:**
- **Parent’s Signature:**

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**Important Information**

- All children attending the 2017 January Holiday Program must have submitted a completed 2017 OOSHC Registration form (individually - one form per child) and an Armadale Primary OOSHC EziDebit Direct Debit Request form, with your nominated credit card or bank details, before the first day of the program.
- Please book your child/ren in ASAP as our January Holiday Program places are limited and our program works on a first-in basis. Waiting lists are available.
- No cancellation refunds - once you have booked into the 2017 January Holiday Program you will be charged the full amount, per child, the only exception is if your place can be filled with someone on a waiting list.
- Please be on time. We will not wait for families who arrive after the allocated departure time.
- Please remember to send your child with a full lunch (including morning and afternoon tea), water bottle and hat every day.
- Remember to slip, slop, slap every day and be Sun Smart
- Rash vests or an old t-shirt are compulsory to wear on swimming days
- If your child is not a confident swimmer, please inform the OOSHC staff and provide floaties
- If your child is prone to bus sickness, please inform the OOSHC staff and provide motion sickness tablets (with an accompanying Medication Registration Form - document can be downloaded from the school website: http://www.armadaleps.vic.edu.au/page/131)

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On Monday 16th January, all children should bring a non-food snack and a lunch box.

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**End of Program**

Tuesday 31st January

**Back to School**

We hope all our OOSHC families have a great 2017!
Piano Tuition

Alexander has a limited number of places for individual piano tuition. The Wertheim piano at the music studio is an absolute joy to play, you will love it!

Areas of learning: One on one lessons are structured for you to enjoy playing and learning about all styles at the piano from classical, jazz, to world and contemporary popular music.

Beginners, intermediate, advanced to professional, all are most welcome.

For bookings and lesson prices call 0425 223 404 or email info@anmusic.com.au

Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.
Kids for Kids
SINGING at St George’s this Christmas

* music including traditional carols and new Australian carols

* simple, fun and effective vocal training for young people from the age of 7

* 4 rehearsals every Friday in December 8.30pm
  and a friendly performance at our 5pm Christmas Eve service.
  (Saturday 24th December)

For more information, contact
St George’s Director of Music, Elizabeth-Anne Nxon
music@stgeorgesmalvern.org
St George’s Anglican Church | Malvern
296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, Vic 3144
www.stgeorgesmalvern.org

Bully Zero

BUBBLE SOCCER
WORLD CUP

The all day event will include:
- Free access to our bubble soccer, human foosball and soapy soccer activities
- Live party music
- Water fights and activities
- Competitions and give-aways
- Fundraising money for the Bully Zero Australia Foundation

For more information, please visit:
www.bubblesoccerworldcup.com.au
www.facebook.com/bubblesoccerworldcup
Instagram: bubblesoccerworldcup
www.corporatebubblesoccer.com.au

SATURDAY
4 FEB
2017
10am - 7pm
Birrarung Marr, Melbourne

All funds raised will go to the Bully Zero Australia Foundation

22nd Year
Art’scool for Kids
Specializing in Fine Art for Children
With Professional Artist Terry Taylor
0400272335
terry.taylor11@gmail.com
www.terrytaylor.com.au

Glen Iris

Term 1 Observational Drawing and Painting Program

1. Jan 30, Feb 1
   - Observational Drawing: Fish from the Sea
2. Feb 7, 8
   - Acrylic Painting: Characters from The Wizard of Oz
3. Feb 14, 15
   - Clay Modelling: Sea creatures
4. Feb 21, 22
   - Two Perspectives Drawing: Colourful Toy Boxes
5. Feb 27, Mar 1
   - Acrylic Painting: Let’s Look at Van Gogh’s Sunflowers
6. Mar 7, 8
   - 3D Surprise
7. Mar 14, 15
   - The Great Wave by Japanese artist Hokusai
8. Mar 21, 22
   - Glass Painting: The study of Indigenous Patterns
9. Mar 28, 29
   - ‘Love a Puppy’ drawing

* March 13
  - Labour Day – no class

Time & Cost

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (ages 5-12): 4.00 – 5.30 pm $36.00 per class
Apple break, art materials, art smocks provided.

Please select a day which suits to book in for the whole term as your child will benefit from a series of lessons as opposed to a few.
Art is a visual language which takes time. It is widely known that by using both hemispheres of the brain (right – creative and left – analytical) children will reach full potential.

Wednesday – Adult Drawing Classes

10.00am – 12.00
$55.00

ENROL NOW FOR TERM 1, 2017

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