Dear Armadale Community,

When I reflect over this first term there have been so many highlights so much has been happening in our school, so many events and celebrations, which have all enabled our children’s growth and development. Our Preps have settled into the daily routine of school life and are looking forward to their first full day in term two. Our Prep parents enjoyed their first cocktail party evening in the MPC and were able to mingle and socialise and get to know each other better. Thank you so much to Pam Johnston and Sarah Barlow for their great organisation and administration of that wonderful evening.

For some of our families this first term has brought with it a great deal of unexpected sadness and our thoughts go out to them as they deal with grief and bereavement. Other families have had to deal with illness and we also extend our very best wishes and thoughts and know that our community has been incredibly supportive and loving. With that in mind, please tell your family members and your children you love them every day, even in the middle of the holidays when they ask, once again, “What are we doing today Mum”? or that other favourite, “I’m bored” let them know how much you love them and are grateful to have them in your lives.

Welcome back Rachel Jackson!

Rachel Jackson returns from Family Leave to teaching in Term 2. Rachel will be teaching on Fridays only in Year 6 and grade sharing with Kate Pilgrim who will reduce her time fraction to four days a week. Rachel is highly experienced and a well-regarded teacher and I know the Year 5 and 6 team are looking forward to having Rachel back.

Staffing in Term 2

The following staff will be taking Long Service leave during Term 2 and I just wanted to advise you of when they will be away and where known, who will be replacing them. In all cases we try to replace our teachers with those known to the children.

Christine Leyshan 28/4 – 3/5 replaced by Megan Baker
Peter Cracknell 16/5 -24/6 replaced by John Mulligan
Colleen Johnson 2/5 –13/5
Lucy Gorman 9/5 -13/5
Kate Pilgrim 14/6 -24/6
Rochelle 14/6- 24/6 - replaced by Malcolm Dow

We wish all of our staff who are taking leave a wonderful break and holiday

Pupil Free Curriculum Day April 11th –first day of Term 2

The staff will have a professional learning (PL) opportunity on Monday 11th April to further deepen their understanding of “What makes a great Math's Learner?” and to engage in conversations with their students about their learning. Student voice and agency, as one of our priorities will be unpacked as well. Peter Burrows and Larissa Raymond will be our presenters on the day. The ES staff will be engaged in PL with Sally Moloney from Katandra who will work with our aides to further deepen their strategies to enable children with a disability to maximise successful outcomes.

OOSHC will be running a program that day so if you would like to, please book your children in.
Defibrillator Appeal!
I would like to purchase a defib for our school to have in our office. Unfortunately the department doesn’t provide the funds for this, so we need to raise them. This defib could be used on any parent, grandparent, teacher or child and if it makes the difference in saving a life until an ambulance can arrive, then it is something I want to be able to do. All of our staff have been trained in using a defib. If I could appeal to our families to make a donation towards the purchase of this, I would be very grateful.

Harmony Day

Yesterday, our students and teachers celebrated Harmony Day and it was a very fitting end to our first term. Our community is becoming increasingly richer through our diversity and celebrating our heritage and our roots is significant to the social and emotional development of a child. In order to have a sense of security children must have a strong sense of belonging and identity and that’s where our family history, culture, religion and heritage comes into play. The tapestry of our community is spread very far and this was highlighted by the many colours and costumes the children were wearing. Thank you to those families who were able to make food for the children to enjoy, I certainly indulged in a feast of treats at lunchtime.

Our community is very grateful to Vita and Laura for all of their work and time behind the scenes to get the children ready for their performances. Congratulations to our Community and Cultural leaders, Jack Preston and Alessandro Maciel Pizzorno Bazzo who did a wonderful job in hosting our Assembly and supporting Vita.

Our Easter hampers were delivered to Very Special Kids!
Thank you so much to our very generous Armadale community for donating so many eggs and bunnies to enable the teachers and students to put together 23 eggcellent, amazing hampers. It was a tricky job for the PFA to judge the three winning classes, so they made 5 winning hampers. By the time you read this, the prizes will have just been drawn.

The values which underpin our “Armadale Cares” program ensure that for certain fundraising events the children will give to others less fortunate than themselves. The school captains; Liza Chancellor, Sarah Monahan and I were privileged to deliver 18 hampers to Very Special Kids in Glenferrie Road, Malvern. We were given a tour of the hospice and saw their amazing multisensory room, their music therapy space and their wonderful retreat for families who want to spend special time with their very sick children. The highlight was meeting the gorgeous children, full of fun and spirit and very excited with the Easter hampers!

Happy holidays to all!
Just a reminder to parents that the children will be dismissed from our final assembly at 2.30pm this afternoon. School will resume for everyone on Tuesday 12th April at 9.00am.

There will be electrical wiring works over the holidays and children accessing the holiday program or just coming in to play in the grounds will need to be mindful of any workmen and equipment and must keep a safe distance.

I wish all our Armadale families a wonderful term and Easter break, safe travels to those who are going away and enjoy having the children at home.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
Footy Colours Day

Congratulations to everyone for getting dressed up for last Friday’s Footy Colours Day. Well done everyone. Good luck to all the teams for the 2016 season.

Lily R M, Hugo M, Luca M, Anna H, Polly Y, Teri T, Max D, Harry D
Sports Leaders

Council Corner

Welcome to the March edition of ‘Council Corner’. On Tuesday night we held our second School Council meeting for 2016. Below is a summary of the key issues discussed and ways that you can get involved (if you’d like to).

- A new policy was developed in 2015 to formalise the process to raise concerns or complaints and ensure that they are addressed effectively. This will be communicated to all parents by Rochelle and added to the inventory of school policies.
- PFA provided a debrief on the events held in Term 1 and the plans for Term 2. Look out in the newsletter for their exciting plans.
- The Finance Sub-Committee presented the school financials and related policies which were all endorsed by School Council.
- The Education Sub-Committee outlined the process to develop the new Strategic Plan. The draft version will be shared with the school community in Term 2 before the final Strategic plan is agreed.
- The Facilities Subcommittee presented an update on the priorities and wish list of improvements for 2016. A number of improvements will be completed during the April holidays including:
  - Works to improve the access and integration of the Prep classes
  - Electrical replacement works for the main building
  - Removal of hard waste
- If you would like to have a say in setting the priorities for 2016 and improving the physical environment of the school, you are very welcome to join the Facilities Subcommittee (two meetings each term are held on Friday mornings at 8am)
- Finally, the OOSHC Subcommittee presented the program attendance for Term 4 2015 and the overwhelming demand for the upcoming April Holiday Program.

As always, if you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

Nicki Batagol
on behalf of the School Council
Facilities News
Our new School Council Committees have all had their respective meetings and our Facilities Committee met last Friday under the leadership of Michael Martin. A couple of issues that were discussed that are worth mentioning here is that there will be some work happening over the holidays. One will involve putting in new electrical wiring in our main building. It still has the original cotton covered wires for the lighting and these have started failing over the last few months. We made an application to the Education Department and they have agreed to subsidise the cost of this work. Although power will be cut off to this building over the holiday period, the MPC will still have power and will still operate as normal. We will also be having some new decking and steps installed between the infant hall and the Mod 10 (prep and Year 1 classrooms). This will allow easier movement of Prep C in and out of the infant hall.

Mini Working Bee
Friday April 8th
The Facilities Committee also decided to hold a mini Working Bee on Friday 8th April at 3pm (last Friday of the holidays) to do 2 main tasks: we will be putting out all of our unwanted and damaged furniture for the Stonnington Hard Rubbish Collection, and moving some large shelving units in the Arts Studio to make it more suitable for both visual and performing arts. If anyone is available to help for an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated. I will send out a Tiqbiz a few days prior just to remind everyone.

Premiers’ Reading Challenge
The PRC is up and running again. Hopefully children have been recording their books on paper somewhere ready to upload to the PRC website. For all the children who remember their username and password from last year, it should all still work the same. Brett and I will distribute class login lists to all of the teachers early next term for anyone who has lost their username and password, and especially the Year 1 students who wouldn’t have used PRC last year. The upcoming school holidays will be a great opportunity to read some PRC books ready to add to the list.

Acceptable Use Agreements Year 3
I have distributed Acceptable Use Agreements to all students in Year 3 this week, and we have discussed the importance of using the internet safely and responsibly. Could you please go through this agreement with your child over the school holidays, and talk to them about the important issues raised. There is a section for the students to write their understanding of Cybersafety and then a section for you as parents to confirm that your child has read and understands the importance of being safe and responsible online. We would like all of these agreements returned straight after the holidays.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal
This segment will be dedicated to informing you as to the ‘how’ of teaching and learning. When this segment began last year, many were perplexed with what the term ‘pedagogy’ means. As teachers, we have become very familiar with this word and what it means over the past few years. Now with the introduction of the Victorian Curriculum, it is confirmed that the ‘what’ we need to teach (referred to as the curriculum) cannot be done the way it was done five years ago. As teachers, we have improved our skills in the ‘how’ (referred to as pedagogy) to implement a curriculum that can no longer be done by simply crossing off a list.

Learning is far more complex than presenting content. The Victorian Curriculum recognises this and places emphasis on the personal and social learning of the child. As educators, we have acknowledged the major role that learning dispositions have in educating children. We are continuously bound by a world of conflict between the ‘what’ and the ‘how’.

As a parent I am all too familiar with the talk surrounding homework. As a parent, I have the same needs as you - I too want what’s best for my own children and I too want my children to succeed in life. I know how important the role of education is in determining the success my children experience.

The dilemma lies in not what we all want for children but how to achieve this. As educators we can no longer be technicians. We are all too aware of the importance of the craftsmanship that is necessary in developing ‘how’ we deliver the ‘what’. Research shows that we need to change how we approach educating our children if we are to equip them with the skills to succeed.

Therefore it is critical that teachers, children and parents work together to make this happen. As teachers, we are constantly working on improving our craft however this is far more complex for a parent. As parents we tend to rely on what we remember school to be like when we were at school or compare what our friends children do at school. However that is not enough! As parents you play a vital role in the ways in which your children see themselves as learners. These perceptions have a far greater impact on us as learners than the traditional learning of our spelling words or our times tables.

As a school, we began exploring learning dispositions last year and we are in the process of prioritising Armadale Primary School’s learning dispositions.

What are learning dispositions?
The following article (on pages 6 & 7) can add clarity to this and perhaps inspire you to experiment with the way you speak to your child about learning or about school.

Connie Apostolos-Thermos Curriculum and Pedagogy Leader

Swimming Lessons for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Week 1 Monday 18th April, Tuesday 19th April, Wednesday 20th April and Thursday 21th April

Week 2 Tuesday 26th April, Wednesday 27th April and Friday 29th April

Week 3 Monday 2nd May and Tuesday 3rd May (9 lessons in total).

Please note that there has been a change of date for the last lesson which will now be held on Tuesday 3 May (not Wednesday 4 May as listed on the information sheet handed out last week).

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.
Advice for Parents, from Professor Jo Boaler

Do you remember how excited your children were about maths when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a "math person". This is because maths in many schools is all about procedures, memorization and deciding which children can and which cannot. Maths has become a performance subject and students of all ages are more likely to tell you that maths is all about answering questions correctly than tell you about the beauty of the subject or the way it piques their interest.

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed out students, what can parents do to transform maths for their children? Here are some steps to take:

1. Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with a dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

2. Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...

3. Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls. Don't use flashcards or other speed drills. Instead use visual activities such as https://blis31n3m2cr3mkgct1itaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FluencyWithoutFear-2015.pdf

4. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

5. Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out 29 + 56, if you take one from the 56 and make it 30 + 55, it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.

6. Perhaps most important of all – encourage a “growth mindset” let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not "a math person". One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are "smart" when they do something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as "it is great that you have learned that", "I really like your thinking about that". When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: "That's wonderful, your brain is growing!"

* I use maths, rather than math, partly because I am from the UK and we say maths there and partly because maths is short for mathematics, it is a plural noun. Mathematics was chosen to be plural to reflect all the many parts of mathematics - growing, modeling, asking questions, communicating, etc. Math sounds more singular and narrow. (Do the math, usually means do a calculation), and I prefer to keep the idea that maths is a multidimensional and varied set of mathematical forms and ideas.

For more resources see https://www.youcubed.org
Online Courses for
Students, Teachers and Parents
https://www.youcubed.org/category/mooc/

Student Page
https://www.youcubed.org/students/

Parent Page
https://www.youcubed.org/parents/

Recommended Apps and Games
https://www.youcubed.org/category/teaching-ideas/math-apps/

More Information about Brain Science
https://www.youcubed.org/think-it-up/

Jo’s Mindset Book
http://tinyurl.com/qxhmqsh

Maths Tasks to Do At Home
https://www.youcubed.org/tasks/

Summer Camp Video
https://www.youcubed.org/youcubed-summer-math-camp-2015/

Week of Inspirational Maths Curriculum
https://www.youcubed.org/week-of-inspirational-math/
Armadale Primary School students supported Lots of Socks Day on Monday 21 March to raise awareness about Down syndrome.
The Arts News

A busy first term in the Arts and the students have all created some amazing visual artworks (that are stored in individual folios) and have shared some amazing dance, dramatic and musical performances in class and on Harmony Day. We have now settled into the new ‘The Arts’ structure with one hour of the visual and performing arts, and we look forward to term 2.

Arts Awards 14th to 24th March
Artist of the week: Oliver Jackson Prep C
For drawing a unique and detailed image using oil pastels to show ‘where I live’. Well done Oliver.

Arts Class of the week
The Arts class of the week is: 3C
For showing great improvement with each class for the harmony day Bollywood dance. Everyone danced with great confidence, enthusiasm and clearly communicated the message of the dance through their movement.

Art Smocks
Thank you to everyone who has an art smock and has stored it in the classroom tub. If you are yet to purchase one, they are available at PSW Kew, and Target and Riot Art and Craft stores. It is vital to have an art smock with long sleeves and a rain jacket-like material so the school uniform does not get dirty.

Supplies for the Art Studio
Stockings - We are still in need of stockings (old or new) for the drying rack in the arts room.

If you are willing to donate any, please drop them straight to the Arts Studio. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Magazines – If you have any old magazines that we can use, please drop them in the arts studio.

Year 3 to 6 Production
I am pleased to finally announce, that after receiving licensing confirmation, Armadale Primary School’s years 3 to 6 musical theatre production in 2016 will be:

HONK! Jr
The musical is based on the story of The Ugly Duckling, and catchy songs and loveable characters. You can listen to some of the music and read the full synopsis at: http://www.mtishows.com/honk-jr
There will be a cast of approximately 60 students and it is open to any student in years 3 to 6 who is enthusiastic about performing in front of an audience.

During the holidays, interested students can view the characters’ descriptions and song and script excerpts to prepare for an audition using the following link and selecting Honk! Jr from the dropdown. http://www.mtishows.com/broadway-junior/audition-central Students can print out the script and song to practise for a character they wish to audition for.

Students who do not wish to audition for a lead but would like to be a member of the ensemble, are still required to audition. An audition pack will go out to interested students during the first week of term 2 and auditions will commence from week 2.

Students who are successful in their audition will receive a contract and rehearsal schedule. Rehearsals will be held mostly during lunchtimes, with some after school rehearsals closer to the performances.

Students who are not successful in their audition, can be a part of the show in many other ways, such as backstage crew, costuming, props and publicity. There are also plenty of amateur theatre companies around Melbourne that may require children in shows they are performing.
Performances and dress rehearsals will be during the second week of term 4 at the Phoenix Theatre in Elwood.

**Prep to year 2 performance**
Stay tuned. More information in term 2.

**Arts Club**
Congratulations to the following students who will be joining the arts club.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5 and 6</th>
<th>Years 3 and 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euan S 6Z</td>
<td>Angella S 3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey M 6K</td>
<td>Poppy H 3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily J 5B</td>
<td>Lucie A 3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia P 6Z</td>
<td>Amelia P 3E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhianna D 5B</td>
<td>Stella M 3W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarlett C 6Z</td>
<td>Daisy P 4C</td>
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<td>Stella M 4C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Claudia G 3E</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Martha O 3W</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Siobhan M 4C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Years 5 and 6 will be held weekly and years 3 and 4 will be split into two groups with each group held fortnightly.

If you haven’t returned the permission slip, you can scan and email it to me and pay online.

Once we have started and settled into a routine, the Arts Leaders will be running the club with my assistance.

**Harmony Day**
A Big congratulations to all students for performing on harmony day and presenting a wonderful mix of songs cultural dances that they learnt in their Arts classes. All students should be very proud of themselves for confidently performing in front of a large audience.

Have a wonderful holiday and we are looking forward to a busy term 2 in the arts.

Laura Welch
The Arts Co-ordinator
welch.laura.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
On the 23rd of March Armadale Primary School celebrated Harmony Day, the children dressed up in their country colours and each sang a song in Italian. Later on two separate groups went off to watch an Asian dance performance, the performance was led by a Chinese woman named Sabrina who was born in Taiwan. After the performance each class shared some food from each culture and ate lunch.

We spoke to six students who told us what they liked about the day.
Ella De Hennin 6Z “I liked dressing up to represent our country.”
Charlie Smith 3E “I liked sharing the food from each culture.”
Siobhan McGann 4C “I liked performing our Italian song.”
Leo Carbone 2J “I liked the performance and joining in the dancing.”
Lachie Walls 1K “I liked going to school.”
Nodoka Kobayashi 5G “I liked watching the preps perform their Italian song.”

It was a great day and all the students and teachers loved it, they had a great day. A massive thank you to Vita and Laura for organising this great day.

Mia, Clea and Audrey
Year 6
Parents and Friends of Armadale (PFA)

Hi everyone,

Easter is here! We hope everyone has a fun and relaxing break, but before we go just a couple of things..............

Easter Raffle
Thank you to everyone who donated eggs and bunnies to the school Easter Raffle. We have had an amazing amount of eggs donated, you have all been very generous. Thanks to the teachers and children for the hard and quick work getting the boxes looking fabulous. The decorated boxes looked amazing and it was very hard to pick the winning boxes.

We will be talking about next term’s fundraising events, so we would love your input.

Kind regards

The Armadale PFA Committee
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

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Cocktail Parties
Thanks to everyone who came to the Prep Cocktail Party. We hope you had a great time. Thank you to Sarah Naardan, Sarah Hogan, Sam Haydon, Kylie, Georgie and Sam Hunt, and Cressida Beale who helped set up, man the bar and clear up after.

We raised $1500 for the school from the proceeds of the night.

Mother’s Day Afternoon tea
Mother’s Day afternoon tea is scheduled for Wednesday 4th May.......further details to follow in term 2.

PFA Meeting
The next PFA Meeting is on Tuesday 12th April at 2:30pm in the Staff Room. This meeting is open to all Armadale Parents, so everyone is WELCOME.

Donations requested
The Toorak Prahran Crick Club’s community sport program is seeking donations of football boots and sporting equipment. The club has helped many financially or socially disadvantaged families with sport in the local community since 2011.

The boots will be distributed at Horace Petty and help fill a container being sent to families in cyclone-hit Fiji.

Anyone who can donate please contact:
Jim Hallam on 0414 965 442.

Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com
New School Holiday Day Camp
April 4th - 8th

20+ Activities including:
Basketball | AFL | Cooking
Drama | Art | Tennis
Soccer | Photography
+ much much more

Programs for Prep - Year 9
@ PCW Melbourne,
Dandenong Rd, Windsor

Ph: 0412 764 243

www.campblue.com.au

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New clinical trial investigating the effects of a natural medicine on boys 6 - 14 years with inattention and hyperactivity

Swinburne University and SFI Research are currently looking to recruit participants for a Melbourne based clinical trial, focused on examining whether a specific extract of the herb *Bacopa monnieri* (*CDRI 08*) can improve cognitive, mood, sleep and behavioural measures in boys aged 6-14 years with symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity.

Participants will be given KeenMind* (*CDRI 08*) or a placebo and sit tests measuring their IQ, memory, attention, reaction time, inhibition and behaviour over a period of 16 weeks.

Parents will receive a report summarising some of their child’s test results.

**Main inclusion criteria:**
- Male
- Aged between 6 - 14 years of age
- Speak fluent English
- Currently free of any medication or other natural supplements

For more information about how participants can enrol into the trial or to access clinical papers on KeenMind, visit www.inattentiontrial.com or call (03) 9214 4444

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