Dear Armadale Community,

Welcome back to our entire community!

Happy 2017 to you all and I hope everyone has enjoyed the past 5 weeks and took the time to relax, rejuvenate and spend special times with their family and friends. It was fabulous to see the children on Tuesday morning so happy and excited to be back at school and despite a few nerves we had very few tears. Understandably, there were many smiles on the faces of Mums and Dads and even more yesterday when all schools would have started for the year. I was delighted to receive photos from parents of our ex-Year 6’s, who looked very grown up in their new secondary school uniforms.

The holidays for me were wonderful as we managed to tour around the south island of New Zealand and enjoy the majestic landscapes around Queenstown and Mt Cook, the serenity of Milford Sound, the lakes and National Parks, Te Anau and the history and vibrancy of Dunedin and Christchurch.

After arriving back a few days early we were able to be here for the birth of our first grandchild, a beautiful boy, Riley Jack, now two and a half weeks old. Yes, I am slightly besotted and enjoying every opportunity to be with them. I will be taking a few days here and there for carer’s leave in February just to support my daughter Gabbi adjust to the demands of motherhood. In my absence, Malcolm Dow will be the Acting Principal.

Our Armadale Family continues to grow and blossom.....

Congratulations to Steph Eden-McIlroy and her wife Claire on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Lottie Joan. All of the staff were thrilled and delighted to have cuddles with Lottie on Monday morning. We can’t wait to see Lottie again soon and I am sure she will be a special visitor to Prep EM!

Welcome to our new Preps and their families

It was wonderful to see that there were just a few tears this morning when our Preps had their first official start to school and thankfully our PFA had the right antidote for those mums! We held a welcome to school Prep parents morning tea in our MPC where all our Prep parents were officially welcomed and had the opportunity to chat and laugh with each other. We are very grateful to Sarah Barlow one of our PFA Presidents and Sam Haydon, Kate Rafferty, Dimity Millear, Niki Rickard, Christie Kelso and Melissa Lukatsky, who baked bikkies, cakes and scones fresh out of the oven with jam and cream and helped to serve the tea and coffee. We are very appreciative of all your help and delicious baking!

2017 Classes

All of the children have settled in beautifully to their new classes and this first week is being devoted to establishing the conditions and expectations for an excellent learning culture across the whole school. The teachers are finding about the strengths of each student and sharing with them their own strengths as a learner. The teachers have been given release time this week to focus on their learning designs which will afford the children deep and engaging learning experiences. I will advise

continued on page 2...
you next week in the newsletter of the Meet the teacher opportunities in the coming weeks.

**Bourke street tragedy**
Over the past week, you will have seen coverage of the tragedy that occurred in the Bourke Street Mall. The incident may have affected many people including students, young children and families. Your own children may have expressed sadness about the incident and may even be feeling a little anxious and unsafe. Should any parents feel that they may need assistance with this please don’t hesitate to contact me at school and I can offer you some resources that you may wish to access.

Emergency Management Victoria has provided a brief video that outlines how we can support children and youth in their recovery following this incident. I have also included an information sheet that you may like to use with your children.

To watch the video or access the resources, please click below:
- Bourke Street Incident - information on trauma and the effects on children
- Tips for talking with and helping children and young people cope after community violence

If you would like a print out of this sheet, please let me know.

**Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school**
The Education Department has asked me to remind parents that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.

In some circumstances, medical or other expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, that the Department is liable for negligent (careless) acts or omissions of its staff or volunteers.

It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to look into their preferred student accident insurance. The Department cannot provide advice to parents or guardians on the purchase of individual student accident policy or ambulance cover.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

**Anaphylaxis awareness**
We have an increasing number of children attending our school who have anaphylactic reactions to nuts, seeds and seafood. An anaphylactic reaction is very dangerous and in the worst case, can be fatal.

Because of the rise in allergic reactions and food intolerances in general in children, we aim to be a nut free school. Please bear in mind that I can never guarantee that we are totally nut free, as trace elements can be found in processed snacks and food.

Could I please request that children refrain from bringing any nut products to school, such as peanut butter sandwiches, muesli bars with nuts or packets of peanuts to school. Could parents also be aware when celebrating birthdays and baking those tempting cupcakes, that these too are nut free. We also discourage children from sharing their lunches and snacks because of the possibility of cross-contamination and possible allergic reactions that children can have. Can parents also please ensure that in date epi-pens are brought to school, current asthma management plans and /or medication is left with the class teacher and office and also that inhalers are
Student Safety
I would like to reiterate to our community that duty of care is of utmost importance at our school and the staff are always learning from experiences and endeavouring to improve the safety of our environment for all of our children. I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations that may arise and we practise it throughout the year. Most of our community will be aware that we have regular evacuation and lockdown drills to ensure everyone becomes familiar with what needs to happen should a real emergency occur.

I would also like to remind everyone that students should not arrive at school prior to 8.45am (when there is a teacher on duty in the playground), unless they are attending Befores. Similarly, all children should be in the care of a parent/carer if they are still at school after 3.45pm, when the teacher goes off duty. If children are unaccompanied by an adult outside the designated school supervision times, they will be taken into Afters to ensure their safety.

Also with the return to school all school zone speeds apply during designated school zone hours as does parking restrictions and our kiss and go zones. Please ensure that you always use the supervised crossings at all times when crossing the road with children.

No Dogs in the School Grounds
May I please request that all families heed our signs on our school gates that dogs are not brought into our school grounds at all. Children can be quite easily frightened by dogs that are unknown to them.

The only exceptions would be a pre-organised incursion or special visit to the classroom that has been authorised by the class teacher.

Many thanks for your support in keeping our children safe.

School Council Elections and Nominations
We are incredibly fortunate to have a proactive and supportive school council that helps guide the educational provision for your children.

Our council is made up of 15 members, 8 of those members are parents, 2 are parent community members and 5 are DET (Department of Education and Training) members. Each year, council members retire and new members from our school community are nominated or elected to be part of the school council for two years at a time.

In 2017 we have 7 members who will retire, 6 are Parent Members, 1 is a DET member. We also have a vacancy due to a family leaving the school. If you would like to be involved in our school council then please come in to my office and take a self-nomination form or a nomination form to be filled out by another parent.

Both of these forms will be available from my office from Monday 6th February and must be returned to me by Monday 20th February.

Should we receive more nominations than there are vacancies we will post the list of candidates and nominators on Tuesday 21st February for an election and members of school council will then be decided by a ballot. The ballot papers will distributed to our parent community on Wednesday 22nd February and the close of the ballot will be Wednesday 8th March. Should we however receive the number of nominations which equals the number of vacancies, we will then declare the poll and inform the school community, and those nominated are then considered elected.

Being on School Council involves two meetings per month, once a month on a Monday evening and another time, usually in the morning for a sub-committee meeting. Should parents like to be involved at school but are unable to commit to a school council schedule, there are other opportunities, such as class representative or membership on PFA or classroom helper, or during our working bees. We are always incredibly grateful for all the help which we receive from our parents.

Please don’t hesitate to ask any questions regarding how our school council operates.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
Assistant Principal

Welcome Back

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all families back to Armadale for 2017. We are sure that it is going to be a wonderful year with many great learning opportunities and experiences ahead of us. Talking to the children over the past couple of days I have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and the sense of fresh vitality that they bring to school. It is quite infectious. I will be taking some of the classes for ICT (Digital Technologies) this year and I am really looking forward to working with the students to discover some fantastic new innovations that have emerged in the Digital Technologies area. I will be working with the Year 3-6 students in Term 1 and one of our first tasks will be to ensure that they all have their Google for Education accounts working correctly. This will then allow them to save, share and collaborate on any number of documents or files quite seamlessly.

Tiqbiz

I know that you all use Tiqbiz as it is one of our main sources of quick and timely communications to you. Just a reminder to make sure that you go through and modify the boxes that you have ticked to make sure that you are only getting the information that is relevant to you and your children for this year. Please take a few moments to go through your Tiqbiz App and make sure that all relevant boxes are ticked. Then you will be ready to receive all the important updates and info.

Compass

A quick reminder about Compass too. Obviously you all accessed Compass for your children’s reports, but this year you will need Compass to inform us about your child’s absences and to give permission for all of the excursions that your child attends this year. Like all new processes, the first couple of times can be a little cumbersome, but the feedback from parents at other schools has been very positive.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Parents & Friends for Armadale (PFA)

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a great holiday. We will be holding our first PFA meeting on Tuesday 7th February at 2.30pm in the staffroom. Anyone interested in joining the PFA or wishing to pitch a fundraising idea please come along.

Anyone wishing to be a class rep please let Bec Bond know either in person or by email at rbond@citycentralgroup.com.au.

Our first school event will be the Welcome Picnic on Friday 17th February. Bring a picnic, and a rug and enjoy an evening catching up with the Armadale Family.

The Prep cocktail party will be held on Friday 3rd March again in the MPC. More details to follow early next week.

Looking forward to a great year together.

The Armadale PFA Committee
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

Student Banking

Student Banking will recommence Tuesdays from next week.

Look out for Parent Information Packs which will be sent home in the next few days and check out the new reward items on offer this year.

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 was distributed this week. Orders are due by Friday 10 February.

The easiest way to order is by LOOP – see details on the back page of the catalogue.

Alison Crone
Scholastic Book Club Co-ordinator
Sports News

Team Vic Trials
First up is the registration for Team Vic trials. This year we will not be running district trials for any sports. All students who wish to nominate for Basketball, Boys and Girls Soccer, AFL and Netball will have to nominate online at the address below. The nomination form from the School Sport Victoria website needs to be signed off by your school’s PE teacher. Nominations for the above sports close at 11.59pm on Friday 10 March.

Please go to the following link to access the registration page and information: https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au.

For nominations in all other sports (cricket, tennis, softball etc.) also see the Team Vic page on the School Sport Victoria website.

These sports have various nomination closing dates, please check the website to ensure you are aware of the closing dates.

House Swimming Sports

The House Swimming Sports for all students in Years 3-6 will be held at the Prahran pool on Monday 20 February. More information will be distributed next week.

Peter Cracknell
Sports Co-ordinator

No Hat No Play

A reminder to all students that they will need to bring a hat to school each day to wear when playing outside.

A new Greek Language School in your neighbourhood!

γειά σου
(yeia sou = hello)

New After-School Greek Language and Culture Program at Toorak Primary School

with

Modern pedagogical approaches and resources, including iPads, singing, dancing, creative drama.

Prep to Year 6

Every Monday 4.00pm - 7.00pm
(pre-class activities available from 3.30pm)

For further details and enrolment please visit: greekcommunity.com.au/toorak

 Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.
The Dollarmites are bringing the future to your school.

Since 1931, CommBank’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the now-look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park—a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards
School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland
The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AUS$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

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**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.facebook.com/bubblesoccerworldcup](http://www.facebook.com/bubblesoccerworldcup)
- [Instagram: bubblesoccerworldcup](https://www.instagram.com/bubblesoccerworldcup)

All funds raised will go to the Bully Zero Australia Foundation

**SATURDAY 4 FEB 2017**

10am - 7pm

**Birrarung Marr, Melbourne**

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**Junior Rockers**

**APPLY FOR MUSIC LESSONS NOW!**

Junior Rockers runs instrumental music lessons right here at school. To find out all about our music lessons, head to our website. From there you can check which instruments are available at your school, get up to date pricing and apply for lessons online.

[www.juniorrockers.com](http://www.juniorrockers.com)

Rather chat in person? We’d love to speak to you.

Call us on 1300 60 ROCK (1300 60 7625)

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**Chess Coaching**

Try out 1st lesson for free.

Where: Italian Room

When: Thursday Lunchtimes

9th Feb – 30th March 2017

Cost: $90 per term ($80 for 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 & payment in an enveloped marked “Chess Coaching” to the school office.

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**Child’s Full Name:**

**Grade:**

**School:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

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**Payment Due:**

Friday 24th February

**Cheques:** Payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”

**EFT:**

Bank: CBA

Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd

bsb: 065201 Acc: 10049289

**please place child’s name on Bank Ref**

$90 cheque: ☐  EFT: ☐

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Please complete a [2017 OOSHC registration form](#) to be able to use the Before and After School Out of School Hours Care (OOSHC) program in 2017. The form is available on the school website. All parents need to update the form each year.