Dear Armadale Community,

Our weeks of celebrating and showcasing continue this week with the children involved in many exciting learning opportunities. The Year 5&6 children have significant learning afforded to them by the Family Life sessions and from all accounts as the Year 6’s start their transition to secondary school, it was very appropriate timing. The Year 3&4 students enjoyed their animations and media TV incursions and thoroughly entertained the audience in assembly on Tuesday. Yesterday morning the Preps to Year 2 students enjoyed a Christmas performance from a Performing Arts team and we welcomed our new 2017 Prep children to meet their teacher and join their friends in their new classes.

End of Year Arrangements
Tuesday 13th December
Next week the celebrations continue with our normal assembly on Tuesday morning, 13th December followed by the Parent Helpers’ Morning Tea and then the whole school will enjoy a special education event brought to us by Guy Maine, Charli Maine’s dad. That evening we will celebrate our end of year concert starting promptly at 6pm in the quadrangle. Parents are invited to bring their own chairs and sit behind all the classes in the designated area and join in the community singing. We anticipate the concert should finish at around 7pm. As the children are performing, no alcohol is permitted in the school grounds.

Thursday 15th December
As part of our transition program all the children from Prep to Year 5 will meet their new 2017 teacher next Thursday at 10.30am. We will also welcome the children new to our school in 2017.

On Thursday evening 15th December, will be the celebration of the end of primary school for 50 Year 6 students at our Graduation Dinner. I know the children have been busy rehearsing their graduation speeches, their song and their disco moves. The Hon Kelly O’Dwyer MP, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services and Member for Higgins will be presenting the Higgins Medal to one of our young worthy recipients.

Friday 16th December
On Friday 16th December, we will be holding our final assembly for the year in the afternoon, commencing at 2.30 and the children will be dismissed at 3.30pm. At this assembly we will farewell staff and students who are leaving our school, we will have special musical items from the Hello Music orchestra and the whole school has the opportunity to say goodbye to our Year 6’s. We invite all of our community to join this very special assembly.

Monday 19th December is an in-school learning day where the teachers will be designing the next year ahead in their new teams. Children are not required at school and OOSHC is running a special program for those who would like to register.

School is open for the children as usual on Tuesday 20th December until 1.30pm, when the children will be dismissed to start their summer holidays. OOSHC will also be running a normal program until 6pm.

Should you need any further clarification please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.
Grade Structures for 2017

As the year draws to a close, while reflecting on 2016 I am consistently reminded of the extraordinarily committed and wonderful community we foster at Armadale Primary School. The love the children have for their learning and how hardworking our teaching and administration staff have been. It is also a time of change. The Year 6s are graduating, our Preps will be Year 1s, and once again we welcome new families in 2017 as 60 new Prep students will start at Armadale Primary next year.

But I am equally reminded as the Principal of a local primary school, we are restricted by our enrolment numbers each year and the funding the government provides per student. We are a vibrant school with healthy enrolments, that fluctuate and vary each year.

With the view to getting the best outcome for all our students along with the restrictions we have with funding, we have made some changes to the class structures for 2017.

As you are aware we were afforded the opportunity in 2016 of having single classes from Year 1 to Year 6, a first for Armadale Primary with the level 1-4s, but with the movement of the children to their next year levels, the children that leave our school mid primary school years and the number of new students starting, we will once again be making changes that best meet the needs of our students.

To ensure that all students and teachers have classes of fair sizes and to continue working within our Government’s financial restraints we will be changing our class structures to the following for 2017:

♦ 3 classes of Prep – located downstairs in the Infant building
♦ 4 classes of Year 1 – located in the double storey portable
♦ 3 classes of Year 2 – located in 3 of the single portables
♦ 4 classes of Year 3&4 (multi age) – located in the main building
♦ 3 classes of Year 5&6 (multi age) – located upstairs in the Infant building
♦ single storey portable
♦ Italian will be located in the main building opposite the Arts studio
♦ Health and PE will be located in the MPC.

As you will all appreciate an extraordinary amount of time and effort goes into ensuring we generate the best outcome for our students. As Principal, in consultation with our teaching staff and financial budgets we have agreed this will be our best structure for 2017.

I look forward to the students meeting their teachers and new classmates on Thursday 15th December at 10.30am.

Staffing news

I will publish our 2017 staffing once we have finalised the recruitment process with one graduate position still open. This will be finalised early next week.

However, I must let our community know that a very excited Jennie Pearse has decided to leave the books on the shelves and the reading in the reading corner and contemplate her next travel plans, tree change or just spending more time with her family. Jennie has tendered her resignation from the Education Department which will be effective at the end of term 1 in 2017. However, because Jennie has accumulated enough long service leave, Tuesday 20th December will be her last day of teaching at our school. I know through Jennie’s love of the children she has touched many of their lives and they will have fond memories of stories about Mr Pearse, the chooks and the dogs. I hope our community will be present at our final assembly next Friday where we will all farewell Jennie! I hope all of the children will get the chance to speak to Mrs Pearse and share a fond memory with her during this next week.

Parent Helpers’ Morning Tea

Could everyone in our community who has helped in any way throughout the year in the classrooms, out of the classrooms, on excursions or incursions, sporting days or at swimming, please take

this as a personal invitation to have morning tea with the staff on Tuesday 13th December, just after assembly at 9.30am. The morning tea will be set up under the plane tree outside the MPC.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
Assistant Principal

Armadale Orchestra
The children who participate in the Hello Music Armadale Orchestra performed beautifully on the weekend at a Carols by Daylight concert event at Deakin Edge, Fed Square - to a full house! These children have been learning a range of instruments over the course of this year and by all accounts they looked and sounded very professional.

The Carols by Daylight performance will be televised on C31 and Digital44 on 24th December at 2pm and 25th December at 5am. Please mark this in your diaries so that you can watch this wonderful performance.

Next year they will offer cello, violin, flute and singing classes after school, to students who wish to learn in shared or private classes. They will also be performing at our final assembly on Friday 16th December.

Chromebooks for Year 5 students
As I have mentioned in previous newsletter articles all our senior students from Year 3 up are gradually being set up with their Google apps for education accounts (now called G-suite). To enhance this even more, the Year 5 students now have the opportunity to purchase a new Lenovo 11e Yoga Chromebook which has a 360 degree rotating hinge and touchscreen giving it the best aspects of a notebook and tablet computer. Unfortunately this opportunity is only open to the Year 5 students at this stage. Click here to access the Armadale Parent Portal to begin your purchase.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Parents & Friends for Armadale (PFA)
A thank you from last week. Thank you to Rob from Bakers Delight in Hawksburn who donated 30 loaves of bread to our Family Fun Night. Please support the people who support us and go buy a loaf or two from him and say thanks in person.

Thank you also to Lucy in 1P who left us the lovely note under the PFA door.

We are still looking for a class rep co-ordinator for next year which essentially is a liaison job between PFA and the class reps.

If you think you would like to do it contact Janine Sheean on Sheean.janine.j@edumail.vic.gov.au for more details.

Icy Poles will be on sale this Friday at 11am.

Save these dates for next year:
❖ Thursday 2nd February 9am Welcome Morning Tea for new Prep parents
❖ Friday 17th February 5.30 til 8 pm Welcome Picnic
❖ Friday 3rd March 7-10pm Prep Cocktail Party

The Armadale PFA Committee
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

Student Banking

The following students have been awarded Dollarmites Certificates this week:
❖ Thomas Hunt (Bronze)
❖ Ava Roufail (Silver)
❖ Aerin O’Keefe (Silver)
❖ Isabella Taylor (Gold)

Well done to all students for their consistent saving.

Please note that this is the last week for Student Banking this year.

Remember to take your bank books home and banking will resume in February 2017.

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator
Scholastic Book Club

Book Club orders for Issue 8 were delivered to school this week and have been distributed.
This is the final order for 2016.

Alison Crone
Book Club Co-ordinator

Sports News

Swimming Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 students
The final swimming lesson for Term 4 takes place tomorrow:
- **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

**Tommy Lahiff Cup Glory**
Congratulations to the Year 6’s involved in The Tommy Lahiff Cup Round Robin AFL 9’s day last week. The boys’ team finished second in their competition. The girls were equal first with Albert Park Primary School and will share The Tommy Lahiff Cup as Premiers. A fantastic effort by all. Special thanks to Zaim Zeneli and Kate Pilgrim for their coaching throughout the day.

**Armadale Tornadoes**
Congratulations to the Year 1 boys’ basketball team the ‘Armadale Tornadoes’ under the excellent coaching of Andrew Ajani (father of Ted) who won their semi-final last Friday! All the parents really appreciate Andrew’s dedication and efforts for both the Sunday training sessions and Friday night games.

Peter Cracknell
Sports Co-ordinator

The Tommy Lahiff Cup teams
Year 5/6 Wellbeing Rotations

Last Monday we completed another round of our Wellbeing rotations. Below is a summary of the activities we undertook with your children. Next week the Year 5/6’s will be teaching the Year 3/4 students a 15 minute lesson from their Wellbeing sessions.

‘M Power Girls’

In Girl Power, the girls learnt about the importance of honesty, trust, inclusiveness, tolerance, straight taking and being happy with one’s self. Each girl wrote a letter to herself reflecting on the last year, celebrating their achievements and acknowledging their lows. Some girls decided to share their letters with the group and we discussed how we can learn from each other.

‘Mindfulness eating and Meditation’

In our session, we looked at Mindful eating and Meditation. Mindful eating is eating with intention and attention, eating slowly, without distraction. The students were given a chocolate, they had to close their eyes and use their senses to touch, smell, then taste the chocolate! We then discussed why we slowed down to eat the chocolate. The students then participated in a 3 minute Smiling Mind Meditation.

Some quotes from the students after the session:
“Mindfulness is relaxing and focussing on nothing, so you can be relaxed.”
“Mindfulness is relaxing and letting your body have some quite time.”
“I think mindfulness is relaxing our brain and taking our time.”
“Mindfulness is taking time to think about things and be thankful for everything no matter how small.”

‘Animal Flow Rotation’

Animal Flow is a form of bodyweight training that combines a variety of disciplines including yoga, capoeira, gymnastics, parkour and break-dancing. Animal Flow also involves primal movements like the travelling breast, travelling crab and the travelling ape. This is a fun and new way for students to get moving, it helps with well-being, concentration, coordination, fitness, flexibility and mobility. In this rotation students were taught the foundations of Animal Flow. They learnt different stretches, travelling forms and a variety of movements. These movements were then put together to create a flow.

‘Physical, Emotional and Social Wellbeing’

Students focused on how to maintain a physically active lifestyle, while supporting it with fuelling their body the right way, through the food and drinks they consume. Students then created a poster to promote healthy eating and physical activity. The social aspect of the lesson was based on friendships and what characteristics they display that make them good friends. Finally, students looked at the emotions they display while at school and how they react to these emotions. The purpose of this session was for students to see wellbeing as a holistic approach to being healthy, rather than focusing on one aspect.
ARMA DALE PRIMARY SCHOOL’S

CELEBRATION CONCERT 2016

TUESDAY • 13 DECEMBER • 6PM TO 7PM

BYO CHAIR • DRESS UP IN CHRISTMAS COLOURS • SONGS FROM EACH LEVEL

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELCOME!
Tackers is an Australian Sailing program for kids aged 7-12. Delivered by AS accredited instructors, the program is based around FUN on-water & off-water games to teach kids the basics of sailing!

**When**
- December 2016: 6th – 9th, 12th – 16th, 19th – 23rd
- January 2017: 9th – 13th, 16th – 20th, 23rd – 24th

**Where**
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info@theboathed.net.au
www.theboathed.net.au

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School Holiday Day Camp
16th - 20th January

Campers choose their own schedule from 15+ activities

1 : 6 staff ratio

Programs for Prep - Year 8

AFL, Tennis, Basketball,
Soccer, Glee Club,
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**A unique multi-sport holiday program**

- 9am-1pm $40  9am-3pm $50
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- Operating every school holidays
- 2-12 years old

For more info and bookings visit www.allsporttz.com.au

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**BEACH HOUSE**  
**GREAT OCEAN ROAD**

We would like to share our beach house with an APS family for two weeks when we are unable to use it mid January. It is simple, modern and light. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, sleeps 8. Walk 400 metres to the beach or national park.

Please call Michelle 0412078652.

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**Bully Zero**  
**BUBBLE SOCCER WORLD CUP**

Ages 5-15

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John Saunders  
B Psych, M Sp Path, MSPAA

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