Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to the start of the 2014 year. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing break and feel fully recharged to embrace what 2014 will bring. My husband and I enjoyed a 2 week holiday in Koh Samui and Bangkok, Thailand and whilst the resort and beaches were beautiful, I was incredibly grateful to come home to Melbourne and be able to enjoy all the fabulous freedoms and luxuries we have at our fingertips. I don’t think it is until we are overseas that we are reminded of just how lucky we are to live in Australia.

I was delighted to see just how excited the children were yesterday to be back at school and to see their friends and teachers again. Malcolm and I visited every classroom in the morning to welcome the children back and it didn’t take them long at all to get back into the swing of things and start reflecting on their holidays and making new friends, setting learning expectations for their classrooms and sorting out all their new books and equipment. I would like to acknowledge all the work undertaken by our incredibly hard working staff, who all came in at some point during their holidays to set up their rooms, move furniture, decorate classrooms and making sure everything was in readiness for yesterday’s start. Anyone who feels teachers have long holidays don’t know the teachers at Armadale Primary!

The children will undoubtedly be tired over the next few weeks, the hot weather of course doesn’t help so please limit their after school activities. I expect they will just want to come home and relax and enjoy a refreshing afternoon tea. It will be great to reset those bedtime routines that help children get to sleep early so they can manage a full day at school. An early dinner, followed by bath time, reading in bed and no computers are usually a tried and true sequence that helps them settle early. School children benefit from at least 10 hours of sleep as a minimum each night. With the heat that is expected during the next few weeks, please ensure that all the children have a water bottle and their sun hats and that sunscreen has been applied in the mornings and students are able to reapply it during the day as required. Please also consider appropriate snacks / fruits for during the day, salty snacks will increase thirst and dairy snacks may not last during hot weather. Thank you to all those parents who are already practising “nude food” in children’s lunchboxes. The school has developed “extreme weather” timetables and when the temperature reaches over 36 degrees we will keep the children inside during the day.

Just also a gentle reminder to all our parents and grandparents regarding cars and young children in the summer months. Melbourne will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period.

Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.

Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death.

Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

Principal’s report continued over page...
School Lunch Orders

Lunches from Classroom Cuisine will resume from next Monday 3 February. Please go to the school website for all the details about ordering. Click here.

Please note that the Beatty Avenue milk bar will no longer be supplying lunches.

Updating School Records

At the start of each school year we ask parents to contact the office with any changes or updates to your child/ren’s enrolment information. If you have any changes to:

- Phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Home address
- Emergency contacts or
- Changes to family arrangements

please email the school at armadale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or put the changes in writing and bring them to the office as soon as possible so that we have the most current information relating to your child.

Thank you.

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 DEECD members. Each year, half the 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 2014 we have 5 parent members and 2 staff members who will retire. Parents may complete a self-nomination form or may be nominated by another parent to be on school council. Both of these forms will be available from my office from Friday January 31st onwards and must be completed and returned to me by Friday 7th February by 4.00pm. Should we receive more nominations than there are vacancies I will post the list of candidates and nominators on Monday 10th February for an election and members of school council will then be decided by a ballot. The ballot papers will be distributed to our parent community on Friday 14th February and the close of the ballot will be Friday 21st February. Should we however receive the number of nominations which equals the number of vacancies, I will then declare the poll and inform the school community, and those nominated are considered elected.

I have provided information from the Education Department on the following page for parents to peruse which explains the process and role of school councils and it would be great if parents would consider this opportunity. The role would involve 2 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.

Wishing you all a wonderful first week back

Warm regards

Rochelle Cukier
Principal

“NO HAT NO PLAY”

A reminder to all students to be Sunsmart at school. We have now implemented the “no hat no play” policy. So remember to apply sunscreen, wear your hat when outside and bring a water bottle to school each day.
School Council Elections 2014
What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

♦ A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

♦ A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

♦ An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.
DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
Consider standing for election to council this year
Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

You Can Do It! Awards
will return next week

Years 5&6 Canberra Camp
This is a reminder that the camp deposit of $100 needs to be paid by Monday 17 February if students in Years 5 or 6 are attending.
Camp is from 5-8 May inclusive.
Apologies for omitting the credit card payment form from last December’s note. Please write your details on the bottom of the form if you wish to pay by credit card.
Robin Nicolson

Library News
Welcome back to the library in 2014. A big thank you to Sara on her fantastic work in the library in 2013 and previous years. Sara will be back for Book Week this year and we wish her well with child number three on the way!
There will be a new section to come this year in the library and I look forward to introducing it in the coming term.
Happy reading,
Brett Leyshan
Parents and Friends for Armadale (PFA)

Hi everyone,

Welcome back everyone!

Wasn’t it a lovely drop-off yesterday - the yard was abuzz with excitement and expectation.

Such was the excitement in our household Tuesday evening that our younger daughter ‘pranked’ us at bed time by throwing off her sheets to reveal she was fully dressed in school uniform, socks and shoes! Meanwhile, our older daughter attached a new bag tag to her anklet as a reminder to attach it to her bag in the morning!

We send a warm welcome to our Preps who started today and very much enjoyed sharing a cup of tea and biscuit with both old and new parents and families this morning in the Hall. Please remember that the PFA is here to assist with any support you may need, so please don’t hesitate to contact us.

For those not familiar with the PFA, our role is to offer support to the parents, friends and children within the Armadale Primary School community. We are also the major fundraising body for the school. All funds raised go to improving our children’s play areas and educational experiences. Last year our ‘Greening of APS’ initiative was able to raise approximately $53K which was spent on synthetic turf to enable both active and passive play in areas that were previously quite barren along with a fresh painting of the Infant Hall. This year we are getting ‘Back to the Future’ where we will celebrate our 130th birthday with a Fete and Open Day along with many other activities and festivities. We welcome all volunteers and input at any time. Each week in the newsletter we will advise you of upcoming dates to diarise.

Please note the following for you diary next month:

Friday 21 February – School Welcome Picnic
All parents and children are invited to our annual school welcome picnic on Friday 21 February from 6pm onwards. The picnic is held in the school grounds and is a fantastic opportunity to meet and socialise with others in the school community. The children just love it and have a fabulous time. There will be supervised sporting activities for the children from 6.30pm – 7.30pm on the tennis courts. Stay tuned for more details about the evening in next week’s newsletter and we may also be in need of a few volunteers on the night, so keep an eye out for further information and flyers around the school.

Class Representatives
Each year we ask for volunteers to act as Class Representative for your child’s class. The role is a fantastic way to be more involved in your child’s class and the school community. Most importantly, it is really enjoyable and not demanding. Responsibilities include preparing rosters for classroom helpers, assisting with sausage sizzles, classroom morning teas, cocktail parties, and assisting with the Healthy Breakfast later in the year. If you would like any further information on the role, please don’t hesitate to contact us to discuss. The first Class Reps meeting for the year will be held in the next few weeks – details will be advised shortly.

Cocktail Parties
Each year, we hold a cocktail party for parents in each year level. Details will be provided as soon as we get the Class Reps on board to discuss requirements. These parties are always a great night out, and a wonderful chance to meet parents and staff in an informal setting.

Icy Poles
The children love these! They are sold every Friday at recess during terms 1 & 4. They start tomorrow – Friday 31st – and are a bargain at $1.00 each. Simply send the money with your child every Friday.

If you are interested in being a Class Representative, then please come to the APS meeting next Thursday after drop-off and put your hand up, complete the form on our website by clicking here or go to the website at www.armadaleps.vic.edu.au – under the ‘Parents’ and then ‘Forms’ tab, or email Brig or myself direct with your details. Please return your completed form or advice to the office by Friday 14th February 2014.

Don’t forget icy poles are for sale tomorrow - only $1
Welcome back! This year we have some exciting new reward items available which are detailed in the information packs being sent home with each student over the coming week.

Student banking will be on Tuesdays, starting from 11 February. Remember to bring in your Dollarmites deposit book completed with money enclosed and hand to your teacher on Tuesday mornings.

Happy saving!

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator

STUDENT BANKING STARTING TUESDAYS FROM 11 FEBRUARY

New Menu Planning Service
Secretly helping you to be a Domestic Goddess

Is your dream to:
- Be a working mum and a domestic goddess – a hero to your family
- Have a more organised life
- Be praised by your family for your delicious meals
- Save time and money
- Get the kids to all their interests and still eat well
- Reduce the number of takeaway meals because life is too busy

We can help you achieve all that and more!

We have prepared balanced, healthy, weekly menus you’re your family... We also advocate online food shopping to save your time and energy.

All menus come with an organisational plan, a shopping list, a complete list of recipes, and tips to help you keep your food fresh all week long.

With our help you can be the domestic goddess you’ve always dreamed of being!

To learn more, go to our website: www.myrestedlegs.com

......... join NOW to receive 4 weeks of menus for just $10/month.

Learn to sail with Tackers!

Tackers is a Yachting Australia program aimed at getting kids aged 7-12 into sailing.

Each program includes:
- 20 hours tuition from qualified instructors,
- Fun on-water & off-water games and
- A Tackers Kit & Certificate.

Where
Elwood Sailing Club

When
Saturday mornings Term 1

Contact us now!
0417 508 483,
training@elwoodsc.com or
www.elwoodsc.com

Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.
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