Dear Parents,

We are incredibly lucky to have such an active and informed School Council and PFA. Our PFA have been very creative in organising the beautiful Mother’s day present, under the talented directorship of Sarah Monahan and Niki Rickard and with help from many other Mums and class representatives. I am sure all of our Mums will be delighted with their present. Most recently the Curriculum sub-committee of School Council has been working on the development of two policies, the first being Homework and the second, looking at Raising Concerns and Complaints. I am very grateful to the parents on School Council for their preliminary work on these policies. Our Homework Policy requires reviewing and the Raising Concerns and Complaints Policy is a new one for our school and will provide the community with guidelines on the protocols and processes to follow, should you have a concern or complaint. With regards to the Homework Policy, we are providing the opportunity for parents, staff and our students to express their views. For parents, this will be through a survey and I will run focus groups with our students. Please find below the preamble and link to our survey.

Homework survey

Armadaire Primary is in the process of reviewing and updating the Homework Policy, within the framework provided by the Department of Education and Training (DET, previously DEECD). Your views are extremely important to us and we would be grateful if you could please spare 5-10 minutes to complete a survey from us.

Background Information:

Homework is defined as "tasks assigned by the teacher to be carried out in non-school hours" (Harris Cooper, 'Synthesis of research on homework: Grade level has a dramatic influence on homework's effectiveness’ (1989) 1(47) Educational Leadership 85).

Homework includes reading (by child and/or parent) AND specific tasks set by the teacher (worksheets, spelling etc).

In 2014, the Education and Training Committee released a report, Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools, with their findings on the approaches to homework in Victorian schools, focusing on the impact on student learning. One of the recommendations contained in the report is that homework policies should be up-to-date and based on comprehensive and current research. The current Homework Policy at Armadale Primary School was developed in 2007, and as such, it is being reviewed and updated by the School Council.

The DET has developed and published guidelines to assist schools in developing their homework policies. Any changes made to the Homework Policy at APS will be aligned with these Homework Expectations and Homework Guidelines.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to find out exactly how you feel about all aspects of homework. The results from the survey will provide key facts that will help in our future planning and updating of the APS Homework Policy, within the DET framework. The information you provide is strictly confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

continued over page ...

Address: Densham Road, Armadale 3143
School Phone: 03 9822 7003
Website: www.armadaleps.vic.edu.au
OOSH Phone: 03 9822 4912
School Fax: 03 9824 8954
Email: armadale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
OOSH Email: ooshc@hotmail.com

This Week’s Events

Thursday 30 April
♦ Prep daffodil stall 3.00pm

Friday 1 May
♦ Grade 6 excursion to CERES
♦ Grade 6 Cocktail Party

Coming Events

Thursday 7 May
♦ Mothers’ Day afternoon tea 2.00pm

Friday 8 May
♦ Grades 3&4 Cocktail Party

Saturday 9 May
♦ Working Bee 9.00am-12.00pm

Friday 15 May
♦ Homework survey questionnaires to be completed
♦ Grades 1&2 Cocktail Party

Friday 22 May
♦ Grades 3&4 Cocktail Party

Click here to go to our school website calendar for more details on coming events
This Week’s Awards

Performing Artists of the Week:
- Madi McGrory

Performing Art Classes of the Week:
- 3/4C

Visual Artist of the Week:
- Kaya Cho

Visual Art Class of the Week:
- 3/4E

You Can Do It! Awards:
- Krushna Panyam Prep P
- Isabella Taylor Prep C
- Mavi Imam Prep S
- Cleo Laughton 1/2D
- Zach Larner 1/2E
- Alfie Holuigue 1/2W
- Connor Seremelis 1/2P
- Mia Kliegl 1/2K
- Edwin Pallaty 3/4A
- Ava Ypinazar 3/4C
- Henry Steele 3/4C
- Henni Graham 3/4E
- Samuel Stringer 3/4E
- Anthrolle Croos 3/4J
- Siobhan McGann 3/4J
- Stella Mayer 3/4J
- Holly Wright 5B
- Bella Cullity 6N
- Amy Catrice 6N

Action Requested:
Can you please complete ONE questionnaire per student at APS by Friday May 15th. We are hoping for a 100% completion rate in order to be able to gather an accurate representation of family opinions as it relates to each of their children.

If you have more than one child at Armadale Primary School, PLEASE COMPLETE ONE SURVEY FOR EACH CHILD. There is no need to repeat any general comments you have in each subsequent survey. If your comments refer to previous years at APS, please highlight which year and level your comment refers to (e.g. “2013 Grade 1”)

Please find below the direct link to the survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3KV3QGH

We appreciate and thank you for your time. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me by phone or by email cukier.rochelle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Congratulations to our wonderful talented performers

On the 18th and 19th of April, Lucia and Olivia Martin, Julia and Martha Conheady, Amy Catrice and Jett Bolt competed in the Crown International Dance Competition at the Crown complex. There was a variety of events including classical ballet, jazz, tap, troupe and contemporary dance. All of the girls did incredibly well with Lucia and Julia winning 2nd place in Classical Ballet and Contemporary respectively. Martha, Amy and Jett all in Year 6, were awarded first prize in their U13 ‘Song n Dance’ troupe! I am hoping the girls will perform a snapshot of their dance troupe at next week’s assembly.

Attitude to School Survey (ATSS)
All students in Years 5 and 6 completed a statewide survey today from the Department of Education and Training (DET) called the Attitudes to School Survey. This survey aims to measure students’ feelings whilst at school, with a particular focus on their wellbeing & safety, their levels of connectedness to their peers/school as well as their engagement with their learning.

In term 3 we will receive a report from DET which will show how students at Armadale Primary feel in comparison to all other schools in Victoria. In the last 2 years we have received some of the highest results in our region on all the categories surveyed and I do look forward to sharing these results with you in the newsletter when they become available later in the year.

Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea May 7th in the MPC
I am very excited about the forthcoming afternoon tea that our PFA and Class reps have organised. This is a delightful opportunity to honour and acknowledge our Armadale Mums and Grandmothers with a special afternoon tea and to listen to guest speakers associated with the Royal Women’s Hospital. There will be a raffle with sumptuous prizes and I hope all of our Mums are able to attend and enjoy some very special “Mum” time. Please read the PFA section on how to purchase tickets as I believe they are selling quickly.

Year 6 Cocktail party
Thank you very much to Michelle and Anthony lezzi for so generously offering to host the Year 6 cocktail party tomorrow evening. We look forward to the opportunity to chat to the parents in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
I was fortunate enough to attend an eSmart Schools conference on Friday and found it very interesting and informative.

eSmart schools is an initiative mainly funded by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and promotes the safe and secure online learning for students. We have agreed to become an eSmart school and will need to fulfil a number of compliance measures in order to achieve this (in a similar way to becoming a 5 Star Sustainable School). It will be a very beneficial process for the school to go through and the staff, students and parents will all learn a range of new measures to become smarter and safer online. As an example, here is a list of the Top 10 Safety Tips for Parents. We also plan to run a parent workshop in Term 3, which will provide parents with lots of great advice about keeping your children safe and secure whilst online.

Waste Warrior Certificates
As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we will be awarding the children who consistently bring Nude Food to school a special Waste Warrior Certificate to acknowledge the great work they are doing for our environment. We have collected the checklists from the Green Team reps from each class and we will try to get the certificates printed this week and distributed to the students. It looks like there were many students who achieved the required 5 ticks, which is a great effort.

If your child didn’t quite make it this time, we will have a second round in a couple of weeks’ time. Congratulations and thank you to all of the students who consistently bring Nude Food to school. You are making a big difference to our environment.

Working Bee Sat 9 May
Just another reminder about our Working Bee which will be held on Saturday 9th May from 9.00am-12.00pm. We will be planting some succulents on the day so any donations of these would be greatly appreciated. You can bring them on the day or before, just leave them with me and I will look after them until the Working Bee. Any gardening tools that you can bring along are always much appreciated as our own supply is quite limited.

We recognise that many families are busy on Saturday mornings so if you can’t make it we would really appreciate a payment in lieu of attendance of $30 (see page 6 for the form or click here for the link on our school website).

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal

Student Banking
The following students have qualified for a Bronze Dollarmites Certificate for making 10 deposits this year:

♦ Freddie Moffat
♦ Priscilla Moffat

See page 9 for the latest school banking competition.

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator

Library News

Library Club: Is a passive play option for Students to enjoy on Thursday Recess, I have no doubt it’ll become increasingly popular on days when the temperature is quite cold.

Term 2 Theme
E-mail me a photo of your pet and I will print it out and display in the library!

Happy reading.
Brett Leyshan
Leyshan.brett.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
Performing Arts News

Performing Arts Class of the Week:
3/4C
for always working incredibly hard in Performing Arts. You work together brilliantly as a team and strive to always perform your best. Fantastic job!

Assembly Performances
Abi, Finlay, Carrie and Campbell from Prep told us the story of Theodore the Dragon, who can’t help but eat stinky garlic and onion sandwiches! They did a wonderful job of teaching us that everyone is important, no matter how terrible their (metaphorical!) breath.

Junior Singing Club
Junior Singing Club will also be performing at the Mothers’ Day afternoon tea! Remember that there has also been a tiny change to the Singing Club times - instead of Wednesday lunch time, Singing Club is now during Wednesday recess. This allows the big kids to come and help out. Remember that Singing Club is all about having fun and getting involved. If you would still like to join, please come along! We welcome new members and there’s still time to learn our current song.

Year 5 and 6 Performing Arts Folder
Performing Arts in Year 5 and 6 requires a lot more scripts and other papers that are not often used in the younger year levels. As such, it is becoming important to keep these documents organised. In a few weeks’ time, it will be expected that every student in Year 5 and 6 bring along their ‘Performing Arts folder’ to class each week. If they are in Glee Club, this can be the same folder. It can be a display folder, manilla folder, or any other folder you have spare in the house - it does not need to be new! I thank you for your help in making sure we learn and experience as much as possible in Performing Arts.

Yours in theatre,
Lisa Vollugi.
Performing Arts Teacher

Glee Club
We’re gearing up for our first performance at the Mothers’ Day afternoon tea in two weeks! Remember that there has been a tiny change in rehearsal time - instead of beginning 15 minutes into lunch on Tuesdays, rehearsals will now begin at the start. They will finish at 1pm, allowing plenty of time to still play. If you have made a commitment to be in Glee Club, please honour your commitment until at least the end of Term 2 when you can reconsider your options. Make sure that you’re bringing along your Glee Club folder!

Notizie d’italiano

Congratulazione to 1/2K!
1/2K won the pizza punti for term 1. They were excellent listeners and attentive learners during their Italian lessons. 1/2K cooked pizza in the staffroom during their lesson last week.

“The pizza was very yummy, it was a bit saucy!” Imogen

“We all helped to make the margherita pizzas. I loved making and eating the pizza”

Vita Vampatella
Italian Language Co-ordinator
Visual Arts News

Visual Artist of the Week:
Kaya Cho 6N

For the excellent skills she displayed when using posca pen to draw her Street Art character and for coming up with an original which had characteristics of street art.

Visual Art Class of the Week:  3/4E
For their excellent street art designs and their realistic paintings of brick walls. Keep up the great work 3/4E!

Year 6 ANZAC Spirit Mural Progress
Painting on the water tank will commence this week and will continue through to next week. Please be aware if there are witches hats placed around the tank, this means the paint is wet and you cannot touch or go near the tank. Thank you for respecting the ANZAC Spirit Mural.

Year 6 Art Club
Year 6 Art Club students will begin painting their portraits this week. We have spent the previous lessons researching and finding a subject to paint. Students have also done a grey lead drawing on paper of their portraits using grids to help copy the image and get the exact proportions. We then transferred this knowledge when drawing the outline onto canvas. Well done everyone these are coming along nicely!

Swimming
The final days of swimming continue next week on Monday and Tuesday for the students in Years 3,4,5 & 6.

Milo morning
Tuesday 4 May for Years 3-6
To celebrate the end of a great swimming program, next Tuesday 4 May we will have warm milo and ANZAC biscuits for the Years 3,4,5 & 6 students. There is no cost for students, so please bring along your favourite mug for a warm milo.

Sports Leaders & House Captains
Peter Cracknell
Sports Co-ordinator

Sketch on paper by Lexi Picciani 6Z

Sketch on paper by Kaya Cho 6N

Lucy Gorman
Visual Arts Co-ordinator
For those parents who will be unable to attend the Working Bee on Saturday 9 May, we would be grateful if you could make a $30 contribution to our Working Bee fund for ongoing maintenance.

Please complete your details below:

☐ I would like to make a $30 (or other amount) donation to the APS Grounds fund

Family Name: ________________  Pay by:  □ Cash  □ Cheque  □ Credit Card  □ Qkr!

☐ Direct Deposit to Armadale PS Account BSB 083 298 A/C No: 02 891 1383

*please note on your direct deposit transaction your Family Name & Working Bee*

Amount: $30.00 or $________  □ MasterCard  □ Visa

Expiration Date: _____ / _____  Cardholder’s Name: ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________

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**Working Bee**

Thank you to the following families who are unable to attend the working bee on Saturday 9 May and made a donation to our grounds fund:

- Spears
- Ward
- Ypinazar
- Karafili
The 5 Keys of YCDI! Education
Our core purpose is the development of young people’s social and emotional capabilities, including:

- Confidence (academic, social)
- Persistence
- Organisation
- Getting Along, and
- Resilience.

Central to the development of these 5 Key Foundations is instilling in young people 12 Habits of the Mind, including:

- Accepting Myself
- Taking Risks
- Being Independent
- I Can Do It
- Giving Effort
- Working Tough
- Setting Goals
- Planning My Time
- Being Tolerant of Others
- Thinking First
- Playing by the Rules, and
- Social Responsibility

For the lovely manners he uses and for speaking respectfully to everyone in his class.

Krushna Panyam Prep P

For being a helpful person by showing another child where the compost bin is located in the school yard. Thank you for keeping our school clean Isabella!

Isabella Taylor Prep C

For his wonderful efforts when creating a labelled drawing of a killer whale. Well done Mavi!

Mavi Imam Prep S

For her increased confidence in all areas of school and always striving to do her very best. Keep it up, Cleo!

Cleo Laughton 1/2D

For his wonderful skill with words, used so sensitively in his ANZAC poem.

Zach Larner 1/2E

For his fabulously positive attitude to all aspects of the school day. You are a great role model, Alfie.

Alfie Holuigue 1/2W

For his most informative and interesting presentation of his recent trip to Sri Lanka. 1/2P felt that they were with you on your holiday!

Connor Seremelis1/2P

For her positive attitude towards her learning and her fellow class members.

Mia Kliegl 1/2K

For enthusiastically participating in Footsteps.

Edwin Pallaty 3/4A

For being a respectful and hardworking member of the class and for demonstrating a positive attitude to all her learning. Great job Ava, keep it up!

Ava Ypinazar 3/4C

For demonstrating a positive, hardworking and organised approach to all areas of his learning. What a star Henry!

Henry Steele 3/4C

For always enthusiastically participating at Swimming and in Footsteps. You are always trying your best Henni and it is fantastic to see. You should be very proud, I am!

Henni Graham 3/4E

For always trying your hardest at Swimming and working so beautifully in your new swimming group. Your dedication is fantastic Samuel. Keep it up!

Samuel Stringer 3/4E

For demonstrating increasing confidence during his swimming lessons. Keep it up Anthrolle.

Anthrolle Croos 3/4J

For demonstrating confidence and respect whilst performing the song "In Flanders Fields" at assembly. Well done.

Siobhan McGann 3/4J

For demonstrating confidence and respect whilst performing the song "In Flanders Fields" at assembly. Well done.

Stella Mayer 3/4J

For her active involvement in the hockey gala day where she demonstrated some awesome tackling skills to "steal" the ball before the opposition knew about it. Thanks for your contribution Holly!

Holly Wright 5B

For her positive approach to the hockey gala day and determination whilst playing - you obviously enjoyed yourself and your team skills were fantastic!

Bella Cullity 6N

For always showing a positive attitude to her schoolwork and a really calm, determined approach to various tasks. It’s a pleasure having you in the class!

Amy Catrice 6N

You Can Do It! Awards
Hi everyone,

At yesterday’s assembly we had the amazing pleasure of listening to Siobhan and Stella sing. For two young girls they really were very impressive. If you would love to hear more of the same, the Mother’s Day Event on Thursday 4th May will also be graced with the girls and some of APS’s other amazing singers as guests enter the event.

Mother’s Day: Friday 8th May 2015
In line with APS sustainability policy, last week & this week our children have been getting creative and making a special tea towel in lieu of the Mother’s day stall. A special thank you must go to Sarah & Nikki who have run this project and to all our amazing class reps for all their help. Every child will take their tea towel home on Friday 8th May.

Special Mother’s Day Event:
Armadale Primary is also hosting a special Afternoon Tea on Thursday 7th May at 2.00pm, to help celebrate Mother’s day. Mothers & Friends (Grandmothers, Aunties etc) of Armadale Primary School are invited to attend an afternoon tea “to celebrate motherhood”.

Tickets will be $20, which will include a glass of bubbles on arrival, afternoon tea and a guest speaker.

There will also be a raffle with some amazing prizes, such as a High Tea at Moss Green, Seneca linen package, Miss Chic beauty pack, amongst others. Raffle tickets will be $5 each or 3 for $10.

An invitation with all the details of a special event has been sent home with every student this week.

Hopefully, we will see lots of Mothers/Grandmothers/Aunties/special friends on Thursday 7th May.

Grade 1/2 Cocktail Party:
The Grade 1/2 Cocktail party is to be held on Friday 15th May from 7pm to 9pm at Harry Hall – tickets available via trybooking. The invitations are to be distributed this coming week by your class rep.

Grade 3/4 Cocktail Party:
The Grade 3/4 Cocktail party is to be held on Friday 22nd May from 7pm to 9pm At Harry Hall or Lona depending on numbers – tickets available via trybooking. The invitations are to be distributed shortly by your class rep.

Cookbook
This year the PFA would love to put together a Cook Book that includes amazing recipes from Armadale Families and Chefs / Restaurants / Cafes in the wider Armadale community.

The first step is to put together a cookbook subcommittee. Already we have had a few parents put up their hands – THANK YOU!!!

If you are interested in joining the Armadale Primary Cook Book subcommittee. We would love to hear from you! email Sarah & Caz on armadalepfa@gmail.com

Grade 6 Cocktail Party:
We hope the Grade 6 parents have a fun night at their Cocktail party this Friday 1st May!

Kind regards

Caz Laughton and Sarah Monahan
PFA Co-President
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com
Whilst all care is taken to ensure the validity of advertisements in this newsletter we take no responsibility and imply no endorsement.
Celebrate your best pooh-pal by participating in Dogs Unite, a 4km dog walk with a difference. This fun event will raise much needed funds for Guide Dogs Victoria.

WHAT: All dog lovers welcome to a 4km sponsored walk
WHERE: Hays Paddock, Leason St., Kew East
DATE: Sunday May 3rd 2015
TIME: 8:00AM for 9:30AM start
REGISTRATION FEE: $40.00
Your support helps Guide Dogs Victoria raise $35,000 to breed and train a Guide Dog to give a vision-impaired person independence.

REGISTER ONLINE: GDVDGOSUNITEWALK.COM.AU
thank you!