Dear Armadale Community

Welcome back to everyone in our community and a special warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing break and precious time spent with grandparents, families and friends. I was thrilled to hear so many parents tell me how excited the children were to come back to school and that they couldn’t wait to see their teachers and friends. I feel genuine elatedness that our children love their school!

What a wonderful week we have already had in our start to the school year. We had our first whole school assembly Tuesday morning and it was fabulous to see the new school leaders: Ella, Stella, Will and Charlie confidently and proudly lead the school through our first assembly. I look forward to working with all our leaders this year in their positions of responsibility and witness the impact they will have on our school.

There were a few tears on Monday 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 Monahan; Michelle Moffat; Nicki Bindley; Mel Cooper, Mel Larner; Mish McGrory, Nikki Rickard, Sarah Barlow and Dimity Millear and Pam Johnson 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! Sarah Monahan and David Portnoy warmly welcomed all of the new Prep families and reassured the parents about our school and the beginnings of a wonderful educational journey.

- Year 5 and 6 Information Evening
  Tuesday February 9th 7.00-7.45pm in the MPC
- Year 3 and 4 Information Evening
  Tuesday February 9th 6.00pm in the MPC
- Year 1 and 2 Information Evening
  Wednesday February 10th 6.00-6.45pm in the MPC

Could all parents please accept this as a personal invitation to attend an information session for your child’s class. The aim of these sessions is to provide an overview of the learning programs and to outline some of the organisational aspects of each level as well as communicate the teacher’s expectations for each child’s learning journey. We understand that not all parents can make it to these sessions, so please communicate this to your class teacher so you can collect the information provided on the night. Through these information sessions we hope that parents will have a clearer picture of how to support their child’s learning throughout 2016. Please note the time and venue for each of these sessions.

Student Accident Insurance/Ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school. Notification from the Department of Education

I have been asked by the Department of Education to advise all our 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/transport and any other transport costs.
Sports News

Play at the Park Years 3-6
A reminder that on Thursdays in 2016, weather permitting, we will be taking groups of students from Year 3-6 for lunch recess at Orrong Park departing at 12.20pm and returning by 1.30pm. Today the Year 5&6 students went to the park. Any parent assistance walking to and from the park would be greatly appreciated. Please contact your child’s class teacher or myself if you could help.

House Swimming
Sports Years 3-6
Monday 22 February at Prahran Pool
More details in next week’s newsletter (included in this term’s excursion levy).

Peter Cracknell
Sports Co-ordinator

Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers, and can be obtained by school councils on a whole-of-school basis, or by parents/guardians for individual students. 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. The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy/ambulance cover, or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that they seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. 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 visitors 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. I apologise for sounding so draconian, but we need to look after all of our children’s wellbeing and I am sure you will agree.

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 reassure you in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days, our school has not received such a call. Additionally I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, 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 drop off times, and whilst I am on a roll, could all our families please ensure that they use the supervised crossings at all times.
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 2016 we have 6 members who will retire, 3 are Parent Members, 1 is a community member and 2 are DET members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these members for their fantastic contributions to our school: Kevin McAlpine, David Portnoy; Kristen Steele, Natalie Tabbagh, Gillian Brown and Jocelyn Evans. Of course these retiring councillors are more than welcome to nominate for a second term if they wish.

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 8th February and must be returned to me by Monday 22nd February.

Should we receive more nominations than there are vacancies we will post the list of candidates and nominators on Tuesday 26th 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 27th February and the close of the ballot will be Wednesday 2nd 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 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.

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!
Firstly welcome back to all of our students and families to Armadale for this year, and welcome to our new families that are coming to Armadale for the first time. I am sure that you will really enjoy your time here. We have some wonderful things planned for this year and I know it’s going to be a rewarding year for all concerned.

Thankyou
A big thank you to Mat Dunckley (father of Tom and Alice) who answered the call to my Tiqbiz request and came along on Saturday to help shift all of the sand that was ordered for the sandpit. I’m sure that he was hoping for a few more parents to help, but unfortunately he was the only one. So Mat worked at fever pitch for over an hour to shift the 3 metres of sand into the sandpit, making it ready for the new preps to arrive on Monday. Thanks Mat for a great solo effort.

Cybersafety
As part of the process of our school becoming eSmart, we are tightening some of our practices in regard to the use of digital technologies. To this end your child will receive a copy of our Acceptable Use Agreement, which states clearly behaviours that are acceptable and unacceptable when using digital technologies at home or a school. When your child brings their copy home this term, please take the time to read and discuss with them the implications of this agreement. We will of course be doing this at school, but it is vital that the same message comes from home as well. Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day and there are a number of resources and activities that you can do with your child relating to this topic. Click here for a link to the Federal Government’s Website for Safer Internet Day.

Ride2School Day
Friday 4th March is Ride2School Day, which we have participated in for the past several years now. It is always a great day and it is wonderful to see so many of our children being active in their travel to school. We will have some special activities to do as well as a grand parade of all our bikes. Start getting into the habit now and see how enjoyable it can be. No bike? No problem...you can ride your scooter, or just walk...it’s all about being active. Stay tuned for more details.

Schools Cleanup Day
On the same day as Ride2School, is National Schools Cleanup Day. We have registered our school and will be ready to clean up around our school grounds and in the neighbouring area. I will be asking our Green Team to help coordinate this. More details to follow.

Malcolm Dow
Assistant Principal
Student Banking

Welcome back!

During the coming week all children will receive a Parent Information Pack from the Commonwealth Bank outlining the new rewards available in 2016 for students already involved in the program. The pack also contains information on how to join if you are interested in participating. For families who are new to Student Banking, once you have opened a Dollarmites account and received your yellow wallet with deposit book from the Commonwealth Bank, you can bring it in to school each Tuesday morning with the money to deposit and the deposit slip completed with all details. It should be handed to the classroom teacher, who then sends it in a satchel to the office (before recess time) for processing. Children receive one silver token for each deposit made. Once a student has collected 10 tokens, they can be traded in for a reward via the deposit wallet. Bank books are returned to the classrooms by the end of each week.

I have some reward items from last year for the following students awaiting collection from the office:

- Rory McGann
- Olive Durack
- Alice Hodgkinson
- Charlie Zelouf
- Zach Larner
- Annabel Atkins
- Gabriel Haddad

There is also a new competition this year with a chance to win a family trip to Australia Zoo. More information later.

Alison Crone
Student Banking Co-ordinator

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund

CSEF applications open from term one 2016. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students.

Special Consideration is given to families on a Bridging Visa, Temporary Protection Visa, Community Detention and Asylum Seeker families; therefore they are eligible for CSEF. A letter from the Australian Red Cross, AMES, or similar welfare institution is required as evidence. A copy of an 'immi' card is also acceptable evidence. These applications are processed as ‘Special Consideration’ category applications in the CSEF system.

Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Please click on this link for more information and the application form. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx
Parents and Friends of Armadale (PFA)

Hi everyone,

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new prep families and other new families that have joined the Armadale Primary community.

We hope you had a lovely break, and hope the crazy weather we are currently having is not dampening your excitement of being back.

PFA Committee
We are very pleased to introduce the new PFA Committee for 2016
- Fun Run Committee – Nicole Batagol
- Trivia Night Committee – Dimity Millear
- Major Fundraising Committee (Includes Family Fun Night) – Pam Johnson
- Mothers Day & Fathers Day Stall Committee – Nikki Rickard
- Special Event Cake Stall & BBQ Committee – Mish Moffat & Simon Gowland
- Armadale Cares Committee – Mel Labrosse and Sarah Monahan
- Cookbook Committee – Sam Haydon
- PFA Administration role – Sarah Barlow
- Treasurer / Finance role – Pending

As you can see we are still in desperate need for a Treasurer, so if you are able to assist please contact armadalepfa@gmail.com

PFA Meeting
The next PFA Meeting is on Tuesday 9th February at 2:30pm in the Staff Room. This meeting is open to all Armadale Parents, so please come along, as we look to planning our first event for the year – “Family Welcome Picnic”.

Cocktail Parties
Term one and two will also see each level hosting a cocktail party.

For more information, please see your class rep or please contact our class representative coordinator: Janine Sheean janinesheean@gmail.com

Class Representatives
If you are interested in being a Class Representative, then please complete the form on our website – armadaleps.vic.edu.au – under the ‘Parents’ and then ‘Forms’ tabs. Please return your completed form to the office or via email to janinesheean@gmail.com

Kind regards

The Armadale PFA Committee
Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com

Library News
Welcome back to the Library in 2016! I know a lot of students will be excited to get back into the library and enjoy a good read. This year Jennifer Pearse will be taking all the students for library sessions and I’m sure it will be a wonderful experience for all. With this new change there will also be a change in some aspects of the library which will become apparent as the year goes on.

Thank you,
Brett Leyshan
leyshan.brett.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
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**FREE Group Outdoor Personal Training & a chance to WIN!***

Join us at Step into Life for our annual Open Week! From February 8-14, we throw open our doors and invite you to join us for fun, fitness and fresh air with our qualified Personal Trainers and friendly members.

Unlimited FREE fitness training all week long – plus your chance to WIN some amazing prizes including 12 months of free groceries!* 

We welcome all fitness levels and abilities, with a range of session times available throughout the week to suit you!

**Bookings essential - contact us to claim your FREE training!**

Prahran
0409 561 300
www.stepintolife.com.au

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**Chess Coaching**

Where: Music Performance Room
When: Wednesday Lunchtimes
3rd February – 2nd March 2016
Cost: $90 per term ($80 for 2nd 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 envelope marked "Chess Coaching" to the school office.

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Child’s Full Name: ________________
Grade: ___________ School: ________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

Payment Due: Wednesday 10th February.

Cheques: Payable to “Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd”
EFT: Bank: CBA Acc Name: Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd
bsb: 063201 Acc: 10049239

**please place child’s name on transaction**

$90 cash: ☐ cheque: ☐ EFT: ☐

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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

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

Call us on 1300 GO ROCK (1300 46 76 25)

Orchestra Open Day - Monday 15th February

- 12.30pm Senior Band ‘The Armadillos’ (3-6)
- 1.30pm Junior Orchestra (Prep to 2)

Would you like to be a part of an Orchestra? Come and Try an instrument and be a part of a team of performing musicians!

Absolute beginners to advanced musicians welcome- we have parts for everyone. BYO instrument or play provided instruments.

More information: Hello Music Tel: 95336222  www.hellomusic.com.au or pick up a flier at the office.
South Yarra Football Netball Club is over 40 years old we have recently formed the South Yarra Junior Football Club and are looking for all Girls & Boys of all skill levels to come have fun and play junior footy (Under 8's - Under 16's).

Registrations on Friday 5th February from 6-7pm and Saturday 6th February 10-11:30 am at Fritsch Holzer Reserve (SYFC home ground), 120 Camberwell rd, East Hawthorn.
Come down and have fun, kick a goal, handball coaching, Sausage sizzle and a drink provided for all participants!

If you are interested Please Contact:
Owen Pearse (SYFC President)
Ph: 0409 149 120
Email: pearsefamily1@bigpond.com

You can also find us:

www.facebook.com/South-Yarra-Junior-Football-Club-912673352174134
Twitter: @SYJFC
Instagram: @southyarrafc

Try Rugby Union

Junior Registration, FREE Clinic & BBQ

DATE: Sunday 14th February
TIME: U6 – U10 2pm – 3pm, U11 – U18 3pm - 4pm
WHERE: Orrong Romanis Reserve, Orrong Rd, Armadale

New players welcome

Saturday morning competition starts 16th April 2016

MELBOURNE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

melbournerrugby.com.au

Free Dance Class Trial!
Present this voucher upon arrival. (Expires Feb 20, 2016)

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