Dear Parents,

Welcome back and I hope all of our families enjoyed the long weekend break. The nation witnessed an exciting historic win for a local Ballarat family on Tuesday and I saw in this win a wonderful story to share with all of our children.

A story about overcoming adversity and being resilient, having hope, optimism and determination despite personal setbacks, being part of a truly inclusive and loving family and when all the odds seem to be against you, rising above it all and realising a long held dream. I’m sure there will be a screen writer out there shortly wanting to capture it all.

Earn and Learn
The year 6’s have been excited for the last few weeks as they have been marketing their products for Earn and Learn, their economic unit of enquiry. Yesterday was a frenzied rush of activity as the final marketing strategies were put in place. I congratulate all of the students on their industry and enterprise and I am sure we will be reading about some of these entrepreneurial students in the years to come.

Art Show
We are looking forward to next week’s Art Show on Thursday 12 November in the MPC from 3.30-6.00pm. The children have produced some fabulous pieces of class artwork which is up for auction.

Final Performing Arts showcases and concerts and farewell to our much loved Lisa!
The children are gearing up for these final showcases demonstrating their learning in Performing Arts this year and it has been terrific to see so many of our parents attend these. We are incredibly grateful to Lisa as she has managed once again to develop and nurture creative and confident performers across the whole school.

Lisa is of course in rehearsal mode for her own next production and sadly Lisa’s last day at school will be Thursday November 12th. Lisa has made an incredible difference to our school in a relatively short time and has lifted the bar of “Performing Arts” to new heights. The children who participated in Peter Pan will have memories that last a long time. I remember interviewing Lisa for the Performing Arts position and when she arrived, she reminded me of a gorgeous fairy dressed in her tutu, I knew then she would be perfect for the position and we weren’t disappointed. I know all of you will join me in extending to Lisa and her husband Johnnie, all the very best for this incredibly exciting stage of their lives as they await the birth of their babies.

Enjoy your week!

Rochelle Cukier
Principal
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

At present, we are in the process of finalizing our ‘Student Engagement Policy’ and discussions surrounding this raised interesting questions. As educators we are aware of the high importance in ensuring our students are engaged but how is this engagement measured? Articulating the answer to you made me reflect. I knew that there was not a test or a simple questionnaire that could answer this but I did know that as teachers we are trained to engage our senses - look at what the children do and don’t do and listen to what they say and ask. Engaging our children in learning is ongoing and there isn’t one way to describe what it looks like.

After searching for a suitable definition, I found the following criteria concise and useful to make reference to, when we talk about student engagement:

GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

1. AITS define engagement as:
2. “... a complex cognitive process, including a student’s psychological investment in their own learning and personal learning strategies. The internal nature of much engagement means that it is difficult to define and measure.”

2. Phil Schlecty (1994), says students who are engaged exhibit three characteristics:
   (1) They are attracted to their work,
   (2) They persist in their work despite challenges and obstacles
   (3) They take visible delight in accomplishing their work.

3. Reliance on factors external to the task and to the individual consistently fails to produce any deep and long-lasting commitment to learning.

4. Some studies have shown that engagement is increased through flexible, individualised teaching in a supportive learning environment. Project-based learning, for example, allows students to own their own task.

Previously in Pedagogy Corner I had shared with you the educational basis of Investigations in P-2 and ERP’s in 3-6. Student wonderings and explorations are the basis for promoting student engagement and heightening student learning.

What can you do at home?
Having conversations that encourage curiosity and wonderings is a wonderful way to promote children’s investment in their own learning. The following article (on page 3 or via the link below) highlights the importance of this, so please take the time to reflect on what you can do differently to support your child, to own his/her learning.

http://www.educatingruby.org/blog

Connie Apostolos-Thermos
Curriculum and Pedagogy Leader
Developing children's curiosity at home

As the school holidays near their end, Bill Lucas suggests some ways in which parents can spend time refreshing one of the most important aspects of learning character, curiosity.

Curiosity is at the heart of all learning. Being curious involves noticing things, reading avidly and, of course, asking good questions. Young children have curiosity in great abundance, constantly pestering those around them with questions. Where does dew come from? Why does it get dark? Who is God? But it is all too easy to dampen children’s insatiable appetite to find out more. Of course it can be wearying to answer yet another question, but if you possibly can and at the same time if you can manage to show genuine interest in the enquiry, such role modelling will be a powerful influence for good.

Being able to notice things is an essential component of curiosity. For some children (and adults) it seems to come naturally. For others it may need to be actively coaxed into a life. If you have ever been to an art gallery you will have an idea of what we mean. Some visitors seem to be able to see things in pictures that others completely miss. It’s the same with children. On a walk, for example, some children chatter away naming things as they go. Others talk less but you can tell that they are indeed noticing for they tell you about it later. A third category of child (and adult!) seems to walk through life without obviously noticing what is new or different or interesting. Parents and family members can help by playing games (the obvious one is I-Spy) and explicitly talking out loud as they go about any daily tasks. It can feel very odd, but it helps. Can you see the …? Isn’t it interesting the way that… What do you think that is? Family walks and car journeys are great ways of practising noticing. And with an iPhone in your hand children can be motivated by taking photos which they can return to later to discuss.

Reading for pleasure is probably the most important habit you can instil in your child. Some children take to it and need little encouragement, just a ready supply of books from the library. Others need lots of patient encouragement. There’s nothing more powerful than a whole family reading their books together.

Children see their parents engrossed in a book and inwardly record the importance attached to the activity by the grown-ups. Routines help. Making uninterrupted time after lunch at weekends and in the holidays can work. Before they go to sleep is essential. If your child is reluctant then you will need all your skill to find topics of interest. One neat way of persuading reluctant children to read is to give them the chance to turn off their light really late occasionally at a weekend only if they are reading a book. Reading aloud to your children for as long as they will let you is vital. It helps if you can have lots of small selections of children’s books at a low height throughout your home. Questions are the outward expression of our curiosity and the home is the obvious place to give them full rein. Simple things that work include: watching a wildlife programme together and then talk about it; making sure you have a good supply of simple reference books around the place – dictionaries, atlases, guidebooks etc; getting your children to create a treasure hunt around your house/garden and make up the clues; sitting beside your child and doing an internet search for something that one of you is curious about.

So, in the next week here are some things you could do to boost your child’s (and your own) curiosity. You might like to try one of these:

1. Question everything!

Show your own interest in questions, especially those to which you do not know the answers. Talk about out what’s in the news and what it makes you want to find out. Look at the news online with your family and Google things that interest you and your children.

2. Use the 5 Whys technique

Here’s a simple of way of encouraging deeper questioning. Your child tells you or shows you something and you ask a series of iterative ‘why’ questions. Let’s imagine she brings you in a dead plant. ‘This flower is dead, dad.’ Why (1)? Because it has not got any water. Why (2)? Because it’s come out of the ground. Why (3)? Because the dog dug it up. Why (4)? Because it was bored. Why (5)? Because we weren’t playing with it….

3. Stop answering your children’s questions

Apart from things which might pose risk (‘Is it safe to cross the road now, mum?’) try not to provide answers but instead respond to your child’s questions with phrases like: ‘What do you think?’, ‘That’s a great question; how could we find out more?’, ‘Who could help us explore this tricky idea?’

4. Try new things together

Simple things like going to the library to get new books/dvds or cooking a new recipe together create natural situations in which questions can bubble up. You can be more adventurous – visiting new places - or safer – learning a new card game at home, for example.

5. Replace ‘Not now’ with ‘Why don’t we’

It’s so easy for us as adults to squash our children’s enthusiasm. We have stuff to do and it can conflict with our family’s expressions of curiosity. Take the opportunity of the holiday to put what you want to do to one side and let your own curiosity take over to explore something in which your child is interested.

A great resource for encouraging curiosity is the BBC’s iwonder.
Sports News

Fun Run
A reminder to all families that the sponsorship money from the Fun Run is due back at school by next Wednesday 11 November. All children who have brought their money back to school will be in the draw for some great prizes.

Play at the Park

On Thursdays during November (weather permitting), we will be trialling taking down a group of Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 students to Orrong/Romanis Reserve for active play at lunchtime. The children will depart at 12:15pm and return at 1:30pm. Children will also take their lunch down to the park.

Any parents who could assist walking children to/from the park please contact Peter Cracknell.

Family Yoga Sessions
We would be delighted if you would join us on Monday 9 November and Friday 13 November as we will be running a Life Skills Group Family Class at the following times:

**Monday 9 November**
- 6N  9.00am
- 6Z  9.40am
- 3/4E 10.20am
- 3/4C 11.30am
- 3/4A 12.10pm
- 3/4J 1.30pm
- 5P  2.10pm
- 5B  2.50pm

**Friday 13 November**
- 1/2P  9.00am
- 1/2W  9.40am
- 1/2K  10.20am
- Prep P  11.30am
- Prep C  12.10pm
- Prep S  12.50pm
- 1/2E  2.10pm
- 1/2D  2.50pm

So often as parents we are racing home from work, cooking dinner, doing the homework, getting the kids to bed and doing the housework before falling into a deep sleep; only to wake up and do it all again.

In this Family Yoga Class, parents, carers and children participate in games and relaxation activities that they can then take home and use on a regular basis. Fun, ‘bite-sized’ exercises are provided that can be tried at home to help each family member unwind and connect with each other.

Don’t forget to wear comfortable clothes on the day you come and join in.

**Peter Cracknell**
**Sports Co-ordinator**

Student Banking

There was no student banking this week due to the holiday.

Awards will resume next week.

**Alison Crone**
**Student Banking Co-ordinator**
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

You Can Do It! Awards

James Donovan Prep C
For sharing his wonderings about the way in which words are spelt and trying to uncover patterns! You really impress us James!

Misha Saito Prep S
For taking the initiative to conduct her own survey during Investigations. Well done on your terrific efforts Misha!

Campbell Anderson Prep S
For being such an interesting and imaginative story teller. I enjoy sharing your stories with you Campbell.

Felicity Dixon 1/2D
For interesting and thoughtful contributions to our discussions on migration and family history. You offer input and value what others say too. Well done!

Zeke Roufail 1/2E
For applying his skills in Numeracy so well and for his positive attitude to his learning.

Daniel Barlow 1/2P
For demonstrating excellent concentration skills when writing his recount of visiting the zoo.

Charlie Drohn 1/2W
For making a great start with his 'Senses' poem about strawberries. Keep it up Charlie!

Matilda Hayman 3/4E
For displaying persistence in all areas of her learning and for trying to be the best learner she can be. You have come so far with your spelling Matilda, keep up the brilliant work!

Orlando Thomas 3/4J
For sharing his great general knowledge to the class during our Investigations discussions.

William Strangward 3/4J
For always being dedicated to complete his homework on time and with beautiful presentation. Well done William.
Visual Arts News

Visual Artist of the Week:
Martha Conheady 6Z

For the excellent skills she displayed when using clay to make her street art sculpture. Your design was fun and imaginative!

Visual Art Class of the Week: 5P
For the creativity they displayed when designing their street art canvas. Your ideas were original and thoughtful!

2015 Armadale Primary Art Show

Come along and see the wonderful ‘street art’ style artwork the students have done.

What will you see?
Students have been working on a 3-dimensional art, which includes ceramic sculptures and mixed media.

What can you buy?
Prep to year 5 have been working on a class canvas each which will be up for a ‘Silent Auction’, highest bidder wins! The year 6 students have been working in pairs to produce a ‘street art’ style canvas, which is also up for grabs.

When: Thursday 12th November 3.30pm-6.00pm
Where: MPC

Any money raised will go towards an air conditioner for the art room!

‘Clay for Kids’ Exhibition- This Sunday!

Come along to the ‘Clay for Kids’ Exhibition this Sunday the 8th November to see the wonderful sculptures that were selected by the following year 6 students. Awards will be presented at 1.30pm.

Where: Duldig Studio, 92 Burke Road, East Malvern (Melways 59 G 11)
When: this Sunday the 8th November from 12.00pm-4.00pm

Congratulations to the following students whose work was selected for this exhibition:

♦ Elli Martelli 6N (monster)
♦ Christian Lignos 6Z (dinosaur)
♦ Bella Cullity 6N (Gelato Messina)
♦ Blayke Sheean 6N (makeup)
♦ Daisy Alekna 6Z (lemonade)
♦ Luna Cho 6Z (paint tubes)

Lucy Gorman
Visual Arts Teacher
gorman.lucy.1@edumail.vic.gov.au
You’re Invited to
Armadale Primary School’s

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Come have a peek into the exciting world of Armadale Performing Arts!
Multi-Purpose Centre, Armadale Primary School

**Prep** - Wednesday 4th November, 9:40am (following assembly)
**Year One/Two** - Thursday 5th November, 2:30pm
**Year Three/Four** - Wednesday 11th November, 9:40am (following assembly)
**Year Five** - Tuesday 10th November, 2:15pm
**Year Six** - Tuesday 10th November, 9:00am

Friends and family welcome!

MUSIC • DANCE • DRAMA •
Parents and Friends for Armadale

We hope everyone had a fun long weekend and even backed a winner!

**Fun Run:**
For those that have not already done so, could you please submit your sponsorship forms and money back by Wednesday 11th November at the latest. Thanks.

**End of year Family Fun night:**
Save the date! Friday 27th November is our annual “End of year Family Fun night”, from 5.00pm – 7.00pm.

The night is a fun night! A great opportunity to catch up and spend time with family and friends. This year the night will have a BBQ, snow cones, lollies stall, face painting, crazy colour hair.

You will also have the opportunity to place an order for Christmas Lilies that will be available for collection on Wednesday 16th December.

**New PFA Presidents:**
We have some amazing parents that put a lot of effort and time into some of the PFA projects, such as Nicki Batagol. With this continued support the role of PFA president is an administrative role. It does take time, however it is not difficult.

Even if you do not want to be the PFA president, but would like to be involved, there are many projects that we would love your help with.

So please if you have the time and would like to assist, please contact either one of us or Rochelle on cukier.rochelle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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**Armadale Primary Cookbook:**
The cookbook subcommittee will continue to put together a “Cookbook on behalf of Armadale Primary”. There is still plenty of room left, for your best recipes and/or creative pieces.

The template for recipe submissions and details on how to submit art work or writing pieces has been emailed out by your Class Rep.

The Cookbook Subcommittee will advise the new meeting schedule.

**PFA Committee Meetings:**
- Wednesday 2nd December 2:30pm in the staffroom

**Icy Poles:**
Remember your $1 for Icy poles on Friday!

Thank you for your continued support of Armadale Primary School.

Kind regards

*Caz Laughton and Sarah Monahan*
*PFA Co-Presidents*
*Email: armadalepfa@gmail.com*
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