Greetings to staff, students, parents and community members and welcome to the first edition of the Ardross newsletter for 2014. The fortnightly newsletter is one of the main forms of communication between the school and home. It provides useful information with regards to current and upcoming events. I know that we are all very busy however IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE NEWSLETTER IS READ EVERY FORTNIGHT. Today all families will be receiving a hard copy to ensure that it gets home, but from the next edition on Wednesday, 19 February the newsletter will be available online with only those families who have requested a hard copy receiving one. If you have not registered to receive notification by email that the newsletter is available you can go to www.ardrossps.wa.edu.au and register online in the newsletter section. Receiving the newsletter online assists us with our school sustainability initiatives of reducing our reliance on paper. You can now also access our newsletter more conveniently on your smart phone in an easier to read format.

GENERAL STAFFING INFORMATION
The parent information booklet for 2014 is being finalised and will be placed on our website shortly. It provides all relevant information from A to Z regarding school operations. The following is some general staffing information for the commencement of the year.

Principal: Andrew Holmes
Deputy Principals: Bob Parker / Cath Bishop
School Registrar: Alison Stockman
School Officers: Chips Northcott, Tania Logothetis, Gabriella Nicholson
Library Officer: Lois Bowden
School Gardener: Jason Felstead
School Cleaner: Oscar Hernandez (Head Cleaner), Hilda Hernandez, Daniel Paredes
Learning Support Coordinator: Cathy Riley
Primary Science Project: Lindsay Macmillan
Occupational Health & Safety Officer: Bob Parker
School Psychologist: Annette Goldschlager (Tues, Wed pm)
EAL/D Teacher: Gail Lawson (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur)
EAL/D Education Assistant: Yah Lee Chee
Learning Technologies Coordinator: Glenn Hill
LOTE Specialist Teacher Japanese: Hisayo Rego
Phys Ed Specialist Teacher: Alison Davies
Music Specialist Teacher: Lynda Pateman
Art Specialist Teacher: Sue Warren
Environmental Education / Aboriginal Education: Cath Bishop

Kindergarten Teachers: Lee-Anne Downey, Jodie Atkinson
Education Assistants: Janine Coles & Kathie Esslement
Pre-Primary Teachers: Helen Brown, Alisa Forzatti. Wendy Cocks, Jodie Atkinson
Education Assistants: Sian Jackson, Roseanna Dennis & Kylee Praed
Education Assistants: Linda Brydon, Sara Morris, Deena Le Page, Judi Edmonds, Carolyn Stephens

Year 1 Teacher: Room 13 - Jackie Loney
Year 1/2 Teacher: Room 10 - Denise Harman
Year 2 Teachers:
Room 17 - Diana Cooper
Room 5 - Isabel Mangion-Campbell
Year 2/3 Teachers:
Room 9 - Jessica Williams, Denelle Ellery
Year 3 Teacher: Room 8 - Kellie Foote
Year 3/4 Teacher: Room 7 - Fiona Schaper
Year 4 Teacher: Room 6 - Kate Mathis
Year 4/5 Teachers:
Room 4 – Karen Treloar, Sue Warren
Year 5/6 Teachers:
Room 3 - Glenn Hill, Bob Parker
Year 6 Teachers:
Room 2 - Lindsay Macmillan, Cathy Riley
Year 6/7 Teacher: Room 19 - Auriol Heary
Year 7 Teachers:
Room 20 - Lynda Pateman, Jenny Lawrance
Teaching staff will be advising parents of teacher/parent meeting nights to be held in week 3 of this term. In the meantime, if you have any issues or concerns, please don’t hesitate to see your child’s classroom teacher.

FOCUS 2014
2014 will be another busy year at Ardross as we continue to implement our teaching and learning programs. Staff are working hard to ensure that we meet our targets from our Business Plan as endorsed by the School Board.

Target 1 - To maintain high standards of student achievement, **performing at or above Like Schools, with a focus on literacy, numeracy and science development.** Student academic performance will be assessed using the Department First Cut Data and SAIS information. Ardross students will achieve in the upper bands in Years 3, 5 and 7 than Like Schools with an aspirational target of 80% of students achieving above the 50th percentile.

Inside this issue:
General Staffing Information
Focus 2014
Parent / Teacher Information Sessions
Attendance
Swimming Lessons
AXSHS Building Works
Thank you
School Fees & Voluntary Contributions
Uniform Shop
Community News
Target 2 - To plan and deliver authentic learning experiences using the Australian Curriculum that are outcomes focused and responsive to student needs.

Target 3 - To provide a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

Target 4 - To create classroom environments in which students effectively learn based on “The Thinking Classroom” strategy, based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, developed by Herbert, Frangenheim and Alford.

Our targets support The Department of Education’s Focus 2014 of “Building a strong public school system where every school is a good school; every teacher is effective; and every student is successful”. Through Focus 2014 school’s objectives include:

- **success for all students**
- **improving student attendance, engagement and behaviour**
- **high quality teaching and leadership**
- **a capable and responsive organization**.

At Ardross we work closely with the School Board, P&C and community to ensure we work together to meet these objectives. During Term 4 we will be reviewed by the Department of Education Services, an independent process from the Department of Education, to assess the progress of Ardross against our Business Plan 2012-2014.

**PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS**

All teachers will be holding Parent Information Sessions early in Term 1. The purpose of these meetings is to outline to parents the teaching and learning programs planned, together with organisational structures used in the room. Teachers will discuss Curriculum, Behaviour Management, Homework, Communication and other day to day operations of the class. These meetings are not designed to allow time for parent/teacher interviews, however these could be scheduled at a later date. Staff have been asked to plan for a 30 minute time and will communicate with you the planned meeting time. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

**ATTENDANCE**

As indicated earlier in the newsletter, one of the Department’s focus areas is increasing student attendance. Last year, our overall attendance rate was 94%, however 85% of students had regular attendance (between 90% - 100%). 13% of students were indicated at risk attendance (between 80%-89%) and 2% of students were at moderate risk attendance (60% - 79%).

Regular attendance at school is fundamental to your child’s learning. Consistent attendance and participation are essential for your child’s social and academic learning. As parents or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child’s achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child’s life. The Department of Education’s Student Attendance Policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children. Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as ‘authorised’ by the principal. As the parent/guardian you must obtain the principal’s approval for any planned absence.

When a legitimate note has not been received from the classroom teacher within 3 days the teacher will send home a system generated note outlining the date of the absence and a space for you to provide a reason for the absence. If within three days of sending this note home, a legitimate excuse has not been provided, Mr Parker will send home a letter from administration requesting an explanation.

The Minister for Education, and the Director General have also stated that it is not appropriate for students enrolled to be withdrawn for family holidays during term. Last year we had over 1300 non attendance days due to family holidays! While I can understand that occasionally it may be necessary to travel overseas, families who regularly withdraw their children for holidays during term time do so to the detriment of their child’s learning. Staff are not required to provide work packages and students may find themselves behind in their learning upon return, making it difficult for both the teacher and student. All holidays taken during the term must also be approved by the Principal.

I look forward to your ongoing cooperation with attendance.

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons for Year 6/7 students commenced at Cottesloe Beach this week. It is important that our kids learn to swim in a variety of situations, and the lessons at Cottesloe provide our kids with the basic skills necessary to swim at the beach, which is entirely different than swimming at Melville Aquatic or a backyard pool. I trust that all students enjoy the Cottesloe experience over the next two weeks.

**APPLECROSS HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING WORKS**

Parents and community members are well aware the Applecross Senior High School has been undergoing a complete rebuild since 2012. Some of the buildings are nearing completion, with students and teachers moving in. Work has commenced on the old science wing adjacent to the primary school, which will be developed ready for the transition of Year 7’s to high school next year. A temporary fence has been erected between us and the high school to ensure safety while these works are carried out.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Hernandez, Mr Paredes and Mr Felstead who ensured that our school was well looked after over the holidays. Staff and students returned to a very clean school with the gardens continuing to thrive. A special thank you to our ex gardener Mrs Gatley, who assisted Mr Felstead voluntarily over the holidays with the gardening, after Mr Felstead suffered a broken wrist.

Have a great fortnight.

Andrew Holmes
Principal
SCHOOL FEES AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS 2014
Parents will receive an Invoice in Semesters 1 and 2 detailing planned activities and relevant charges for each Semester. Please attend to payment of these Invoices within 14 days at the office. Teachers will require the permission slip, only, to be returned to the classroom prior to an incursion, excursion or sport activity. Parents who have chosen to pay ‘up front’ for charges for the year will have their charges allocated and paid from their credit by the Registrar. Please see further information about this option below. Students in Years 6 and 7 who began swimming lessons in Week 1 of Term 1 have been invoiced for this activity. All payments are to be made through the office. Classroom teachers will not be accepting any money.

Parents who have prepaid for activities in advance may continue to do this and each Semester’s charges will be credited with the advance payment. From time to time an incursion or excursion may be added to those already planned and invoiced for the semester. Should this happen, parents will receive additional Invoices for these activities. This will definitely happen if your child is part of an interschool sport team, as team members are not known until a few weeks prior to the events. Charges for incursions, excursions and sport activities are compulsory and have been communicated to parents via the school newsletter and school website at the end of last year and are contained in the School Information Booklet.

Contributions
The school is now receiving the voluntary contributions for your children for 2014. The school voluntary contribution is $60.00 per child; P&C voluntary contribution is $40.00 per family and P&C membership is $1.00 per family. These funds contribute to the resources available to your children in our school and your support towards your children’s educational opportunities is greatly appreciated. We have an outstanding record of parents paying the voluntary contribution, with a 97% payment rate in 2013! Parents who have paid their contributions through OfficeMax will have the amount credited during March/April, after payment is made by OfficeMax to the school.

Up Front Charges in Advance
Parents who wish to pay one lump sum at the beginning of the year to cover the base fees charged for incursions, excursions and sport activities may do this now. The charge will be the full amount as listed in the School Information Booklet, ie Kindy = $35; PP-Yr 2 = $165; Yr 3 = $185; Yr 4 = $210; Yrs 5-7 = $240. Additional charges for Camp, Instrumental Music, Choir, Interschool Sport, Year 6 and 7 Dinner /Dance, Year 6 and 7 Leavers’ Shirts and other non curricula activities, will be requested and invoiced separately and are not covered by the up front payment.

Please discuss any difficulties with payment as soon as possible as it may be possible to arrange an extended payment option.

You are welcome to call and discuss any concerns you have with payment of school contributions and charges.

Alison Stockman
Registrar
Ardross Primary School would like to thank all of the sponsors listed here for their support of the school. We encourage all parents to use their services where feasible.

Paul Evensen
Associate Director
Realmark Applecross
mobile: 0439 923 844

Pharmacy 777 Applecross
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E: applecross@pharmacy777.com.au www.pharmacy777.com.au

Aussie Farmers Direct is our school’s new fundraising partner!
Aussie Farmers Direct deliver 100% Australian bush roll, bread, vegetables, meat and much, much more to over 100,000 Australian homes.
It’s easy and hassle free fundraising
Why Families Love Aussie Farmers Direct
• Convenient home delivery
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• Always 100% Australian—supporting Australian farmers and your local community

Shop with Aussie Farmers Direct and they donate 2% of your total spend back to our school.

For ANZ Booragoon a percentage of a home loan or home sale respectively will be paid to Ardross Primary, please contact the principal for details. Aussie Farmers Direct donate 2% of your total spend back to the school.

Make-a-Bear
Birthday parties & Events.
Every guest takes home a new furry friend.
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5% of your total spend will be donated to Ardross PS.

Garden City—Booragoon

For ANZ Booragoon a percentage of a home loan or home sale respectively will be paid to Ardross Primary, please contact the principal for details. Aussie Farmers Direct donate 2% of your total spend back to the school.