Hello and welcome to the start of the 2015 school year at Ardross Primary School. I trust that your child/children are now settled into their classrooms and are enjoying being back with their school friends and meeting new ones. Class teachers report a smooth start to the year, with children settling into new routines well. Only a few tears to be seen and most of them were from parents! Welcome to our new students and families!

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP - TERM 1
Mr Holmes has been recognised for his good work as Ardross’ Principal and has been offered the acting Principal position at Campbell Primary School, a Level 6 school with over 800 students. He spoke to me of his angst at leaving Ardross Primary School, albeit temporary at present, but was looking forward to the challenge and opportunity to work in a promotional position in a larger, complex school environment.

I feel I am extremely fortunate to be offered the acting Principal position here at Ardross Primary School in Mr Holmes’ absence. I will do my best to lead the school in an effective and positive way, ensuring your child/children and their learning are at the centre of all that we do at Ardross Primary School. I have been made to feel very welcome thus far by the staff, students and the parents. I look forward to a productive term at Ardross Primary School. I hope to get to know you all and your child/children.

For those curious to learn a little more about the new Principal - a little background career information. My substantive position is Principal, Medina Primary School. I have been Principal at Medina since 2009 (acting) and 2010 (substantively). In Semester 2, 2014 I was acting Principal at Kooralba PS in Warnbro. Prior to my principalship, I was deputy at Medina PS and Gwynne Park PS. I have also worked in Central Office in the Standards and Moderation Directorate, at WestOne Services as a Project Manager for K-12 Curriculum Resources and at Regional Office as a Curriculum Improvement Officer. I have worked in education for 32 years. I am still passionate about improving outcomes for children-educational and holistic. I’m excited to be working with your child/children at Ardross PS.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE
For those new to the school, Ardross prides itself on its sustainability initiatives. In keeping with care of the environment, Ardross distributes its fortnightly newsletter via email or online at: www.ardrossps.wa.edu.au. Please ensure you have registered to receive the newsletter via email or that you access and read the newsletter online. I believe ‘hard copies’ are available at the front office, on request. It’s important you keep up-to-date with what’s happening in the school via your school newsletter.

BEST WISHES FROM ARDROSS
During the holidays one of our staff members and his family were involved in a horrific car accident. Our prayers and wishes for a speedy and full recovery go out to Hisayo Rego (Sensei-Japanese Teacher), her husband, Frederick, and children, Tamika and Felix. We hope to have you all well and back on board at Ardross Primary School soon.

COMMUNICATION VIA ‘CONNECT’
Last year a few parents indicated through the school survey that they would like better communication between teacher and parent, especially those of you that are working full time. I have looked into a Department of Education initiative called ‘Connect’. Basically, Connect is a secure internet service that will allow teachers to provide teaching and learning activities in their child’s classroom directly to the parents. Participation in Connect is entirely optional for parents. If you would like to part take you will require internet access and a computer. No additional software is required. The Department of Education will issue you with a unique user name and password which will provide you with access to Connect.

Initially, Connect will allow Mr Hill and Miss Pateman to provide general class information to you about the teaching and learning activities that their class are undertaking. In the future, the service may be further developed to allow more flexible communication between teacher and parents as well as providing personalised information about your child’s learning activities and progress.

At the moment, we are beginning the trial of Connect in Mr Hill and Miss Pateman’s Year 5 class. They will be trialling the service to see how well it works to improve parent/teacher communication. By trialling, we will be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of the service. If it serves our purpose well, then we hope to roll this out to other classes over the year.

Some teachers do currently have an email communication system. We hope this Connect service may provide a uniform service across the school.

GENERAL STAFFING INFORMATION
Principal: Karen Duncan
Deputy Principals: Bob Parker and Cath Bishop
School Registrar: Alison Stockman
School Officers: Chips Northcott, Tania Logothetis, Gabriella Nicholson

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NEWSLETTER 4 February 2015 Issue 1

Monday 2 February
Start of Term 1 2015
Tuesday 3 February
Constitutional Centre Incursion - Rms 3,19 & 20
Wednesday 4 February
Constitutional Centre Incursion - Rooms 5 & 9
Monday 9 February
Start Smart - Years 1 to 6 Constitutional Centre Incursion - Rms 3,19 & 20
Tuesday 10 February
Start Smart - Years 1 to 6 Constitutional Centre Incursion - Rms 3,19 & 20
Wednesday 11 February
Room 5 Parent Meeting
Monday 16 February
Constitutional Centre Incursion - Rms 3, 19 & 20 Year 6 - AXSHS Pool P&C Meeting - 7.30pm
Outcome 4: To create ‘Thinking Classrooms’ based on the work by Frangenheim, Herbert and Alford.

I intend also to work with teachers to develop a cycle of professional in-class observations and feedback so we can work to always be improving our instructional practice.

Thank you all for your warm welcome.

“Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, “I will try again tomorrow.”

Karen Duncan
Principal

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Uniform Shop will be open every Thursday in February and then every second Thursday thereafter.

YOUR CLASS NEEDS YOU - CLASS PARENT CONTACT

Each class needs 2 enthusiastic parents to volunteer as the “Class Parent Contacts”.

This role does not take a lot of time, however is a very important one, as it serves as the main communication tool for each class. Our school can be proud of its community based ethos and the class parent contacts are a main driving part of this.

The main responsibilities of the role are:

• collate the Class lists with email and phone contacts
• send communication as it comes to hand to your specific class parent list
• co-ordinate fun class catch ups and family assistance where needed
• collate a table of 10 for the “P & C Trivia Night” for your class.

If you would like to place your name on the list please email your name, your email & phone contact, your child’s name and class number to:- Samantha@launchpadgroup.com.au.

Samantha Hickman
Parent Liaison Coordinator

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

WHAT:  P&C TRIVIA NIGHT
WHERE:  Tompkins on Swan
WHEN:  Friday 15 May, 2015 – from 7pm
HOW:  Book a Table of 10 or Join Your Class Table - Tickets from your class parent contact will be available from Week 7 – Monday 16 March
WHO:  All Parents, Teachers & anyone interested in a great fun social night

UNIFORM SHOP

5 February 2015        9.00-9.30am
12 February 2015        9.00-9.30am
WATERWISE TIP - INSTALL A BORE
In the warmer months up to 70% of all household water is used on the garden. Installing a garden bore will give you huge savings on your scheme water use and you may even be eligible for a Waterwise Rebate. If used responsibly and located in an area away from the ocean, river systems and wetlands, bores can be an environmentally friendly way to keep your garden healthy. To find out if a bore is suitable for your area and to see if you are eligible for a rebate call 131039.

Johnny Moran Karate teaches karate classes to children and adults in the local area.
A special offer for the school's students - 4 WEEKS FREE beginners karate lessons!
Classes are held in the area after school and are a great way for children of all ages to learn self-defense in a fun and safe environment and for adults to get fit. Karate has many benefits which include confidence, respect, discipline and fitness.
Call now on 0402 830 402 to take advantage of this 4 week trial.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS
Piano, keyboard and violin lessons are available from a well qualified and experience teacher. Please contact Sue Varley on 9329 9391 for any inquiries.
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

Proudly supporting Ardross Primary  
Arreau Han  
M: 0450 422 224  
“Always happy to assist!”

[Logos and images of sponsors]

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.