Greetings to staff, parents and community members and welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for this term. Term 3 is a term where we consolidate our teaching and learning programs before revision and transition in Term 4. I look forward to seeing all students continue with their great work from Semester 1!

WELCOME
At the end of last term we said farewell to 5 students. This term I would like to welcome 14 new students and their families to the Ardross School Community. I trust that you will find our school community welcoming and friendly, and our teaching and learning programs challenging and stimulating. For the Semester 2 census due this Friday we will have 440 students in attendance.

STUDENT REPORTS
Thank you to the parents who booked in parent / teacher interviews at the end of last term. A reminder that should you wish to have a more in depth conversation about your child’s development, either academically or socially to arrange a meeting with your classroom teacher. At the end of the year there should be no surprises with student reports and levels of achievement.

TERM THREE PLANNER
A Term 3 Planner has been downloaded on to our website with the important dates and activities for this term. As you can see, it is reasonably full with all classes from Kindy to Year 7 having a variety of activities planned. Please keep this handy, as there may be occasions when dates are changed due to unforeseen circumstances, or further activities planned or added.

WA EDUCATION AWARDS 2014 — RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE AT ARDROSS PRIMARY
Students have the chance to turn the tables on staff at their school and award them with merit certificates as part of the WA Education Awards. The merit certificates are an opportunity for students and parents to recognise the work of school staff and let them know they value the work they are doing. Parents are also encouraged to speak to their school about nominating for a WA Education Award. The awards are your opportunity to tell everyone what’s great about your school and the staff who work there.

This year there are 11 award categories:
• WA Premier’s Primary Teacher of the Year
• WA Premier’s Secondary Teacher of the Year
• WA Primary School Leader of the Year
• WA Secondary School Leader of the Year
• WA Beginning Teacher of the Year
• WA Education Assistant of the Year
• WA Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer of the Year
• WA School Services Staff Member of the Year
• WA Primary School of the Year
• WA Secondary School of the Year.

Merit certificates are available for download on the awards website. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate what’s great about your school. Website: education.wa.edu.au

The WA Education Awards 2014 are proudly sponsored by BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Edith Cowan University, Fotoworks School Photography Specialists, 92.9, Teachers Health Fund, Teachers Mutual Bank and The Sunday Times & PerthNow.

JAPANESE FESTIVAL / STUDENT VISIT
This Saturday between 1.00pm and 4.00pm a Japanese Festival is being run at Applecross Senior High School. Thirty students from Ardross have been invited to participate in this event, which includes students from all local primary schools. Students will be able to participate in a variety of traditional Japanese activities including Taiko Drumming, Cooking and Kimono wearing. Thank you to Mrs Rego and the Japanese teachers for organising this wonderful event and I know that all students who attend will have a great time. We are also having a visit from 30 Japanese students this Friday from Takarazuka. They will be participating in our Japanese classes.

KISS AND DRIVE
The Kiss and Drive provides parents and students from Years 1 to 7 with a quick and convenient way of dropping off and picking up. Thank you to all of the parents who use the Kiss and Drive area appropriately, following the rules of the zone and not parking in these designated bays. Remember that if your child is not at Kiss and Drive when you arrive, then you complete the loop around the block and join the back of the line.

STUDENT TESTING
As part of our data collection program, students in Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 will be participating in literacy and numeracy testing in weeks 2 and 3 of this term. Students will be tested in spelling, punctuation and grammar, writing and mathematics. The tests will be assessed and used as performance indicators on student development in these year levels. The literacy and numeracy testing compliments the NAPLAN testing completed by Year 3, 5 and 7 students last term.
STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2015

Parents are asked to complete the form below and place it in the letterbox in the front office by Friday, 1 August - end of Week 2. (It is not necessary for those students returning to complete the form as it will be assumed that you will be attending in 2015.) Information regarding the process and criteria for parent requests and class placement will be advertised in newsletters early in Term 4.

Have a great fortnight.

Andrew Holmes
Principal

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ARDROSS IN 2015

My child / children __________________________

Room ______  Year Level ______

Room ______  Year Level ______

will not be returning to Ardross in 2015.

My child / children will be attending __________________________

Signed __________________________  Date ________

WATERWISE TIP - USE WATERWISE PLANTS

Choose Waterwise Plants, such as natives that have their origins in Australia. Those of local origin are perfectly adapted to our climate and have evolved over millions of years. There is a wide range of plants that have been grouped according to their water efficiency. As the seasons change, monitor and adjust the amount of water that is applied. For a full list of Waterwise plants visit the Water Corporation website at www.watercorporation.com.au.

CANTEEN NEWS

Volunteers are desperately needed in the canteen for this term, starting with this Friday, 1 August where we currently only have one volunteer rostered. If you have any available time, particularly on a Thursday or Friday, please come along to the canteen and place your name on the roster as we are unable to function without your help. You can also contact me on 0419 998 259.

Di Palladino
Canteen Manager

CANTEEN ROSTER

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UNIFORM SHOP

7 August 2014  9.00 - 9.30am
21 August 2014  9.00 - 9.30am

PIANO AND KEYBOARD LESSONS

Lessons provided by well experienced and qualified music teacher. Contact Sue Varley on 9329 9391 for inquiries.
TARA THE GUIDE DOG PUPPY

Tara left us a year ago to enter into intensive training. After a slow start she has come through the course and been matched with an elderly lady.

Before Guide Dogs begin working with their new owner the Puppy Raisers (us) have an opportunity to experience what all their puppy raising effort has achieved. Tara has been learning to work in harness with a range of commands and we were invited to go on a blindfold walk to see just how far she has come.

We have not seen Tara for a year so she didn’t recognise us at first. She was just her usual friendly self until she got up close and her nose picked up our scent. From one moment to the next you could see her whole face change as she realised we were her family. She went from mild manner Guide dog to very excited puppy and all training went out the window. So good to be remembered.

Once we all calmed down a bit Tara was harnessed and I was blindfolded. At first it was strange but once we got underway I put my trust in her and she didn’t lead me into any poles or rubbish bins. She avoided the potholes and wasn’t distracted by the kids running around excitedly. I can imagine how she will help her owner achieve new freedom and be a wonderful companion because she is such an affectionate dog. Tara also guided Bronte and Hunter. It was amazing to see that the more trust we put into Tara the more confident she was.

It was all over too soon and time to say goodbye. Tara has now moved in with her new owner and they will be training together for the next 3 to 6 months. There is so much effort that goes into a Guide Dog with enormous rewards for everyone involved.

We will see Tara one last time at her Graduation but we will not be able to play or touch her as she will be a working dog. I hear it is a very emotional ceremony so I’ll be taking a box of tissues with me!

A quick thankyou to the school for their understanding. I imagine it also created a few headaches with other parents thinking it was OK to bring dogs onto the school grounds. Sorry!

The consolation prize is that bringing Tara to the school was incredibly valuable experience. Many puppies raised by people with no children can be sensitive to noises and running children. Not our Tara - she doesn’t even twitch!

Margot Whittington
Parent of Samuel, Hunter and Bronte Daddow

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?

Experience another culture, make new friends and improve your language studies at home

Hosting – An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home

www.studentexchange.org.au
1300 135 331 (cost of local call)
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.

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

Paul Evensen
Associate Director
Realmark Applecross
mobile: 0439 923 844

Specialising in termite inspections, general domestic and commercial pest management solutions

Aussie Farmers Direct is our school’s new fundraising partner!

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.