Greetings to staff, students, parents and community members and welcome to this, the second last edition of the school newsletter for 2014! An old cliché - where did the time go? It feels amazing that we are at the end of the year, with just over two weeks of school to go. Staff and students have completed most of their work for the term and are revising and “winding up” (as much as we wind up at Ardross!). It has been another truly outstanding year at our school, and I will highlight many of our achievements next week at the Presentation Evening. I will also be thanking many members of the school community who have contributed to our successes this year.

STAFF CAR PARK
Over the last fortnight I have regularly made an effort to observe the Staff Car Park both at drop off and pick up times. Unfortunately some parents continue to disobey the sign and drive into the driveway, to either drop off/pick up in the middle of the drive or to park on the lawn. The sign is situated at the top of the driveway and quite clearly states: NO ENTRY TO PARENTS STAFF PARKING ONLY. I understand that parking is sometimes hard to come by close to the school, however on every occasion I have been able to locate spare bays within 100m of the school. Parents who are assisting in the canteen or who have a Parking Permit to use the staff carpark from the front office may continue to use the carpark as before. I look forward to parents observing the signs in the future for the safety of our kids.

PRESENTATION EVENING
A reminder that the Presentation Evening begins at 6.30pm SHARP on Thursday, 11 December, on the Ardross School Quadrangle. Parents and students are to be seated by 6.15pm. This evening is the culmination and celebration of another outstanding year of education at Ardross Primary School. Students have been practising extremely hard, with Years 1 to 4 completing amazing EduDances, Year 5 - Zumba and the Year 6/7 students ballroom dancing. All students are required to attend. Parents are requested to advise their child’s classroom teacher if they will not be present at this event due to leaving school early. The evening will conclude around 8.00pm. Parents are requested not to take their children early once their item is finished, as it is important as a school community that we acknowledge the Year 6/7 students at the conclusion of the evening.

YEAR 6/7 SUPPER
A reminder also that Year 6/7 students, their parents and siblings are invited back to the undercover area at the conclusion of the evening for a celebratory farewell supper provided by the Year 5/6 students and the P&C. This will be our final function to farewell the Year 6/7 students from the Ardross school community, apart from the final countdown on the last day of school. I would like to thank Yvonne Radford and the Year 5/6 parents for assisting with this wonderful tradition and look forward to seeing the Year 6/7 students and their extended families after the presentation evening.

PARENT THANK YOU MORNING TEA
Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who attended the Parent Thank You Morning Tea last week. The morning tea is a small token of appreciation from the staff and it was great to see another large crowd present. This is indicative of the support our school receives from you as parents. No matter how big or small your contribution was to our school, it is highly valued by staff, students and the school community - THANK YOU! Thank you to Mrs Lawrence for coordinating the Parent Morning Tea and the staff for providing sensational eats!! The staff look forward to the Staff Thank You Morning Tea, which is being provided today by parents. Again I feel that this is a great way for the parents to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff over the year. Thank you to Kate Collins and the class contacts for coordinating the staff morning tea and I am sure that we will enjoy the wonderful food.

STAFFING 2015
Staffing for 2015 is almost complete. At both the School Board and P&C level, I have outlined the draft school structure for 2015. As I have previously outlined, with the new Student Centred Funding Model we have reviewed our current structure and have made some changes moving in to 2015. At present staff who will be leaving Ardross are Mrs Cocks, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Hia, Mrs Morris and Mrs Langenbach. We would sincerely like to thank them for their efforts as part of our staff this year. Mrs Cocks and Mrs Lawrence have been on the teaching staff for several years and I wish them all the best. I am sure that we will see some of the Assistants back again next year, as some positions for Special Needs Assistants become clearer.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS 2016
Gifted and Talented Academic, Languages and Arts Programs provide a unique and challenging curriculum designed to bring out the best in your child. These elite programs are available at 17 select public secondary schools. Applications for Gifted and Talented Programs are open until 12 noon on Monday, 9 February 2015. For more information go to det.wa.edu.au/giftedandtalented.
As per our Behaviour Management Policy, all students from Pre Primary to Year 7 will be invited to a movie on Thursday, 18 December to reward their outstanding behaviour. We will be walking to Hoyts Garden City at 12.00 noon and returning by 2.45pm. Unfortunately not every student will be receiving an invitation, which will be outlined to parents in a letter from me. Students who receive 3 pink slips, are sent to the office for a serious breach of the policy, or are regularly in the behaviour book may not be receiving an invite. Students who transgressed in Terms One or Two and have subsequently worked hard to improve their behaviour may be considered for the movie. Pre Primary to Year 3 will be watching “Penguins of Madagascar” while the Year 4 to 7 students will be watching ‘Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day’. Invitations and permission slips will be sent home next week. I look forward to taking around 350 students to the movies!! Thank you again to our P&C who have provided the funds to support this program.

SCHOOL CLOSING 2014 / OPENING 2015
A reminder that school finishes for students on Thursday, 18 December and staff on Friday, 19 December. The office will officially close at 12 noon on Friday, 19 December, School resumes for teaching staff on Thursday, 29 January and students on Monday, 2 February. The office will officially re-open on Tuesday, 27 January.

SCHOOL BOARD
The School Board will hold its final meeting for 2014 tonight. I would like to thank the Board members for their outstanding efforts this year under the guidance of the Chair, Mark Downey. I would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of Mark Downey and Dr Bruce Willett who are retiring after many years as Council and Board members. Your service to our school has been invaluable, and I wish you all the best for the future and hope that you in some way, continue your association with our school.

STUDENT REPORTS
Student end of year formal reports will be sent home Friday, 12 December. I have read through all of the reports, and continue to be proud at the achievements of our wonderful students. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the staff in finalising the end of year reports. This is a huge workload at this time of the year, and one that needs to be recognised and congratulated! Please read the reports carefully with the information sheet provided and discuss them with your child. Reports have been sent home now to allow time for you to see your child's classroom teacher should you have any issues or concerns.

CLASS LISTS 2015
Staff have almost concluded the student placement process for 2015. Student placement is completed by the staff using the following criteria:

- mixed ability classes – spread of IEP / SAER students.
- looping – in split years teachers having the same students from a year level again.
- behaviour management – class dynamics.
- gender balance where possible.
- friendship groups – try for at least 3 peer friends.

Due to changes that could occur over the holidays, class lists will not be advertised until Friday, 30 January 2015 when they will be placed outside of the office from 1.00pm. The Uniform Shop will also be open from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

GRADUATION ASSEMBLY
Please note that the whole school Graduation Assembly is on Tuesday, 9 December 2014 commencing at 9.00am at which we will be presenting the graduating Year 6 and 7 students with their Graduating Certificates. We look forward to seeing many parents and family members there.

COMMUNITY SURVEY
There were 73 responses of the recent Community Survey. Due to space constraints, I will provide more information about the results in the last newsletter. The School Board have had an initial review of the feedback.

THANK YOU
A huge thank you to all the families who supported our school at the recent Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Special thanks to Irina Bradley who coordinated the sausage sizzle together with Dave Burns, Amanda Kayser, Dan Kayser, Andy Holmes, Jason Gillies, Steph Gillies, Ken Ho, Sally Foster, Dave Heart, Keith Daddow, Lindsay Marley, Fred Roberts and Greg Woodman. Over $2000 was raised for the P&C - AMAZING!!
REUSABLE SLUSHY CUPS

We’ve come up with an idea to help save the environment. At the moment the slushy cups we use at the canteen get thrown away in the bin after only one use. One-use plastic waste the Earth’s precious resources and cause terrible litter problems. Our idea is to change to colourful reusable cups for slushies. When you have finished your slushy you rinse the cup out with water from the tap or drink fountain and then you put it in your bag. You can buy your reusable coloured cup outside the canteen for $1.00 each. Then you can take your coloured cup back to the canteen to get a refill. Mrs Paladino from the canteen agrees that reusable cups are a great idea. She said small refills will cost $1.00 and large refills will cost $1.50.

A good site to learn more about the problems of one-use plastics is http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1Pb6cECgw.

River Rangers, Emmeline and Jessica

THE SNOW QUEEN’S HEIR - UWA PANTOMIME SOCIETY

When: 19 & 20 December 7.00pm
20 & 21 December 2.00pm
Where: The Dolphin Theatre, UWA
Tickets: Kids under 12 - $12 / Adults - $15
Bookings: TicketsWA.com / Telephone 6488 2440 / Tickets available at the door

TOYS NEEDED

Kindy and Pre-Primary students spend a portion of their school time on play-based learning. This means that there is a fair bit of wear and tear, and toys need to be regularly replaced. Therefore, if your children have outgrown any toys which are still in good condition, you could consider donating them to the school. In particular, we are looking for:

• any Lego and Duplo
• dress up clothes (especially pirates, princes and princesses, construction workers, doctors, police officers)
• sand toys (including shovels, buckets, sieves etc)
• K’nex, Mobilo or similar construction toys
• puzzles for 3 to 6 year olds

You can donate any of these items to the school’s early childhood program. Please drop them off throughout the year to Miss Brown’s classroom (Room 16). Helen Brown will distribute the donations among all Early Childhood teachers.

Cornelia Major
Vice President, P&C

MASTER MIND AUSTRALIA – ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

JANUARY TRANSITION PROGRAM

Study Skills – Essay Writing – Subject Revision

For all students from Years 6 – 7 (2015)

This revision program aims to prepare students for Term 1 (2015) before the academic year begins. The program will include courses in Study Skills, Writing and Mathematics Skills. Course will be conducted at:

All Saints’ College - Monday, 19 January till Saturday, 24 January 2015
Early Bird enrolment discount of 10% before Friday, 20 December, 2014
Dr Robert Hallam at Master Mind Australia on 9486 1377
www.mastermindaustralia.com.au

WATERWISE TIP - INSTALL A RAINWATER TANK

Each year, around 40,000 litres of water could be collected from your home’s roof area and used on the garden taking pressure off our drinking water supplies. A Waterwise Rebate is available for rainwater tanks. To find our more about the Rebate Program call the Waterwise Infoline on 131039 or visit http://portal.water.wa.gov.au.

UNIFORM SHOP

11 December 2014 9.00-9.30am
30 January 2015 1.00-3.00pm

CANTEEN ROSTER

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<th>Thu 4 Dec</th>
<th>Terri McFarland</th>
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<td>Palu Pal</td>
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<td>Mon 8 Dec</td>
<td>Yvonne Lee</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Thu 11 Dec</td>
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<td>Thu 18 Dec</td>
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SUMMER READING CLUB - ADVENTURE

1 DECEMBER 2014 to 31 JANUARY 2015

Registration is free at a City of Melville library at which you will receive a Summer Reading Club participation pack, including an activity booklet and a range of merchandise. You can also register at www.summerreadingclub.org.au. Hoyts movie passes will be given away to avid summer readers, and national prizes including iPads and iPods are also up for grabs for those who participate in the program.

Tennis Lessons

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC

Tennis Australia’s junior coaching programs are the perfect way for kids of any age and ability to develop coordination and learn a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime, with fully certified and experienced coaches.

Clinics are held throughout the school holidays, places are limited so be quick!

WATERWISE TIP

INSTALL A RAINWATER TANK

Each year, around 40,000 litres of water could be collected from your home’s roof area and used on the garden taking pressure off our drinking water supplies. A Waterwise Rebate is available for rainwater tanks. To find out more about the Rebate Program call the Waterwise Infoline on 131039 or visit http://portal.water.wa.gov.au.
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
Arreum Han
M: 0450 422 224
“Always happy to assist!”

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.