Principal’s Message

Greetings to staff, students, parents and community members, welcome to this edition of the newsletter. We are now well and truly into our teaching and learning programs for 2016. You only have to look at the upcoming events to see the many learning opportunities our students will be involved in over the next couple of weeks. It is always a very busy and vibrant place to be around!

SCHOOLS DEMONSTRATING SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE AVERAGE GAIN IN NAPLAN

Last week I received an e-mail from the CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), Robert Randall prior to the update of the “My School” website this Wednesday.

“I am pleased to advise that ACARA has identified your school as having demonstrated substantially above average gain in NAPLAN results. On behalf of ACARA, I would like to extend my congratulations to you and your school community on this achievement. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledgement.”

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for Australia’s national reporting program, including My School. The My School website is updated annually with the previous year’s NAPLAN results and other enhancements. For the past few years, ACARA has released information on schools demonstrating substantially above average gain in their NAPLAN results as students progress from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 7 to Year 9. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of acknowledgement.

IDENTIFYING SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE AVERAGE GAIN

My School reports three types of gains in student achievement:

1. overall gain compared to previous years; and
2. gain compared to schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and
3. gain compared to other students at the same average NAPLAN starting score.

Schools identified with above average gain have demonstrated substantial improvement in reading, numeracy, or both, as follows:

1. an overall gain that exceeds the national average by more than one standard deviation unit; and
2. an overall gain higher than the average shown by schools with similar students based on ICSEA, by more than one standard deviation unit; and
3. an overall gain higher than that shown by students with the same starting score, also by more than one standard deviation unit.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the staff and school community who have worked together to ensure that our students have the best possible learning opportunities. Our results have been consistently “at or above like schools” over a significant period of time – WELL DONE!

EVACUATION PRACTICE

Last week we had an evacuation practice. Schools are required to have a process in place in the event of an emergency evacuation or lockdown which is well known to all staff and students. Our evacuation practice occurred without warning and we all moved to our evacuation point on the oval. Although our practice highlighted some minor improvements, it went very smoothly with all students, staff and parents on site (it was a canteen day!) accounted for in six minutes! Again another very good effort!

NEW PARENTS / FAMILIES WELCOME AFTERNOON TEA

Last Friday around 30 new parents and Class Parent Contacts were involved in a welcome afternoon tea on the veranda at the library. The purpose of the afternoon tea was to help parents connect with other new parents and classroom representatives and to help newcomers familiarise themselves with some of the practices and traditions at Ardross PS. Most importantly, the afternoon tea was to welcome you to our school! If you are new to the school we hope that your initial contact has been both warm and friendly and that your kids have settled well and made some friends!

CLASS PARENT CONTACTS

Class Parent Contacts play a vital role in our school by being a communication strategy between the parent body and the classroom teacher. The role of the class parent contact is:

Welcoming - supporting new parents by familiarising them with the school grounds and facilities along with general information on school community groups or activities - eg School Board, P&C, canteen etc.
Communication - in Term 1 Class Parent Contacts organise a parent and child contact list for parents in their class, with permission from each family. Some parents may not wish to be included on this list, and therefore the right of privacy is respected. The class contact list helps to foster new relationships between children and parents in the class each year.

Support for Parents - Class Parent Contacts organise a small afternoon tea in the staffroom on the day of their assembly where possible. Invitations are to each family for parents and grandparents, so they can meet and celebrate the event with the Principal. Some classes may wish to hold other events such as lunches, picnics or parent nights so that parents have the opportunity to meet other parents in their child’s class. Parent volunteers, with the help of the Class Parent Contact, advise when a family may require support in times of need (illness or bereavement) in the form of meals, child care and transportation.

Support for Teachers - occasionally assist teachers by gathering helpers who can provide the class with voluntary services such as art/craft etc.

Support for the P&C - Class Parent Contacts can assist the P&C by disseminating information regarding fundraising / school projects etc and organise a table for the Trivia Night held later in the year.

I would like to thank all Class Parent Contacts who have nominated for the role this year, and especially Samantha Hickman who will be the Class Parent Liaison Coordinator in 2016.

2016 STUDENT FREE DAYS
The Department of Education has gazetted seven Student Free Days for 2016. Ardross Primary School has the following days as student free:

- Thursday, 28 and Friday 29 January (start of Term 1),
- Tuesday, 26 April (start of Term 2),
- Monday, 18 July (start of Term 3),
- Monday, 10 October (start of Term 4), and
- Friday, 16 December (end of the year).

The School Board will also be looking at a Student Free Day in late October, possibly Monday, 24 October as a reporting day for staff. The Student Free Day taken on Tuesday, 26 April is a cluster day where Applecross, Mount Pleasant, Booragoon, Winthrop and Brentwood staff will be involved in a conference together to learn more about the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

STAFF CAR PARK
This is a reminder - PLEASE don’t park in the staff car park. Please also try not to walk down the driveway as an entrance to the school. This is a safety issue and we ask that you support the school with this. We don’t want anyone getting hurt. Let’s keep Ardross PS a safe site for our children.

FACTION SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Thursday, 17 March will be the Faction Swimming Carnival for Years 4 to 6. This year, due to the unavailability of Melville Aquatic, the carnival will be held at Beatty Park. Miss Davies and myself visited Beatty Park last week and we are very excited to be able to use the outdoor facilities there. Students have had trials using the Applecross Senior High School pool and have been placed in either 50m or 25m events, depending on their ability. The outdoor pool ranges from 1.8m to 1.2m at the half way point, so all swimmers will be able to participate. For those who are not strong swimmers, novelty team games will also be held. This is a fun event and I strongly encourage participation; please remember...’we are not playing for sheep stations’. Relax, enjoy and cheer for your team. Miss Davies will use the results of the school carnival to select the Interschool Swimming Team, which is our competitive carnival.

P&C AGM
The P&C AGM will be held next Monday, 14 March commencing at 7.30pm. The P&C plays a very important role in our school, not only in providing financial support but also in providing advice to the School Board on a variety of issues such as Dress Code and Behaviour Management. I would like to formally acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Mrs Samantha Hickman as P&C President in 2015 and her committee for their outstanding efforts. Elections for the committee roles will be held, and information for the various positions has been advertised and is also available from the front office. I would like to thank the P&C committee in advance for their commitment to our school by volunteering their precious time and energy for 2016. Following the elections to be held on Monday I will announce the new committee in the next newsletter.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO
Well done to all of the students from Kindergarten to Year 6 for being so well organised at last week’s whole school photo shoot. Again this year we assembled the whole school and had the photo completed within 30 minutes!! I am hoping that the whole school photo will be printed soon so that I can display it in the front office.

Have a great fortnight.

Andrew Holmes
Principal
P&C NEWS

“Happy Easter” - Bakers Delight Hot Cross Bun Drive
Order forms for Hot Cross Buns are coming home this week. If you would like to order some yummy Bakers Delight Buns for Easter – just $7 (same as you would pay in store). Order form due back to school office by Wednesday, 16 March.
Delivery of buns sent home on Tuesday, 22 March. $2 from every order is donated direct to Ardross Primary School P&C.

Canteen Upcoming Events
Wednesday, 16 March – Canteen open. The menu for this will be Thursday Lunch menu.
Thursday, 17 March – Canteen closed.
Friday, 18 March – celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day. Special ‘green’ snack items will be available for purchase. Come on down and have a look. Potato bake on sale.
If you haven’t already volunteered in the Canteen this term some spots are still available please email Leanne on ardrosscanteen@gmail.com.

Save the Date
Friday 13 May, 2016 – Trivia Night at Tompkins on Swan. Don’t miss out on this year’s “Social Night of Nights”. Numbers are limited - tables/tickets on sale now. See your Class Representative to join the class table or contact Samantha Hickman on 0433 382 208 for your own table of 10.

Donations Needed – Do you own a Business?
If you can donate or know of someone that can donate any products, vouchers or services to assist with the fundraising for the Trivia Night it would be greatly appreciated. Please call Rebekah Hannaford 0407 612 812.

Samantha Hickman
P&C President

HONOUR CERTIFICATE WINNERS
At last week’s assembly the winners were:
Room 20  Joia Kowalewski, Leroy Ting.
Room 19  Aisha Burns, Sophie Miller, Christian Price.
Room 16  Amelia Hunt, Anica Prijic.
Room 13  Julia Jung, Hudson Sternees.
Room 11/12  Grace Huque, Brodie Webster.
Room 10  Amelia Isaac, Liam Scott, Dave Wirjaatmadja.
Room 9  Joseph Giles, Rory Tweedle, Naomi Yokote.
Room 8  Chamieka Brown, Kenneth Cheong, Jayden Lee.
Room 7  Mitchell Belton, Macey Hehir, Cayden Niese, Irina Prijic.
Room 6  Zoe Cahoon, Morgan Fromant, Tobias Zmitko.
Room 5  Callum Barrett, Jesse He, May Spink, Katie Wright.
Room 4  Joel Ellery, Xavia Variyan.
Room 3  Oliver Kelly, Caryn Lua, Chelsea Ong, Thomas Skinner.
Room 2  Ethan Hickman, Jesse-Lee Stack, Takara Vivian.
Japanese  Sophie Sun, Rory Tweedie.
P/E  Zac Ainsworth, Joel Ellery, Ky Hehir, Ciana Hudson, Joseph Kelly, Josh Kelly, Joia Kowalewski, Mira Kuzniatsova, Kiana Prentice, Kathryn Raffelt, Xavia Variyan.
PHOTOS

Students from Room 9 who cleaned up at Deep Water Point for Keep Australia Beautiful day. They picked up over 10kg of rubbish and prevented lots of plastic getting into the river where it could have damaged dolphins, turtles and other marine creatures.

Sofie, Catie, Greer and Lucia handing over $170 they raised in their guess the Number of Easter Eggs competition, to the students from Tunas Hijau school in Surabaya, Indonesia. Their international goal is to plant rainforest trees to provide habitat for endangered orang-utans and proboscis monkeys.
CANTEEN ROSTER

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CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen will be closed on Thursday, 17 March due to the Swimming Carnival, however will be open on Wednesday, 16 March instead. We will serve from the current Thursday menu.

On Friday, 18 March we will be having a few St Patrick’s Day treats available at recess as well as having a special on Potato Bake for $4.00.

Thank you for your support.

2015 WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM

Many thanks to the many parents and community members who collected the stamps from the program run last year by Woolworths and to parents who collated these. We have now received the educational resources that were ordered. These items will be used across the school and include:

♦ a variety of new sand play toys
♦ large lined magnetic whiteboards for classroom use in Years 1 to 4
♦ individual whiteboards with markers and erasers for small group class use
♦ colourful cardboard magazine holders for each class.

Thanks for the amazing effort from all, it is greatly appreciated.

HOMESTAY FAMILIES

Desperately seeking 5 homestay families for 15 year old Japanese boys from 28 March to 6 April inclusive. You will be provided with $30 per night to cover costs. Drop off and pick up will be from Applecross Senior High School. If interested please call Linda on 0433 544 328.

HOW WATERWISE IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

Take this simple test to find out. Do you:

- take short showers?
- run your dishwasher with full loads?
- mulch your garden?
- regularly check your reticulation system?
- know if your toilet is leaking?
- use a glass of water to brush your teeth?
- have a rain sensor in your garden?
- catch the warm up water in your shower?
- rinse your dishes in a container?
- turn your sprinklers off during winter?

The Water Corporation has lots of ways you can save water. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 131039.
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

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

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