

Principal's Message

MOTIVATE - EDUCATE - CELEBRATE



Welcome to our school newsletter where we aim to celebrate learning and the Ardross Primary School Community.

It seems a long time since our last newsletter. With the speed and large amount of change over the last six weeks we have relied on Connect and our webpage as our main communication tools. What a six weeks it has been. I have always been so proud of the Ardross community but not as much as during this period of immense change which is COVID-19. As parents you have been placed in a position of uncertainty with messages changing almost daily. As teaching staff the change has surpassed anything we have known. We have all been placed in moments of vulnerability where we experience things for the very first time. The sadness of what is happening globally cannot be put into words but we should take a moment to stand back and acknowledge we are all doing the best we possibly can and we are doing it very well.

THANK YOU

Within the Ardross Primary School staff, we have very strong leadership. This leadership is evident in every classroom, the school Board and within our strategic planning. During my leave, Mr Mirabella, Mrs Riley and Mrs Schaper took on leadership roles in probably the most challenging time of change. The stability they provided during this time was exemplary – thank you.

COMMUNICATION

We are excited to announce the launch of our school Facebook page on Monday, 11 May. Mrs Jones has spent a lot of time researching and developing our page. I will keep you updated.

We now have four key platforms for communication:

PLATFORM	TARGET AUDIENCE	PURPOSE
Ardross PS Webpage	Global	Overview of school policy, information, teaching and learning.
Ardross PS Community Connect	Ardross Community	Messages to the community.
Newsletter	Ardross Community (due to the inclusion of our Facebook page the Newsletter will now be monthly)	Monthly overview of school information.
Facebook	Ardross Community / Global	Celebration of teaching and learning.

DETECT RESEARCH STUDY

Ardross Primary School has been invited to participate in research the WA Government is undertaking in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute. The research is part of DETECT: a larger study of particular groups in our community to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 in Western Australia. Education has been prioritised for inclusion.

As part of the research, staff and students from 40 schools will be tested for COVID-19 at monthly intervals over a period of at least three months. These schools will be randomly selected by the researchers. All 80 schools will participate in the online survey component, providing information on how COVID-19 is impacting their physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

Our school's involvement in this research will make a valuable contribution to better understanding the extent of COVID-19 in Western Australia and what measures are required to keep our communities safe during the pandemic.

Newsletter
5 May 2020
Issue 4

Monday 11 May
P&C Meeting

Wednesday 20 May
School Board

Monday 1 June
WA DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 8 June
P&C Meeting

Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	1
Principal's Message cont...	2
Chaplain's Corner Sports News	3
OSHClub News Community News	4



ANZAC CEREMONY

I hope you all had the opportunity to watch the ANZAC day video. A huge thank you to Mrs Mason, Mrs Ellery, students in the Choir and Year 6 Student Councillors for providing us with an opportunity to share this day as a whole school. Did you know that the students in the Choir sent in their singing individually and Mrs Mason 'magically' collated all the voices together to create the one Choir voice!

Magical.

Sue Mikkelsen-Taylor
Principal



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CONNECTION AND CONVERSATION

Last term, I started a series of articles on resilience, which I paused amid the quick and dramatic changes to schooling in Western Australia. And while I'm keen to continue the series through this term, I think it's more important to look at some of the beautiful examples of community that we saw over the last 6 weeks.

I noted that the APA defines resilience as "the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or even significant sources of stress." And I'd like to acknowledge the ongoing resilience of our community as we continue to face the impact of COVID-19 in our country.

As a school community, I think we did a great job at sticking together through a very uncertain time. Strangely, we went from asking big questions like "How do we help children grow and thrive?" and "What values are important to our community?" to smaller questions - "How do I find that little grid thingy in Connect again?" and "Where can I buy toilet paper?". But the ethos was the same – looking after our children the best we can while looking out for those around us. The situation isn't over in some ways, but we have pulled together through the thick of it - here are a few things that stood out to me:

- ♦ **We kept checking in** – keeping an eye on each other, sharing the load and offering to help. This meant that people didn't need to feel alone with their struggles.
- ♦ **People reaching out and displaying vulnerability** – lots of people chose to voice their worries and questions about how school closure and the wider COVID-19 situation was affecting their family. Not only does this create connection and conversation around these issues, it also gives other families permission to share their worries and questions. Displaying vulnerability can have a strangely empowering affect – by acknowledging that "I don't know", we're letting go of the need to be in control and the need to be self-reliant.
- ♦ **Choosing to look ahead** – although we are still facing the realities of a pandemic, by taking a positive yet realistic perspective means that the students of Ardross Primary are reminded that some of the difficulties we're facing now are temporary. And while I would never encourage naivety, facing problems with a positive and active mindset means that we don't let them take over our whole life – we limit them, and we look ahead.
- ♦ **We looked for opportunities to be generous and grateful** – I won't go into details, but the (food) support for the staff in the last weeks of Term 1 was VERY appreciated. It meant that staff felt appreciated as they navigated the constantly changing landscape of education, it meant that families could express their gratitude and it meant that I enjoyed a smorgasbord of delights.

Ironically, I was all ready to write an article about resilience in week 8, but what better way than reflecting on our response to a real adversity. And while change is constant, so is community.

Stay well, stay connected.

Nathan Hoyle
Chaplain

SPORTS NEWS

Hello again sports stars!

I have enjoyed hearing about the different activities you have been doing over the holidays to stay fit and active. I also loved seeing the pictures and videos of you practising different activities including your skipping ropes!

As this term has a cross-country focus, we will be running weekly during class time. Can you please ensure you bring your skipping ropes in as they will be kept in your classroom for morning fitness cardio.

If you are still working from home or just want to have some extra practise, I am uploading our weekly class focuses to each Phys Ed Connect page and to Clickview at the below address.

<https://clickview.tv/sport-with-miss-brown>

Hope everyone has enjoyed all of the new material both at home and in class!

Hannah Brown
Phys Ed Teacher

OSHCLUB NEWS

Enrolling your child in OSHClub is easy and free. All you need to do is complete an enrolment form online at www.oshclub.com.au where you will have the option of booking as either a permanent or casual user. Once your child is enrolled you then have the comfort and reassurance of knowing that your child/children will be cared for in a safe, fun and friendly environment.

Val Maiorana
Program Coordinator

mandarin stars



fun mandarin for kids

AFTER SCHOOL & SATURDAY MANDARIN CLUB

Mandarin Stars provides immensely enjoyable Mandarin Language classes for children! After-school Mandarin Club is available in the Library on Tuesday and Thursday from 3.15pm - 4.05pm and 4.10pm to 5.00pm (Kindy to Year 6).

Saturday morning classes for children age 1 to 12 years are held in the Senior Block. To enrol or to book for a free trial class, please contact perthsouth@mandarinstars.com.au or call 1800 18 1118 for more details.



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- ◆ Prices are per lesson and start from \$17.55 for a group of 4
- ◆ Held after school
- ◆ Enrol online at . . .

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MUSIC

Phone: 1300 366 243
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Web: www.keyedupmusic.com.au

The advertised activities may be of interest to the Ardross Primary School community. However, these third party activities are run independently of the school and are not endorsed, supervised or vetted in any way by Ardross Primary School.