

# ARDEER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## THE PURPLE PULSE



### CONTACT US

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**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

### Key Dates

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Swimming Program  
Grade P/1A & B and 2/3  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August –  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

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Book Week Celebrations  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August

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Father's Day Stall  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August

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Science Week Celebration  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August

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Curriculum Day (Pupil free  
day)  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

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Last day Term 4 (early  
dismissal)  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

I hope you and your family are all keeping well.

I recently spoke at one of our whole school assemblies about the amazing opportunities that come with being the principal of our small school. Chris and I received some wonderful cards and gifts from the students as part of World Principal's Day, which was a lovely surprise.

I often mention just how much of a privilege it is to be the principal of our wonderful school.

The diversity of experiences that comes with the job is something that I love and helps to maintain my interest in the role.

When people ask what it's like to be a principal of a small school, I always find this a bit of a challenge to answer, because there isn't really a typical day. I always say, it can be defined as "interesting," because you just never know what is going to happen on any given day. I could find myself having to unblock a student toilet, retrieving a student's shoe from over a fence, analysing student achievement data, completing pest control duties, working with our amazing staff to drive school improvement initiatives, meeting with students or observing teacher practice. And this could all be in the same day!

Whilst the role of a principal can be challenging at times, it doesn't feel like work in the traditional sense of the word.

I feel so fortunate to be able to get paid for doing something that I love to do.

The aspect of my job that I most love however is working with all the members of our incredible school community including parents, staff, students and the wider community.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

Working together towards our common goal of ensuring our school can be the best it can be and in the delivery of the best outcomes for our school, students and families. This is my moral purpose, and this is what brings me the most joy professionally.

I would like to hope that everyone shares the same degree of job satisfaction that I do, but I am very cognisant that this is not always the case, having done many jobs myself prior to working in education out of necessity and not necessarily for the love it.

As my eldest son progresses through his high school years at what seems to be a rate of knots, he will soon embark on the process of reflecting on future pathways beyond high school. I hope that he too can find the same degree of happiness, fun, passion, fulfillment and purpose in whatever he chooses to do.

Take care everyone, I look forward to seeing you all in and around the school.

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL UPDATE

Dear Families,

We are nearly finished our Prep/1 and 2/ 3 Swimming Program for another year. Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre have been once again full of praise for how our students represent the school with all students consistently showing our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Thanks also to our parent volunteers who have also assisted with the program.

This week, students in grades 3/ 4, 4/ 5 and 5/ 6 participated in a Healthy Eating workshop run by Foodbank. In this session, staff taught students about the different food groups and how to make some healthy lunch time snacks! I have included a brochure with some healthy eating tips and tricks in this newsletter. Students were also given recipe cards for some of the foods they tried.

### **Book Week 2024**

Next week we have our Book Week 2024 Celebration on Monday 26th August. There will be a whole school Book Week parade under the COLA at 9am. Students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character. Last year we had some incredible outfits. Families are invited to attend the parade if they would like.

### **Camp 2024**

Camp consent notes and medical information forms were sent home last week to those who expressed an interest in attending and paid a \$50 deposit earlier in the year. If your child is no longer interested in attending camp, please let me know as soon as possible as there are some additional children who have expressed an interest. Just a friendly reminder that consent/ payment must be finalised by the 19th September. If you have any questions about camp, please give me a call or drop in and see me.

Regards,

Christopher O'Brien

Assistant Principal

## P/1 AND 2/3 2024 SWIMMING PROGRAM

The students in Grade P/1 and 2/3 are almost nearing the end of their 10 intensive swimming program at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre. It has been brilliant to see the students develop vital lifelong skills including how to remain safe around water. The students behaviour throughout the two weeks has been incredible with all students proudly displaying our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. They represented themselves and the school so well.

## Book Week 2024: Theme Announcement...

The CBCA Children's Book Week is one of the biggest events in the Australian school library calendar. A perfect opportunity to celebrate Australian children's literature and the work of school staff and everything they do to support reading.



Reading can take you to other worlds; Reading helps you explore new ideas; Reading helps you to understand a different person. Ardeer Primary will celebrate Book Week on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August and this will be a wonderful opportunity to dress

up. There will be many exciting things happening...a parade, visiting author/illustrator and a competition!

## **2024 Ardeer Children's Book Awards VOTE NOW!**

There are 4 categories to vote for. Each grade has nominated and we have compiled a shortlist...

***Most Popular Book...***

***Funniest Book...***

***Favourite Author...***

***Favourite Illustrator...***

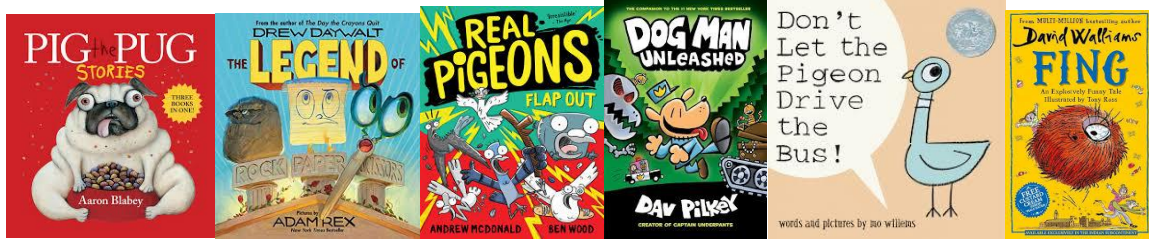
**Books and Voting Box are displayed near the office. Each vote will go into the draw to win a \$20 SCHOLASTIC VOUCHER (3 to be won)**

***All Book winners and voting winners will be announced at the Book Week Assembly, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Families are welcome to vote too!***

# WE ARE EXCITED



## Most Popular Book...



## Funniest Book...



## Favourite Author...



Mo Willems...Aaron Blabey..Dr Seuss..Roald Dahl..Dav Pilkey..Andy Griffiths

## Favourite Illustrator...



Terry Denton..Julia Donalson..Aaron Blabey..Katy Farina..Terry Denton..

Bruce





# HEALTHY EATING SESSION

## SESSION OVERVIEW

Foodbank Victoria ran a 'Healthy Eating' session at your school. Our team of Nutritionists taught students the following:

- **The five food groups:** foods included in these groups, health benefits and why it's important to eat from all five food groups every day! Here is a link for more information on the five food groups: <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/food-essentials/five-food-groups>
- **Healthy lunch box:** how to make a healthy lunch box using foods from all five food groups, highlighting that the healthier lunch box is tastier and more affordable compared to the 'other lunch box'.
- **Healthy cooking demonstration:** tuna and vegetable sushi rolls and oat and apricot bliss balls cooking demonstration. Students also received samples to taste. These delicious lunch box recipes are affordable, easy and healthy! These recipe cards were given to students to take home.

**Takeaway message for carers:** a healthy lunch box is tastier, more affordable and, provides important nutrients to keep your family healthy. We hope this handout inspires and supports you to have fun creating healthy lunch boxes with your family and to eat from all five food groups every day!

## TIPS FOR PACKING A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX

Here are some tips for packing a healthy lunch box:

- **Start with small steps:** make one change at a time. For example, start by swapping out fruit juice for plain water. One week later, swap out a packet of chips for chopped vegetables with hommus and so on.
- **Get the children involved:** give your children some options and let them choose. For example, ask the children what fruit and vegetables they would like in their lunch box. Ask them what fruit to add into their plain yoghurt. Take them shopping and let them choose which fruit and vegetables they want. Get them involved in making their own lunch box by chopping, portioning etc. Look up healthy recipes together.



ARDEER  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# ENROL NOW



## Respect

## Responsibility

## Safety

- ✓ Strong academic focus on Literacy and Mathematics
- ✓ Small class sizes
- ✓ Before/after school and holiday care program
- ✓ Outstanding parent school satisfaction data
- ✓ Extracurricular programs- Camp, swimming and sport
- ✓ STEM learning space
- ✓ Specialist programs Auslan, Music, PE and Art
- ✓ Lunch time clubs - Chess, dance, STEM, sustainability
- ✓ Student mental health and wellbeing supports
- ✓ Onsite kindergarten
- ✓ Tutor Learning Initiative



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## **SUBWAY LUNCH ORDERS**

The school will be continue our partnership with Canteen Hub and Subway in Term 3.

Parents will have the opportunity to place an order from a limited Subway menu for their child which will then be delivered to the school at 1PM. Order will then be distributed to students in readiness for the school's lunch break at 1:15PM.

There will be two opportunities scheduled this term and these will take place on **Wednesday 14th August & Wednesday 11th September 2024.**

Parents will first need to create a Canteen Hub Account -

<https://app.canteenhub.com.au/register> register and register as a new user. (Attached is a user guide for your reference)

-Ordering closes – 11.00PM the Monday prior.

-All orders will be delivered in separate class cartons and each lunch will be clearly labelled. Parental Support is available via the link below or using the HELP function on the website –

Parents will first need to create a Canteen Hub Account -

<https://parentsupport.canteenhub.com/portal/en/kb/canteenhub> and register as a new user. (Attached is a user guide for your reference)

**-Ordering closes – 11.00PM the Monday prior.**

(12th August & 9th September)



## CHILD SAFE STANDARDS



### School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

#### **Focus:** Safety

Students from Prep/1 and 2/3 have had the opportunity to participate in the swimming program. Students have been practising and demonstrating safety. They have done this by walking on slippery surfaces, staying with their swimming group and listening to the instructions of their swim instructions. It is pleasing to see students represent themselves and the school in a safe and responsible way.

# CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS



## Help for non-English speakers:

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the principal, John Mifsud or the assistant principal, Chris O'Brien.

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the processes and procedures Ardeer Primary School will use when planning and conducting camps, excursions and adventure activities for students.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all camps and excursions organised by Ardeer Primary School. This policy also applies to adventure activities organised by Ardeer Primary School, regardless of whether or not they take place on or off school grounds, and to the school Twilight event.

This policy is intended to complement the Department's policy and guidelines on excursions, camps and adventure activities which all Victorian government schools are required to follow. Ardeer Primary School will follow both this policy, as well as the Department's policy and guidelines when planning for and conducting camps and excursions.

This policy does not apply to student workplace learning or intercampus travel.

## DEFINITIONS

### Excursions:

For the purpose of this policy, excursions are activities organised by the school where the students:

- are taken out of the school grounds (for example, a camp, day excursion, school sports);
- undertake adventure activities, regardless of whether or not they occur outside the school grounds;
- Attend the school Twilight Event

**Camps** are excursions involving at least one night's accommodation (including school sleep-overs).

**Local excursions** are excursions to locations within walking distance of the school and do not involve 'Adventure Activities'.

**Adventure activities** are activities that involve a greater than normal risk. Further information and examples of adventure activities are available on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library, at the following link:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/excursions/guidance/adventure-activities>

## POLICY

Camps and excursions can provide a valuable educational experience for our students which are complementary to their learning, as they provide access to resources, environments and expertise that may not be available in the classroom.

For all camps and excursions, including adventure activities, our school will follow the Department's Policy and Advisory Library: [Excursions](#).

### Planning process for camps and excursions:

All camps and excursions will comply with Department planning requirements.

Part of this planning process includes conducting risk assessments, to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risks associated with each proposed camp or excursion. Ardeer Primary School's risk assessment will include consideration of arrangements for supervision of students and consideration of the risk of bushfire or other natural disaster activity in the excursion location. In the event the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a Catastrophic fire danger rating (FDR) day, excursions or camp activities in affected locations will be cancelled or rescheduled. Planning will also cover arrangements for cancelling, recalling or altering the camp or excursion for any other reason.

Ardeer Primary School is committed to ensuring students with additional needs are provided with an inclusive camps and excursions program and will work with families during the planning stage, as needed, to support all students' attendance and participation in camp and excursion activities.

In cases where a camp or excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the Organising Teacher will ensure that there is an alternative educational program available and appropriate supervision for those students not attending the camp or excursion.

### **Supervision**

Ardeer Primary School follows the Department's guidelines in relation to supervision of students during excursions and camps.

All excursion staff (including parent volunteers) will be familiar with supervision requirements and the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each camp and excursion.

All school staff will be aware that they retain overall responsibility for the supervision and care of students throughout all camps and excursions (including adventure activities), regardless of whether or not external providers are managing the activity.

### **Parent volunteers**

Parents may be invited to assist with camps and excursions. School staff will notify parents/carers of any costs associated with attending. School staff are in charge of camps and excursions and parent/carer volunteers are expected to follow teachers' instructions. When deciding which parents/carers will attend, the Organising Teacher will take into account: any valuable skills the parents/carers have to offer (e.g. bus licence, first aid etc.) and the special needs of particular students.

### **Volunteer and external provider checks**

Ardeer Primary School requires all parent or carer camp or excursion volunteers and all external providers working directly with our students to have a current Working with Children Check card.

### **Parent/carer consent**

For all camps and excursions, other than local excursions, Ardeer Primary School will provide parents/carers with a specific consent form outlining the details of the proposed activity. Ardeer Primary School uses Compass to inform parents about camps and excursions and to seek their consent. Compass consent forms are printed and distributed to students and include a section for medical conditions and medication taken which needs to be completed by parents. Consent forms have a due date which is clearly marked on the consent form.

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any questions or concerns that they or their child may have with a proposed camp or excursion.

For local excursions, Ardeer Primary School will provide parents and carers with an annual Local Excursions consent form at the start of each school year or upon enrolment if students enrol during the school year. Ardeer Primary School will also provide advance notice to parents/carers of an upcoming local excursion through communication via Seesaw or Compass. For local excursions that occur on a recurring basis (for example weekly outings to the local oval for sports lessons), Ardeer Primary School will notify parents once only prior to the commencement of the recurring event.

### **Parent Payments for camps and excursions**

Most camps and excursions provided by Ardeer Primary School enhance and broaden the schooling experience of our students but are not a mandatory component of our curriculum. These activities are provided on a user-pays basis in accordance with the Department's Parent Payments Policy.

Consent forms will have clearly stated payment amounts and finalisation dates, and families will be given sufficient time to make payments.

Students who have not finalised payment by the required date for camps and excursions provided on a user pays basis will not be able to attend unless the Principal or Assistant Principal determines exceptional circumstances apply.

Where a camp or excursion is provided as part of the standard curriculum requirements, parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution but all students will be able to attend regardless of whether their parents contribute.

### **Financial Help for Families**

Ardeer Primary School will make all efforts to ensure that students are not excluded for financial reasons. Families experiencing financial difficulty are invited to discuss alternative payment arrangements with the Business Manager, Assistant Principal or Principal. The Business Manager, Assistant Principal or Principal can also discuss family eligibility for the Department's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), which provides payments for eligible students to attend school activities, including camps and excursions. Applications for the CSEF are open to families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents and are facilitated by the school. Further information about the CSEF and the application form are available at [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#).

### **Refunds**

If a camp or excursion is cancelled or altered by the school, or a student is no longer able to attend part or all of the camp or excursion, our school will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents/carers on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally we will not be able to refund payments made for costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will provide information about refunds to parents/carers at the time of payment.

### **Student health**

Parents and carers need to ensure the school has up-to-date student health information prior to camps and excursions. A member of staff will be appointed with responsibility for the health needs of the students for each camp/excursion. Teachers will administer any medication provided according to our *Medication* policy and the student's signed *Medication Authority Form*. To meet the school's obligations relating to safety, a first aid kit and mobile phone will be taken by teachers on all camps and excursions.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their child/children are in good health when attending excursions and camps. If a student becomes ill during a camp and is not able to continue at camp it is the parent/carer's responsibility to collect them and cover any associated costs. If the Principal approves a student joining a camp late, transport to the camp is the parent/carer's responsibility.

### **Behaviour expectations**

Students participating in camps and excursions are required to cooperate and display appropriate behaviour to ensure the camp or excursion is a safe, positive and educational experience for all students involved.

Parents/carers will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion or camp due to behaviour that does not meet the standards of behaviour set out in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal, in consultation with the Organising Teacher. Both the parent/carer and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp or excursion.

If on a camp or excursion the Teacher in Charge considers an individual student's behaviour does not meet required standards, then the Principal or their nominee may determine that a student should return home during the camp or excursion. In these circumstances the parent/carer is responsible for the collection of the student and any costs associated with this.



Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*, *Student Code of Conduct* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

### **Electronic Devices**

Students will not be permitted to bring electronic devices to camps or excursions except with prior approval from the Principal. The Principal will only approve students bringing electronic devices to a camp or excursion in exceptional circumstances and when it is in the best interests of the student, and may place conditions on its location and use during the camp or excursion.

### **Food**

Students are not permitted to bring their own supply of food items to camps and excursions unless the item is medically indicated and discussed with the Organising Teacher, or included as an item on the clothing and equipment list for that camp or excursion.

### **Accident and Ambulance Cover**

Any costs associated with student injury rest with parents/carers unless the Department is liable in negligence (liability is not automatic).

Unless otherwise indicated, Ardeer Primary School and the Department do not provide student accident or ambulance cover. Parents/carers may wish to obtain student accident insurance cover and/or ambulance cover, depending on their health insurance arrangements and any other personal considerations.

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following way: Included in staff induction processes and staff training:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- [Excursions](#)
- [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#)
- [Parent Payments Policy](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Camps and Excursions Policy:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Volunteer Policy

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	December 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	December 2026

# NUMERACY TIPS

## Foundation-2

### Animations to watch together

- The Everyday Maths Animations encourage families to explore maths together as they walk, talk and play in everyday situations. The set of three animations support families to bring mathematics and numeracy into conversations in the home, the supermarket and outdoors.

<https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?WSC2SM>

- The Mathscots animation series has been developed to support families engage in numeracy and to build home-school connections around mathematics learning. Following the introductory episode, there are 9 stand-alone episodes (each between one and two minutes long). Longer play versions have in-built pauses along with prompts and questions to encourage families to talk about the maths presented. There are also suggested activities that families may like to explore after watching the episodes.

<https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/pages/mathscots>

## Grade 3-6

### Handling money

Encouraging your child to think about money, saving money, and considering how they spend money is very important. Here are some tips and activities:

- Encourage your child to work out how much change you will get after buying something.
- Investigate costs for family trips together. For example, a visit to a theme park may include the cost of transport, entry tickets, food and transport.
- Discuss saving money for presents or something your child may want to buy. Work out how long it will take to save this much if they get a small amount of money each week.
  - Negotiate increases in pocket money as percentages. For example, a 5% increase would be how much money per week? Is this better than a monthly increase?
- Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or birthday money and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week?
- Read the newspaper or watch the news. Discuss what is happening

with the stock market and why these changes may occur.

### **Family projects**

Take the opportunity to involve the whole family in reading and writing.

Some family projects could include:

- Email friends or family members.
- Write messages together on your social networking sites to communicate with family and friends.
  - Read a book series together.
- Read together the instructions for a new household item to find out how it works.
- Record family events or travel experiences in a journal or on an online blog.
  - Write plays and perform them for family and friends.
    - Write a film script together and make the film.
  - Read, select and collect news articles, and create an album about, for example, a sporting team, favourite animal, or leisure activity.
  - Solve crosswords, word puzzles, brain-teasers, and quizzes.
- Combine family brains to try and solve a daily Wordle. There are child-friendly versions available online such as <https://wordlegame.org/wordle-for-kids>.
- Browse libraries and bookshops together. Search for cheap books in charity stores and at garage sales.
- Prepare for an outing together, including reading public transport timetables, maps, and information brochures.



## Smile Squad 2024

### Would you like to access free dental care for your child(ren)?

Did you know the Victorian Government funds a free school dental program called Smile Squad? For more details about the program visit: <https://www.smilesquad.vic.gov.au>

Our school isn't hosting Smile Squad on school sites right now, but you can still access this high-quality service, completely free of charge.

You can visit IPC Health at their community dental clinic. Please contact the team at any time to book an appointment. Just let them know you would like to book a Smile Squad appointment.

Contact the team at:

IPC Health  
1 Andrea St St. Albans or 117-129 Warringa Cres Hoppers Crossing  
**0491 095 650** or **1300 472 432**

The Smile Squad team look forward to seeing you soon.





**Join Sunshine Magic Basketball Club**

**Free Club Registration for ALL NEW Players!**

Perfect for young basketball enthusiasts looking to join a team. Experience the thrill of competitive play and team camaraderie

Why Join Sunshine Magic?

- Community-focused club with a passion for developing young talent
- Opportunities for players of all skill levels to grow and excel
- Supportive and friendly environment

Register on our Waitlist:

Visit [sunshinemagic.com.au](http://sunshinemagic.com.au) to sign up and secure your spot!

For More Information:

Contact: Alphan, Club President

☎ 0423 731 186

✉ [president@williamstownmagic.asn.au](mailto:president@williamstownmagic.asn.au)



**Join us at  
Sunshine Magic Junior Basketball Club  
and be part of the excitement!**

GET CONNECTED



Please follow us on Instagram

**Ardeer.PS**



All families were sent letters with their own unique code. Please download the Compass app and connect ASAP. Important reminders, updates, letters, notes etc. will be circulated via this platform throughout 2022. Please contact the office if you require a new sign in.



All families should now be connected to their child's 2022 class. This is a wonderful platform to see your child's learning progression as you connect with their learning portfolio. If you have not connected and require a new sign in code, please see your child's teacher ASAP.