

Public School News by Jane Cozens

Artarmon Public School takes action against climate change: The P&C Sustainability Committee and Eleanor Hughes arranged for Willoughby City Council, with the assistance staff and students, to conduct an audit of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at the school in late 2008. Identified in the audit presented at the P&C meeting in February 2009 were inefficient lighting, a high level of off-peak power usage and an inefficient cooling system for the canteen - or as the committee put it:

"Did you know that the school currently generates enough CO₂ gas to fill 13 balloons per student, per day, just from the electricity we use? With 650 students, that's 8,450 balloons a day! A month's worth of balloons would probably block out the sun right across Artarmon! It also costs well over \$100,000 p.a."

As a result, the Sustainability Committee has suggested both some immediate and long-term solutions to save energy and money and reduce carbon emissions. These include replacing lighting with energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs and the use of light sensors; automatic shutdown systems and standby modes for computers and other equipment; the addition of ceiling installation, ventilation systems and solar panels for buildings; and tap aerators and dual flush cisterns in bathrooms.

The establishment of a School Energy Team has also been recommended, with a mandate "to identify a clear energy reduction target, allocate tasks, provide ongoing education on energy and climate issues".

The school also has the opportunity to apply for an Australian Government grant of up to \$50,000 made available under the National Solar Schools Program which will enable implementation of these recommended energy efficiency measures.

The day the circus came to school: How lucky are our kids! During the last week of Term 1 the students at Artarmon Public School



were entertained by *Circus Challenge* with a show which involved juggling, diabolo and unicycle tricks, and with plenty of audience participation involving some talented kids and brave teachers. They were then encouraged to ask questions, finding out that *Circus Challenge* has toured around Australia and New Zealand for the past five years, visiting more than 100 schools per year, and the "ring master" was a gymnast who started in the circus at 8 years of age. Hopefully there won't be too many APS students running away to join the circus!

Circus Challenge then held small workshops

over two days. These were fantastic for co-ordination, concentration and fitness. Some classes are even extending it to next term by making juggling balls and prescribing juggling as homework. Many thanks to Robyn Tolnay for initiating this successful event.

The Fitness Phenomenon in Artarmon: Have you noticed how well-utilised Artarmon Oval has been over the last couple of years with groups running, jumping, squatting, pushing, punching ... at all times of the day and night? Artarmon seems to have been hit by the fitness bug and this has been partly inspired by the Artarmon Public School's fitness program initiated by David Coon. The noticeable improvements in the kids then inspired a group of the mums and then dads ... it really has become addictive! The local sporting clubs have even recorded an increase in players from our school.

The school community would like to wish



Mr Coon best of luck in his new position at Chatswood Public School and looks forward to the competition at future zone carnivals!

Crunch&Sip: A new health and fitness awareness program is being implemented at the school this term. **Crunch&Sip**, as the name suggests, is a daily set break for the students to eat fruit or vege snacks and drink water to "re-fuel" as a way to assist physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Events such as fun runs are incorporated into the program and special guests at the launch were super-vege heroes Captain Capsicum and Megabite Apple.

Laura Jablonka – farewell from APS - a dedicated educator: The earliest memories of many students starting school at Artarmon would certainly include Laura Jablonka (or Mister Blonka as my daughter called her at age 5). Laura taught at the school for more than 15 years and has given around 30 years to education - an energetic and enthusiastic teacher who was always caring towards those tearful kindy kids (and mums). We wish her luck in the future.

