

Public School News

by Jane Cozens

Artarmon Public School benefits from government building funds

The *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) program was initiated this year to provide infrastructure funding from the Federal Government for each of Australia's 9,540 schools. The aim of the program is to meet the needs of students and teachers in the 21st century.

Artarmon Public School (APS) has been allocated \$3 million under the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* program. These funds will be used to construct a permanent building consisting of a new library with three classrooms above. The current library will be refurbished into a school administration space and new main office. The current office will be converted into another classroom and resource rooms.

The project is being co-ordinated by Bovis Lend Lease, beginning by the end of the year with an anticipated completion time of 12 months. The Principal, Mrs Green said "this will be a very exciting time for APS but will also give us some challenges to face as a large part of the McMillan Rd playground will become a building site during 2010."

In addition, the \$1.3 billion *National School Pride* element of the BER has provided funding of \$200,000 for the school to undertake more immediate maintenance and minor capital works. A refurbishment of the school hall and both the primary and infants toilet blocks has been completed. Three interactive whiteboards have also been purchased.

Artarmon students to help build a school in Kenya

APS, together with Willoughby and Northbridge Public Schools, are combining fundraising efforts to help a local Northbridge mother and her charity build a school in a village outside Nairobi in Kenya. The project is a long-term plan, with a target of raising \$13,000 a year for the next seven years. The aim is to build one classroom each year



King Henry VIII, Genghis Khan, Bill Gates, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Galileo were amongst "the notables" who visited Artarmon PS last term.

and provide it with a teacher. The Kenyan Government has already approved the project and it is hoped a kindergarten class will be up and running in 2010.

In addition to the support the school gives to local causes, Mrs Green thinks it will be "a fantastic way for our students to not only support other needy children but also to see themselves as global citizens". There will be opportunities for interaction and correspondence between the students and teachers of the Australian and Kenyan schools and even the possibility of a teacher exchange in the future.

The fundraising effort in Artarmon began in September with the students donating a gold coin and watching a movie on the lives of children in Africa, and in October some families participated in the global fundraising event "Eat So They Can" by hosting a dinner, collectively being part of the one huge dinner party.

More information and updates on the progress of the school can be found on the GVN Foundation Australia website <http://www.gvnaustralia.org/projects/school.php>.

The much loved and always successful APS tradition **The Night of the Notables** was held last term. Students from 6H and 6T researched a famous historical or contemporary figure and presented themselves and their stories to delighted students, teachers and parents.

On another "notable", 6T teacher and Assistant Principal, Robyn Tolnay, will be retiring this year and the school community would like to wish her all the best and thank her for many years of enthusiasm and dedication to educating our future citizens. ■

Every dollar you spend with **Flight Centre Artarmon** can now benefit Artarmon Public School. All you need to do is mention Artarmon Public School when making your booking. 1% of the value of each transaction will be donated to the school. Your friends, family and associates can also do the same. Call 9941 2444 or visit Flight Centre at 74 Hampden Road.

Centenary of the school

Are you a past student, teacher or parent of Artarmon Public School?

ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY in 2010.



The Artarmon Progress Association is researching the history of the school in partnership with the school community and would love you to share any photos or memories you may have of your time there.

There will be lots happening during 2010, we need to get started now.

Please email margot@whichhue.com.au or call 9413 1058

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