

Dear Friends and Supporters

It has come to the end of what seems to have been a very busy year for everyone. We have navigated another year of ups and downs, challenges and successes.

Most importantly we have all made a difference in the life of a child. We have all contributed in some way to providing an opportunity for them to reach their potential. Some have contributed by writing them a letter, donating some clothing, reading to them, cleaning up their school yard, talking to them or paying for them to go on camp or an excursion.

We all have the capacity to give to others but not everyone does. Your commitment towards ensuring that these kids are treated the same as all others is to be celebrated.

The festive season, followed by the start of the new school year, is often a difficult time for the families that Ardoch works with. Financial strain can put additional burdens on households already experiencing significant stresses. We thank everyone who has contributed to Ardoch's 'back to school' giving campaign, which will provide support to children and families when they need it most – there is still time to make a gift to help a child in need! Please visit www.ardoch.asn.au for further details.

Thank you for all you have done. It means more than you will ever be able to see.

I wish you all a peaceful and safe Christmas.

Katie

In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.

[Albert Einstein](#)





Ardoch in Action end of year event

Recently we had a wonderful afternoon celebrating Ardoch's work for 2011. We were well supported by our volunteers, corporates, schools and friends. Our CEO and National HR and Training Manager from Melbourne flew up to meet with everyone and commented on how warm and friendly all of our supporters are. Two of our Ardoch volunteers stole the show with their heartfelt, moving and funny recounts of why they are volunteers and their experiences in our schools. I have included the final paragraph of one of their speeches below:

"I believe each person who takes into their own hands, the responsibility to be compassionate, fair, and appreciative of differences, is understanding of human nature, is strengthening their community, and is setting a positive example for fellows to emulate."

I am sure you will agree this is a mature and beautiful sentiment coming from a young woman who is only in her early 20's.

Sharon and I feel so privileged to work with all of our supporters and friends who give of their own time to ensure a child has an opportunity to reach their full potential.





Ardoch QLD Facebook page

It's official, Ardoch QLD have joined Facebook! If you or your company are Facebook users please click on the link below to 'like' us and keep up to date on all local Ardoch news.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Ardoch-Youth-Foundation-Queensland/165171206894275>





END OF YEAR LITERACY BUDDY VISITS

This term has seen the big buddies and little buddies meet up for the last time. There were huge smiles from both big and little buddies as they shared games, gifts, craft activities food and lots of laughs. It was a fitting end to a wonderful year of letter writing. Thanks to all big and little buddies for showing such commitment and dedication to the program.



Term Dates for 2012

Queensland term dates - 2012		
Term	Dates	Length
Term 1	Monday 23 January - Friday 30 March	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 16 April - Friday 22 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 9 July - Friday 21 September	11 weeks
Term 4	Monday 8 October - Friday 14 December	10 weeks



MAD AWARD WINNERS

This year Ardoch launched a new program called the MAD (Making a Difference) Award, created in honour of our founder Kathy Hilton OAM. This is an award of \$50 given to a community minded student, to put towards a project that will make a difference to others.

Our Brisbane MAD award winner was Iman from Seville Road State School.

After much discussion and planning with Sharon and me, Iman (and she roped in a friend Jasmine) came up with the idea to have a MAD day and raise money to buy some games for their school 'chill out room'.

This is a room children can come to during the breaks to....you guessed it, chill out! But the older kids do not use the room much as there are not many games, books etc which are good for their age. The girls decided \$50 wouldn't buy much but they could use that money as a starting point to raise more. Genius!

The initial \$50 was spent on lollies, popcorn etc and then last Friday during the morning and lunchtime breaks was the Seville Road MAD day! This consisted of 5 different activities which the children could pay to do.

The year 7's took a leadership role in running all of the activities and all of the kids had a ball.

The day raised \$214, not bad for a \$50 investment!

The older students wanted some Lego for the Chill Out room so it is with much delight that I have been able to purchase a Harry Potter Lego set, Pirates of the Caribbean Lego set and some Ello for the kids!





Merry Christmas to All

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

It came without ribbons. It came without tags.

It came without packages, boxes or bags.

And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?

What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?

Dr Seuss

*May the holiday season bring you much love,
happiness, joy and contentment.*

