From the Principal

Dear Aranda Primary School community

Welcome back to the new school year. Our Preschool and Kindergarten students made a confident and enthusiastic start last Monday. A few tears were shed (mostly by parents) before the children settled into their new surroundings but by 3:00 pm there were plenty of smiles. According to one Kindy child, “Aranda is the best school in Australia.”

The rest of our children returned on Tuesday and I would have to say that we enjoyed one of the most smooth, positive beginnings to a school year that I have witnessed. I must thank all the parents, staff and students for cooperating to create a calm, welcoming atmosphere right across the school.

Teaching teams

I would like to welcome several new teachers to Aranda this year. Janine Collins (Preschool and Health/PE), Melissa Alexander (Music specialist) Marny Blom (Preschool), Pam Daly (Year 5/6), Anthony Watson (Year 5/6) and Sue Whitney (Executive and Kindergarten).

This year our teaching teams are as follows:

Preschool: Kelly Hutchings, Marny Blom, Janine Collins

Kindergarten: Danielle Rolfe, Zarina Williams, Janelle Kennedy, Sue Whitney

Year 1/2: Emma Janssen, Elizabeth Coyne, Fiona Agostino, Penny Whitford, Adrian Lovelock, Kate Heathcote, Anastasia O'Donnell

Year 3/4: Tanya Ford, Lakhana Ly-Diep, Caitlin Jones, Kellie Nissen, Ryan Ferdinand

Year 5/6: Liz Gocentas, Pam Daly, Tricia Butters, Anthony Watson, James Harrison

Specialists: Myriam Davies (French), Janine Collins & Alison Reid (Health & PE), Melissa Alexander (Music)

The YMCA is now offering before school care to Aranda Primary families at St. Vincent’s Primary School, Aranda. The following is an excerpt from the YMCA information brochures:

St Vincent’s Before School Care opens at 7.30 am Monday thru Friday where the children will be served a light breakfast and engaged in activities and experiences based on children’s interests. At the conclusion of Before School Care the educators will ensure that children are escorted to the Aranda Primary School grounds at approximately 8.55
am each day and are signed out as they leave their care. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the YMCA Children’s Services Office on 6242 4040 between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm.

ASchool Refurbishments

I am pleased to announce that some much needed improvements and refurbishments were made to the school during the break.

- The double classroom transportable building was gutted, repaired, repainted and completely recarpeted.
- The large wooden framed windows in the main corridor were replaced and repaired.

We intend to provide more seating for the children in our playground this year. This work will also help us to make the exposed tree root problem safe for all those who enter our grounds.

I am looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year at Aranda School. We have much to accomplish together as a school community and all the decisions we make will be with our children’s best interests in mind.

Have a great week,
Phil Gray

ERRATA

There was an error in the note that went home Tuesday, 4 February. Please note that the Nominations for School Board Representative closes on MONDAY, 17 February at 11:00 pm

2014 Class Names

This year our theme is Small Islands.

Preschool
Marny & Chris: Mon/Tues – Aqua Marbles
Thurs/Fri – Crimson Magnetics
Kelly & Penny: Mon/Tues – Indigo Daydreamers
Thurs/Fri – Emerald Lizards

Kindergarten
KDR – Magnetic Island
KJK – King Island
KSW - Fraser Island
KZW - Turtle Islands

Year 1/2
1/2AL – Easter Island
1/2AO – Sandwich Island
1/2EC – Reunion Island
1/2EJ – Jersey
1/2FA – Canary Islands
1/2KH – Seychelles
1/2PW – Papua New Guinea

Year 3/4
3/4CJ – Madagascar
3/4KN – Montague Island
3/4LLD – Kangaroo Island
3/4RF – Maui
3/4TF – Smyley Island

Year 5/6
5/6AW – Falcon Island
5/6JH – World Islands
5/6LG – Fabulous Islands
5/6PD – Eagle Island
5/6TB – Galapagos Islands

PE and Health

Welcome to a very exciting year. My name is Janine Collins and I will be working across the school supporting the students in their learning of Health and Fitness. I will share this role with Alison Reid. This is my first year at Aranda and I am looking forward to getting to know all the students and their families.

During Term 1 the students will focus on Fundamental Motor Skills during their PE lessons. These sessions will demonstrate to the students the correct way to throw, strike, bounce and kick a ball whilst building on skills they may already possess. Jumping, skipping and running will also be targeted. The students will use the skills learnt to participate in various indoor and outdoor games.

During these games the students will be encouraged to demonstrate fair play, good sportsmanship and following rules. The senior students will have the opportunity to be part of sporting teams for various interschool competitions.

The focus for Health during Term 1 will differ for each year group but will cover topics such as protective behaviours, healthy eating and classes may have the opportunity for some healthy cooking lessons.

Janine Collins
PE and Health
Chinese Visitors

Next week we have 22 student visitors arriving from Xi’an in China. These students are participating in a cultural education experience with our school and are in Years 3 to 6. Four teachers will be accompanying them.

Xi’an is a city in Shaanxi Province located in central-northwest China and has a population of 8.4 million. It is also famous for the ‘Terracotta Warriors.’ Xi’an is a city currently at the forefront of China’s Western Development Drive program and has a thriving economy. It is also a centre for education in the region and a major international tourist attraction.

Our students are visiting from Xi’an Kingfar School, which is a P to 10, medium-sized school (by Chinese standards) that has a student population of 3,000!

Needless to say, our visiting students will have a very different experience of school with us at Aranda Primary. They will be coming from classrooms with 60 to 90 students in them with the majority of the instruction being teacher-directed. At Aranda these students will participate in group-work and discussions and other collaborative ways of learning. It will be fascinating for these students to see that, in Australia, teachers invite students to give their own opinion and contribute their knowledge to conversation topics. During their week-long stay the Xi’an students will receive intensive English instruction in the morning session from our EALD team. From recess onwards they will be in class with their host family ‘buddy’.

We are very excited about our Xi’an visitors and can’t wait to give them a warm welcome into our school community. We hope that this adventure is the beginning of an ongoing cross-cultural relationship that will benefit Aranda students and their families for years to come.

A very big thank you to our lovely host families for the commitment and enthusiasm they have shown towards this exciting program.

Emily Clarke
EALD Team

From the Counsellor

Tips for Parents of Kids Starting School

For most children starting back at school is a smooth process. For some children the new school year may start with tears and they may appear a little unsettled whilst they are adjusting to the changes. Some of the new challenges your child may be facing are new classroom routines, a new teacher, being with new children as well as some familiar friends, and a new classroom environment.

It can be helpful to talk about some of the differences from last year that your child is experiencing as well as some positive things about the new class. Be encouraged that most children settle quickly into the new routines, and classroom teachers are experienced at handling any upsets. Give positive messages to your child about how they will manage.

It is important for parents to stay informed about what is happening at school and consequently you are able to prepare your child for any changes along the way. Remember that children respond well to routines and structure.

Keep an eye out for information about items your child needs to bring to school so that a written list or a pictorial list for students can be displayed at home. Encourage your child to check this daily as part of their morning routine and to build their independence.

A good night’s sleep is important for your child to function well at school as starting a new school year can be very tiring. Don’t expect too much too soon!

Please let your child’s teacher know if you have any concerns or there are any major family changes at home that may impact on your child’s emotional and academic wellbeing. These may include things such as a major family illness, moving house, a new baby or separation.

If there are any continuing concerns please contact the teacher and be an active partner with the school in meeting your child’s needs.

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor/Psychologist
Mon/Wed/ Thursdays
**P&C Matters**

**Come and celebrate the beginning of the new school year at the Aranda Primary WELCOME PICNIC**

Wednesday, 12 February 2014  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Place: Grass between Junior playground and 3/4 playground  
BYO Picnic and Rug

**The Uniform Shop**

Students at Aranda Primary School are strongly encouraged to take pride in belonging to Aranda Primary School by wearing the school uniform.

Most of the school uniform can be purchased from the Uniform Shop. This also includes school backpacks and library bags. The Uniform Shop also recycles good quality used uniform items which can be purchased for gold coin donations.

Uniform Shop profits go to the Aranda Parents and Citizens Association for spending on children at the school. The Uniform Shop is run by parent volunteers.

The Uniform Shop is located near the School Canteen and Hall and is open Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 am beginning the first week of every term.

The Uniform Shop also has an on-line service. Parents can fill in an order form or pay using BPAY and send the form to school. If we have the stock, we will deliver your uniform items on Friday to your child or your child's teacher.

Tara Munro-Moobs  
Uniform School Coordinator

**Bank On It**

Welcome to a new school year of banking! I hope that you all had a lovely holiday break and are ready for new adventures with Pat and the banking gang.

This year the rewards are better than ever. On offer are handballs, scented pencils, pencil cases, plush toy key rings, moneyboxes, swimming bags, projector cups and sea streamers.

Please remember that our new banking day is **WEDNESDAY**, starting next week (Week 2, 12 February).

Every student will be receiving an information pack to take home with all this year’s rewards and parent information included.

We also have a new competition:

**STAY COOL AT SCHOOL THIS SUMMER**

Win a CommBank Marquee for your school and $50 for a student just by depositing to your CommBank School Banking account in Term 1.

The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of Term 1 will win a marquee. There are 4 marqueses to be won in the ACT area. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their School Banking account. **Competition opens 28/01/2014 and closes 11/04/2014. For full terms and conditions please visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.**

If you have any further questions regarding school banking please contact me on 6142 3030.

Sharon Wood  
School banking co-ordinator

**Aranda Music and Arts Program**

2014 looks like another big year for our ever-popular after school music and arts program. Our parent volunteers are busy allocating lesson times and tutors to existing students this week ahead of lessons commencing in Week 2. Parents will be contacted later this week with offers of enrolment and lesson times. Many thanks to teachers and staff who have agreed to share their classrooms and workspaces with the program.

Emma Cole  
Aranda Music and Arts  
Program [info@arandamusicprogram.org](mailto:info@arandamusicprogram.org)
Aranda Afters

Aranda Primary School community would like to note that Lou Hynes finished in the role of Afters Director in December 2013. Aranda Afters would like to recognise Lou’s long service to the Aranda Primary School Community, thank her formally and wish her well for the future.

Virginia Armstrong, who has a strong background in Childhood Education, is currently acting in the role.

Afters will advertise shortly to permanently fill the Director position.

Ben Vagnarelli

Afters Parent Committee President

Community News

To view or download flyers for the following community events, please see our Community Bulletin Board at:
http://www.arandaps.act.edu.au/our_school/community_news

Canberra Toy and Hobby Fair, Kaleen High School 6 April 2014
Canberra Model Train Expo, Kaleen High School 29 to 30 March

Dance Northside

... for people who simply love to ...

Dance!

www.dancenorthside.com.au

Dance Northside is a community-focused, inclusive and recreational dance school based in Kaleen, ACT which provides quality, age-appropriate, educational, non-competitive and fun dance classes in a safe and nurturing environment, for student’s age 18 months up to adult’s. We are currently taking new enrolments for 2014! For more information or to enrol please feel free to contact Dance Northside’s Artistic Director Holly Diggle (BA Dance) on 0413 049 625 or email holly@dancenorthside.com.au

JUNEE RHYTHM AND RAIL FESTIVAL 2014

7 to 9 March 2014
Friday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Chocolate World
Take a guided tour of the Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory and see how the amazing organic products are made, or make your own HUGE chocolate freckle or rocky road.
Venue – Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory
Entry Fee – Factory Tours Adult $4.00
School Age Child $2.50
Freckle making $4.00
Rocky Road Making $8.00

7:00 – 11:00pm

Wood Fired Pizza and Tapas Night with Live Music
Come and enjoy wood fired pizza and tapas in the beautiful alfresco dining at Graze Restaurant. Be entertained by Rhys Crimmin: Aussie Roots Reggae & Dirty Foot Stompin Blues as well as special guest Therese Kerr: Author and Organic Ambassador.
For bookings contact 02 6924 1527
This is a licensed venue, food and beverages available for purchase on the night
Venue – Graze Restaurant - Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory
Entry Fee – Free Entry

The Aranda App Codes
Support Your Local Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belnorth Football</td>
<td>Registration Day</td>
<td>4 to U-17</td>
<td>Saturday 8 February – Belconnen Soccer Club, McKellar. 10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Register to play with Belnorth now. You can register online at <a href="http://www.myfootballclub.com.au/">http://www.myfootballclub.com.au/</a> For more information about the club and registration visit <a href="http://www.belnorth.org">www.belnorth.org</a> or email us at <a href="mailto:admin@belnorth.org">admin@belnorth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belconnen Sharks Rugby League</td>
<td>Saturday 1 March – Rebel Sport, Westfield Belconnen. 10am - 1pm</td>
<td>6 to U-16</td>
<td>Sunday 16 February 10.00am to 2.00pm at McDonald's Charnwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
