From the Executive

Wow – who can believe that we are already in Week 6? There has been so much happening here at Aranda, sometimes it is hard to keep track of everything!

Validation

The external panel spent three days last week undertaking the validation process for Aranda Primary School. The panel spoke with staff, members of the P and C and school board and our SRC students about the school. The recommendations from the panel will be used to formulate the new school plan for the next four years. The panel also had the opportunity to come to our Whole School assembly which was hosted by KJK and KZW. This assembly certainly showcased Aranda. The Kindergarten classes did a fabulous job hosting the assembly, the band sounded fantastic, the choir was amazing and then recognising the athletic talents from our school athletics carnival, district carnival and the basketball teams that competed in the Jamie Pearlman Cup and Sue Geh Cup. I was looking around at the whole school and parent community in the hall thinking how lucky I am to work in such a fabulous school. Well done to everyone!

PE Teacher Professional Learning

The teachers at Aranda, as well as the students, love to learn. As part of our staff meeting on Tuesday, the staff participated in an athletics session where Tanya Ford and Caitlin Jones took us through activities to use with our students. There was a lot of laughter coming from the gym. The teachers were split into teams and they all participated in activities. Points were allocated to the teams and prizes were on
offer. There was a healthy level of competition amongst the teams and everyone enjoyed themselves. The winning team was Phil Gray, Janelle Kennedy, Penny Whitford and Tricia Butters.

**First Aid at Aranda Primary**

Last week students from Years 3 to 6 participated in First aid training. These sessions were run by St John Ambulance Australia. The students enjoyed the training and hopefully they have shared some of their knowledge with you from these sessions. I did have to stop and think when I saw many children with bandaged arms.

**Book Week**

During Book Week Aranda children continued to show their curiosity about the world around them. This week, all children from Pre-school to Year 6, met local author Leonie Pye who wrote *The Little Shell*. Leonie is a blind author with a special message for everyone: everyone is special and worthy of respect and love. Our children asked well thought-out questions about her guide dog Franklin, her source of inspiration, art work in the book, braille and lots more. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Leonie for giving us two days of her valuable time. A copy of *The Little Shell* will be available in the school library and at Preschool soon.

**Literacy and Numeracy Week**

This week is Literacy and Numeracy week. We have been enjoying listening to the special guest readers each morning at 10:00 am. They have been reading *The Magic Finger* by Roald Dahl over the loud speaker during fruit break.

Congratulations to all those students who were shortlisted for the Just 50 Words competition. It was a lovely assembly today and well done to the successful authors from each year level. Don’t forget that Cameron Stelzer will be visiting Aranda tomorrow.

Have a fabulous weekend,

Alison Reid
Executive Teacher

**The Multiplication Challenge**

Congratulations to 3/4CJ, 5/6JH and 5/6TB who all got perfect scores in the 5 times tables quiz last week. The race for the overall class winner is very close as well. 3/4LLD are ahead by half a point in the 3/4 section and 5/6JH are ahead by 1 point in the 5/6 section.

Tomorrow will be the 6 times tables quiz and the 7 times tables being the focus for next week.

Susan Ford
Maths Co-ordinator
UNSW Competitions

Spelling Competition
Congratulations to the 48 students who participated in the UNSW Spelling Competition. We achieved 2 High Distinctions, 7 Distinctions, 15 Credits and 7 Merits. Congratulations to the following students:

High Distinctions – Stephen (3/4LLD), Yang (5/6LG).


Writing Competition
31 students participated in the UNSW Writing Competition. We achieved 2 High Distinctions, 7 Distinctions, 8 Credits and 5 Merits. Congratulations to the following students:

High Distinction – Aurelia (3/4LLD), Lily (5/6PD).

Distinctions – Layla (3/4RF), Ethan (3/4KN), Georgia (5/6PD), Ava (5/6PD), Yang (5/6LG), Giselle (5/6TB), Gary (5/6PD).

Credits – Annika (3/4LLD), Alexandra (3/4LLD), Kevin (3/4LLD), Holly (5/6LG), Elijah (5/6LG), Mia (5/6PD), Elaine (5/6JH), Jasmine (5/6LG).


Well done to all the students who participated in both competitions!

Liz Gocentas and Pam Daly
UNSW Competition Coordinators

G-Force
The G-Force has been busy mulching and planting in and around the garden beds. Please refrain from stepping in the newly planted areas.

Remember to label your food containers and bring them off the playground as they become lost and fill the lost property up quickly. We would like to remind you that lost property is still a big problem so please check the drawers even if you don’t think you have lost anything.

Everything that is not school uniform will be donated to charity at the end of term.

Have a great rest of day and remember: It’s our planet, our playground and our problem and together we can make a difference.

Elaine (5/6JH) Jessica (5/6AW) and Jennifer (5/6AW)
G-Force

French News

Language Perfect ACT Competition
We have just been told that there will be another Language Perfect Competition starting NEXT WEEK, this time it will only include ACT schools. Our aim is to be the best Primary school in ACT and to do so we need everyone from Years 3 to 6 to get involved. To help with this goal, the French classroom will be opened for Year 5/6 students from 8:30 am (bring your Chrome books!) and will also be opened for everyone at recess and lunch time. Thank you in advanced to parents for letting your children go on the Language Perfect website next week to accumulate as many points as possible!!

French Poetry Competition
All students are busy learning a French poem during class time. If they want to practice at home, students are able to access the poems through the following website:
http://frenchataranda.wikispaces.com
Students will need to sign in using the following username and password (there’s no need to join in):
Username: Arandaps
Password: French
Select your year level and 2014.

Myriam Davies
French Teacher
From the Counsellor

Listening to our Children

A great skill for parents to develop further is how to be an active listener. In practice it is one of the hardest skills to acquire. Listening as a skill to what is being said is not the same as just ‘hearing’ as we can listen to music and other sounds. Active listening means tuning in with understanding. We often know when people are not really listening to us as their thoughts are often someplace else. The message is going in one ear and out the other and we feel unvalued and not heard.

If you can find time to really listen to your child then there can be benefits for your relationship and they in turn can develop greater social skills. Of course finding time to listen at the start of the day when everyone is preparing for their day and also at the end of the day when you are tired can also be difficult.

Spending quality time with your child, finding a quiet place to listen, using eye contact, keeping your ears open and not talking over your child can convey mutual respect and a powerful message of acceptance.

Active listening includes providing feedback on what you heard your child say, how they might be feeling (employing empathy and warmth), and accepting children with their own ideas and feelings.

Do you remember what it was like the last time someone really listened to you?

Sheri Bottomley
School Psychologist

Bank on It

Hello Boys and Girls,

Due to popular demand the Penguin keyring is now out of stock and is not available to order. The following rewards are still available to order, Scented Pencils, Shark keyring, Whale Shark Pencil Case, Dollarmites Moneybox and the Swimming Bag.

Term 4 we will release the Projector Cup and the Sea Streamers.

Don’t forget to bring your banking in each week, 10 deposits equals a fantastic reward.

Happy Banking!!

Sharon Wood
School Banking

Community News

To view or download flyers for the following community events, see our Community Bulletin Board at:

http://www.arandaps.act.edu.au/our_school/community_news

Please be aware that this is a community service and that the school is not endorsing individual activities.

The Aranda App Codes

ACT Softball Come and Try Day, 14 September
PCYC MASH Sports Holiday Program
  Week 1 – 30 September to 3 October
  Week 2 – 7 October to 10 October
Boomerangs Softball, Come and Try
Cartoon Camps – September and October
Cranleigh Art Show 17 to 19 October
Championstixs – starts 21 October