**The End-of-Year Concert is still on!**

Please bring fold-up chairs and picnic rugs. We are looking forward to a fantastic night!

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**From the Principal**

Dear Aranda Community,

As this is the last newsletter for 2014 I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful things that have happened at Aranda this year.

Here is a small collage of Aranda Fun 2014

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**Board Members**

- Peter Shaw email: pashaw@live.com.au
- Michael Munro-Mobbs email: munromobbs@optusnet.com.au
- Richard Saberton email: richardsaberton@gmail.com

**P&C President**

Matthew Stocks email: arandapandc@gmail.com
Road Safety

I have spoken on many occasions about road safety and add the following email from a concerned parent for your consideration.

For nearly a year I’ve attempted, with some success but also some frustration, to have Roads ACT make changes to improve the “safety zone” at the bottom car park for families walking and riding to school.

If this is also a concern of yours, please contact me, Natalie, at natandre@iinet.net.au for more information. I will send you a brief summary of what has occurred to date and a job reference number so that you can raise your own concerns with Roads ACT.

I believe that if we work together, the Aranda Primary School community can stop an accident before it happens.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas

Regards

Phil Gray
Keeping Children Safe

Last week I wrote concerning Constable Kenny Koala’s message to our preschool students about remembering their parents’ mobile phone number/s and perhaps writing them on a piece of paper and carrying it with them when they are out or wearing a bracelet with a phone number on it.

One of our thoughtful parents emailed me with the information below:

The best bracelets I found were at https://www.roadid.com/Common/Catalog.aspx?C=RoadID&referrer=30316&CID=3KGD9QBB33

The kid versions are about $20, they can go on a wrist or be adapted for shoe laces.

They’re also 10% off until 12 December with the following code: Use Code: 3KGD9QBB33 Expires 12/12/14

They can be used to highlight medical issues and have space for multiple contacts. They’re also much more reasonably priced than the traditional $100+ medico versions.

Colette Brown
Executive Teacher

Aranda Primary School Board Elections for 2015

If you are keen to contribute to the governance of the Aranda Primary School, you should nominate for a position on the Aranda Primary School Board. No prior experience is necessary.

Positions
We have one (1) parent and citizen member and one (1) staff member position vacant. Both positions are for a two (2) year period commencing 1 April 2015.

Nominations
Nominations open on Monday, 2 February 2015 at 11:00 am. (Note: This is the first day back at school for Preschool and Kindergarten children) Nomination forms will be available at the Front Office. There will be no online or electronic nomination facility available.

Nominations must be made by 11:00 am Monday, 16 February 2015 by placing the completed nomination form in the ballot box at the Front Office.

All nominees will be required to submit a short piece about themselves for the school newsletter that will be published on Thursday, 19 February 2015.

Voting
Voting will open at 11:00 am on 23 February 2015. Voting forms will be available at the Front Office. One voting form per family will be sent home with students on Monday, 23 February 2015. Completed ballot papers need to be lodged in the ballot box at the Front Office. There will be no online or electronic voting facility available.

Voting will close at 11:00 am on Monday, 2 March 2015.

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Suzanne Vincent on 6142 3030 or Suzanne.Vincent@ed.act.edu.au
**Band**

**ACT Junior Concert Band**

A huge congratulations to Elaine (5/6JH), Ruthy (5/6PD), Giselle (5/6TB), Gena (5/6JH) and Gary (5/6PD) who have been selected in the ACT Junior Concert Band. The ACT Junior Concert Band is selected from students in Years 7 and 8 from all ACT Public Schools and they only take the best. These Aranda students have worked hard, not only on their audition pieces, but throughout their two years of band to reach such a high level of musicianship. Well done.

Susan Ford

Band Teacher

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**Library Shelf**

As the year winds up, so does the yearly book inventory. I am pretty pleased by the low number of books that the system has flagged as missing, as opposed to being overdue. However, there are a few stand outs, we seem to be missing most of the remaining Series of Unfortunate Events books and some real classic non-fictions books like *Funny Bums* (this really is the book title). The last overdue notices of the year should be ready by Friday, please, if you get one of these have a hard look around your house.

Finally, here are the last of the Library Monitor book reviews. As I mentioned last week, the Skulduggery Pleasant series is very popular with the Year 5/6 students, even though these are not new.

**Skulduggery Pleasant (Book 2)**

**Playing With Fire**

‘You know how it is- you think you’ve saved the world and then ANOTHER evil villain turns up with an unbeatable monster and starts breaking things. oh yes and you’ve got a skull for a head and a 13 year old sidekick and no clue what to do.’

Playing with Fire is the second Skulduggery Pleasant book in an amazing world of magic and sorcerers, warlocks and witches. There is no turning people into toads but who would want to do that anyway? Come into the world with Skulduggery Pleasant a living skeleton, Valkyrie Cain a 13 year old detective assistant, Ghastly Bespoke the best tailor in the world, Tanith Low a swordswoman and adept sorceress and Fletcher Renn a true born teleporter.

Elena (5/6LG)

**Skulduggery Pleasant The Faceless Ones**

‘You’ve seen it all Before: some bad guy wants to bring about the end of the world. A few people get hurt, sure but everything’s alright in the end. Well not this time.’

Skulduggery Pleasant is a great book series for any child 9 and over who likes adventure books with a bit of mystery. The catch to these books is the fact that Skulduggery is a skeleton. A great read for 5/6s.

Arabella (5/6TB)

Speaking of Library Monitors, I want to thank those who not only said that they wanted to be monitors and also continued to help when they found out how hard the job can be, I couldn’t have done it without you. Have a great summer.

Catherine Gilbert

Library Assistant

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**From the Counsellor**

**Surviving the Holiday Season**

As the end of the school year is fast approaching here are a few tips to help your family manage the end of year with the stress that sometimes accompanies it. Whilst the holidays can be an exciting time filled with relief that another year is over and looking forward with anticipation to the new year ahead, it can also be filled with competing demands, time pressures and sometimes overload.

Here are a few tips:

- Take time out and enjoy some down time
- Do something relaxing
- Have realistic expectations of what is possible and what isn’t
- Remember to take deep breaths and practise being calm
- Get plenty of sleep and stay well rested
- Do something you enjoy each day
- Plan a fun activity at family gatherings
- Connect with others where possible
- Try some new physical activity
- Prepare for something to go not according to the plan

Wishing all the Aranda families a safe and fantastic break!

Sheri Bottomley

School Counsellor/Psychologist
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Horrible Histories Stage Production</td>
<td>27 – 28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Holiday Program At Canberra High School</td>
<td>12 to 16 January or 18 to 23 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Sports Camps Summer Programs</td>
<td>December 2014 to January 2015</td>
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<td>Hellenic Club Community Christmas Party</td>
<td>Sunday 14 December</td>
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<td>Christmas Song Program at Parliament House</td>
<td>Tuesday, 25 November to Wednesday, 10 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Active Sports Weetangera Aussie Rules for Juniors</td>
<td>Sunday, 15 February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT Academy of Music: Boom! 2015</td>
<td>19 to 23 January, 2015</td>
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CRICKET ACT HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Sign up now to learn the skills to play Australia’s favourite summer sport!

MILO in2CRICKET - For boys and girls 5-8 years old, Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 January 9am-1pm, Narrabundah Oval $60 includes participant pack!

MILO T20 Blast - For boys and girls 8-14 years old, Thursday 22 and Friday 23 January 9am-1pm, Narrabundah Oval $99 includes participant pack!

For more information on how to register contact Matthew Paton on
matthew.paton@cricketact.com.au or 0416 187 355

The Aranda App Codes

Newsletter Publication Deadline

Items to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter must be emailed to info@arandaps.ed.act.edu before 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before desired publication.