



Newsletter

Dates to Remember

24 Mar – 9 Apr Pupil-free days
9 April End of Term 1

Scan this QR code using the device you would like the school calendar to appear on.



Notes Home

Junior & Senior Choir
Senior Ukulele Club
Medical Form
Chief Minister's
Reading Challenge

Due Back

31 July

Executive Report

Dear Aranda School Community,

As Term 1, 2020 draws to a close, I would like to thank our school community for your patience and support in recent times. I know that our Flexible Learning Platform (FLP) has unearthed a myriad of challenges for all of us. Technical issues, accessibility to devices, communication, busy households and a completely new way of learning and teaching are some of the issues we will try and find the answers to together.

Our staff were buoyed by numerous messages of support from parents as we trialled the new FLP. I know that the Year 3 team were thrilled when so many parents thanked them for their efforts to supply all Year 3 students with Chromebooks to support their learning at home. This was only made possible because the Aranda school community endorsed our Years 4, 5 and 6 Chromebook program many years ago. Thank you so much to the generous Aranda community members who provided the staff with a coffee tab at Two Before Ten last week – your kind act kept the creative juices flowing as we grappled with the FLP.

I joined in some of our class Google Meets this week and it was so nice to see the children again. A major focus with the FLP is to make sure our staff can stay connected to the children in a safe and supportive learning environment. We know that this type of learning will not suit all families and that some children will struggle without face-to-face support. We have a designated team who will contact families and children who need extra support in their learning. We do not expect all children to participate in all activities proposed in our FLP. Some children will continue to focus on Individual Learning Plans.

Please feel assured that the FLP is a guide and a suggested set of learning activities for each class. It won't suit the needs of all families every day. I encourage parents and children to take as much or as little as they need from the FLP each day. My recent video message to you emphasised the importance of looking after our children's health and mental wellbeing first and foremost. I would like to reiterate this message and ask everyone to take the time to laugh, interact with your children and hug them. We all need a little reassurance and to feel safe during times like these.

I feel confident we can meet the challenges ahead of us in Term 2. Our strength lies in our ability to draw together as a community.

Once again, thank you for your support and patience. Stay safe and look after each other,

Phil Gray
Principal, Aranda School

PS. School Counsellor:

Our wonderful counsellor, Shireen Manocha, has asked me to inform you that she will continue to make herself available to work with our school community.



Important Messages

Current, up-to-date information

Updated information for the education sector and other public sectors can be found on the Education Directorate's website

(<https://www.education.act.gov.au>) and ACT Health

(<https://www.health.act.gov.au>)

Home Learning Website

The directorate has provided a comprehensive set of Home Learning resources for parents to access during the pupil-free weeks. It can be found at:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/schooling/learning-resource-library>

Seesaw

If you are unable to access Seesaw, or do not receive communications from the school to connect your child, please contact the Front Office with your updated email address.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is closed until further notice.

apsuniformshop@gmail.com

Canteen

The Canteen will be closed until further notice arandacanteen@gmail.com

Medication at School

All student medication must be signed in by a parent/carer at the Front Office on arrival at school. Medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. No medication is to be left in school bags during the day.

Newsletter Publication Deadline

Items for inclusion in the fortnightly newsletter must be emailed to info@arandaps.act.edu.au by 3.30pm every odd week on a Tuesday.

Anaphylaxis

Aranda Primary School is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL avoiding eggs and all nuts.

Our policy is available on the website.

Shireen will provide help with:

- creating new routines at home
- managing family relationships while living closely
- helping children and young people manage their feelings
- helping prioritise their lifestyles given individual circumstances
- balancing your work with helping children with schoolwork
- students managing their own schoolwork
- providing insights into any difficulties you think your child/student may be having with schoolwork
- providing recommendations and adjustments for schoolwork, in consideration of disabilities, individual differences and environmental circumstances
- helping parents manage their own feelings to help the children feel a sense of calm

And more...including many of the usual services Shireen provides, but in a different format.

How to get in touch with the school psychologist:

- contact teachers. They will pass on your concerns to Shireen, who will email or phone you back
- contact the Aranda email address

If you have already had email contact with Shireen, you can email her directly.

Shireen can phone (or video/audio call through Google Teams) students and do the same for parents and families together.

Safety

To keep students safe, it is important to have 2-3 phone numbers of adults who can answer Shireen's phone call during the phone/video session if connection is lost. This will be used to continue the conversation if needed, or importantly, if there are any safety concerns she may have for your child or young person.

A child should have a parent nearby or present, depending on the age of the student.

Young people should have privacy but with a parent/adult available at the time of the session who Shireen can contact if needed.

Please do get in touch as Shireen is more than happy to help...even if it is to simply bounce ideas off about how to manage these new circumstances.

Shireen recommends the following video for helping children find solutions, something teachers do all day. It might be helpful for parents too.

Kids Skills: <https://youtu.be/QhvY-W1gRGU>



Scholastic Book Club

Hi Everyone,

The Book Club orders have arrived!

Due to current constraints and circumstances, I will be sorting and packing orders and arranging collection with families individually. Collection will be non-contact and staggered over time so that only one family will be able to collect their order at a time. I appreciate your patience and understanding in managing this process.

I'm also happy to hold onto orders if you would prefer not to collect them at this point.

If you have put in a Book Club order and wish to arrange collection please contact me at: arandascholasticbookclub@gmail.com and include your child's name and class.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Kind regards,

Ann

Important 2021 Enrolment Information

ACT public school enrolments for 2021 open at 6am on Tuesday 28 April 2020. This is for all enrolments from Preschool to Year 12. For applications received by 5pm on Friday 5 June 2020, offers will begin to be made from 27 July. All applications must be submitted online at <https://form.act.gov.au/smartforms/landing.htm?formCode=1087>

You are encouraged to get your application in before 5 June, so your school can start planning for your child's education. However, every child from Kindergarten to Year 12 is guaranteed a place at their local public school, regardless of when you apply.

Preschool Enrolments

All four-year-old children in the ACT are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. Information about the enrolment assessment criteria and priority enrolment areas can be found at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/enrolling-in-preschool>

Please note that the order in which applications are received is not a factor in schools determining places and, as a result, there is no requirement to submit your application form on the first day applications open.