Dear Aranda Community:

**Swimming Carnival**

Today saw our Year 3 to 6 students and some Year 2 children attend the Aranda Primary Swimming Carnival at Big Splash. By all reports a fantastic day was enjoyed by students, staff and those parents who kindly volunteered to help with the running of the carnival. These days are a wonderful opportunity to see the school spirit at Aranda and there was lots of cheering and calls of encouragement as everyone strived to do their best in the pool. On behalf of the Executive team I would particularly like to thank Tanya Ford, Caitlin Jones, Susan Ford and all of the teachers who contributed to such a well-organised and successful day. I know that many hours went in to ensuring everything possible was considered for a safe and enjoyable event. Thank you also to the parents who volunteered to help, your assistance, particularly at a swimming carnival, is invaluable.

**P&C Annual General Meeting**

The P&C will hold their Annual General Meeting this evening. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. The P&C is a wonderful way to contribute to the school community and there are many jobs (both large and small) which need willing volunteers. Each year the P&C raises substantial funds to donate to the school to benefit student learning. The meeting will take place in the Resource Centre at 7:00 pm tonight.

**3-Way Conferences**

As part of our commitment to keeping parents involved and informed, 3-Way Conferences (parent, student and teacher) will be held in Week 5 of this term (3 to 7 March). More information about how to book your interview time has been sent home today. Of course, at any time throughout the year, if you would like to touch base with your child’s teacher about any concerns please make an appointment through the Front Office or alternatively email the teacher to make a suitable time. It is difficult to discuss issues during school hours and before 9:00 am often teachers have meetings or preparation to do.
A Note from Phil

Please remember that entering classrooms before or after school, with or without your child, is only appropriate if there is a teacher present in the room. If you would like to view student workbooks or art which is hanging in the room please organise to do so when the staff member is in the room.

First School Social: The Beach

Next Thursday evening will be the first School Social for 2014. The SRC has chosen a ‘Beach’ theme for the event so drag out those board shorts and sunglasses and practise up on the Chicken Dance and/or YMCA (I’m showing my age I know!) and come along from 5:30 to 6:45 pm for the Juniors and 7:00 to 8:30 pm for the Senior students.

During the Junior Disco the Kindergarten teachers would like to invite all Kindergarten parents to the Resource Centre for a ‘Reading with Your Child’ workshop. We hope to start at 5:45 pm and we will be finished in plenty of time for you to catch one or two dances with your child before the end of the Social.

Finally I would like to say thank you for the very warm welcome I have received from so many of the parents and students at Aranda. While I believe change is often good, it certainly helps generate new ideas, it can also be a little challenging. The wonderful, supportive staff and parent community at Aranda have made my first weeks here very enjoyable.

Sue Whitney
Executive Teacher

Cyber-Safety

The ThinkUKnow presentation for parents, carers and teachers that was held last week focused on cyber-safety. Thank you for your wonderful feedback. If you were unable to attend the presentation but would like some information, you are welcome to pick up an information booklet from the Front Office or you can visit the website at www.thinkuknow.org.au.

Colette Brown
Executive Teacher

School Board Election

We received three nominations for the two Parent and Citizen member positions on the Aranda Primary School Board. Voting will open at 11:00 am on Monday 24 February 2014. A set of voting instructions and ballot papers will be sent home on Friday afternoon to each family. Additional copies will be available from the Front Office. It is important to note the following:

- In order for your vote to be valid, please read and follow the instructions provided with the ballot paper
- Ballots cannot be accepted prior to 11:00am on Monday 24 February 2014.
- Voting closes at 11:00am on Monday 3 March 2014.

Your candidates are:

**JIM COTTER**

I am a composer with over 30 years’ professional experience. Most recently I held the position of Head of Composition at the ANU School of Music before returning to a creative life.

My son Miles is in Year 4. Throughout my working life I have participated in education at all levels as a teacher, tutor, and artist-in-residence. I have a long interest in the benefits of musical education to enhance broader learning skills.

I welcome this opportunity to support the work of the school as it implements its new vision.

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**RICHARD SABERTON**

Hi and thank you in advance for taking the time to read my short introduction.

Both of my parents were teachers, good ones by all accounts, and they were surprised when I became one; I taught English in Japan. They were even more surprised when I became a mature age student at a Japanese University, graduating four years later with a Bachelor of Commerce. My Japanese mentor ran a large ‘cram school’ that was listed on the Osaka stock exchange, and I was a teacher there for a time after I finished university.

After that I ran my own consulting business in Japan and China from 1993 to 2008, and have seen the light and dark sides of these Asian Tigers, so when my son Carl was born my wife Tina and I did not want to bring him up anywhere but Canberra, the city where I grew up. Carl has been at Aranda since preschool and we are exceedingly happy with the education he is receiving at Aranda Primary.

I have put my name forward as a nominee for the Board so that I can contribute to the school, and hopefully what I have learnt by being a student and teacher in adulthood and as a businessperson in Asia will be of use to the school community.

Thank you again for reading my submission, and I would very much appreciate your support for my nomination.
**PETER SHAW**

I am a father of two students at Aranda Primary with Murphy in Year 6 and Kiara in Year 5. Aranda has been a great school for our family for many reasons. Aside from our children receiving a high quality of education, we have also found that the support network within the Aranda School community has been exceptional and has contributed greatly not only to our children’s experiences, but to our experience as parents as well. I seek your support in electing me to the team that will ensure that these core qualities continue to be enhanced and promoted within the school, and to continue the high regard of Aranda Primary held within the broader community.

I am a management professional by day and am looking forward to the challenges that may arise in being a member of the school board. I am committed to acting as a point of contact and representative for all Aranda parents’ views on the Board. To this end, I will seek to actively engage and communicate with parents and provide timely feedback on the rationale of the board decisions.

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**Chinese Home Stay Visit**

At our school assembly on Friday we said goodbye to our Chinese visitors. We had an interesting week where we learned to patiently communicate by rephrasing, using gestures (and Google Translate!) speaking slowly, identifying key words and simplifying our messages. Flexibility was vital and the reward was one of life’s best lessons: the ability to empathise with the frustrations of a language barrier. All Aranda students, particularly our host families and our Chinese speaking community, displayed kindness. We are very proud of you all! Thank you to the wonderful giving families who hosted a student or two!

A special mention and big thank you must go to Emily Clarke and Kim McCormack who coordinated the program from our end, along with the International Education Unit. Thank you also to Colette Brown and Pam Daly for hosting teachers in their homes. Without all of you, this amazing experience would not have been possible.

*Here are some student reflections of the week:*

- I liked playing chasings with Howie. – Joseph
- I liked it when my billet came to KZW – Jarrah
- I liked playing totem tennis with my billets. – Riley
- I loved playing ping pong with my billet, Ana. She was good at it. – Axel
- I liked talking to the visiting Chinese teachers in Mandarin. – Alvin
- I enjoyed playing Mario Kart with Junsheng. We got an email from his mum. – Joel
- We had two students at our house. I enjoyed playing on the trampoline and watching them fall over. I tried to make them fall over. – Chloe
- I liked playing lego with Lucy. – Genevieve
- I liked going on the excursion the best. – Nina
- I liked playing sport with them in the backyard. – Lachlan
- Amy was very nice to me. She knew a lot of English and could understand me. She also liked playing Jenga. – Bridget
- I loved playing with Yingbi on the trampoline. – Finn
- I liked seeing Rex’s face when he saw an echidna for the first time. – Ethan
- I like making friends with the Chinese students and speaking Mandarin. – Kevin
- I liked walking to school with my billets and taking them down to show them our chickens. – Zac
- I liked helping the visiting Chinese students and teachers and also the Aranda students and teachers. – Ruthy
- It was extremely ‘fun’ when we climbed the hill near my house. We even saw some kangaroos. – Gary
- It was fun going up Telstra Tower. – Jordan
- I liked the hide and seek games we played around the house. We taught them how to play a different version with Nerf guns. – Alana
- I enjoyed taking them to ‘Big Splash’ and eating Chinese food with them. – Giselle
- I enjoyed going to the Arboretum with Lucy. – Maddy
- Kevin enjoyed western food over Chinese food. – Jasmine
- I enjoyed the experience because it was so different. There are lot of differences between China and Australia and I enjoyed learning about them. I also enjoyed seeing their faces as we visited places in Canberra on the excursion. They were in shock and awe. – Olivia

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Four visiting Chinese Teachers
On excursion to new Parliament House

Playing Pin the tail on the Possum

Eating Australian food from Possum Magic by Mem Fox

The Aranda EALD Team
Denise Bennett, Julieta Cameron, Emily Clarke, Sandra Kelly and Kim McCormack

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Families are reminded that fees for Aranda Music and Arts activities are payable in advance for the term. As with any other after school activities, tutors are not required to offer make-up lessons or credit for lessons missed by students, whether this be foreseen (such as school camp) or unforeseen (such as illness). It is appreciated when families can let tutors know as soon as possible if any lesson will be missed.

Vacancies: there are currently vacancies in piano. Please contact info@arandamusicprogram.org or Emma Cole kellehole@internode.on.net if you are interested

Emma Cole
Aranda Music and Arts Program Coordinator

Aranda Afters

Aranda Afters Association would like to extend a warm welcome to all new families for 2014. Our goals are to provide good quality, affordable care to all who seek it in a warm, happy, safe, relaxed, friendly, interesting and caring environment.

The core values of Aranda Afters align with those of Aranda Primary School and are:

- Communication: reaching a shared understanding
- Achievement: achieving through cooperation, persistence, resilience and learning
- Respect: being polite and thoughtful in dealing with others
- Caring: being friendly and helpful to others
- Integrity: consistency in word and deed.

Through these values, Aranda Afters reflects the culturally diverse and inclusive nature of the Aranda Primary School community. Aranda Afters seeks to promote a strong ethos of collaboration and teamwork and to offer an engaging curriculum that is future focused and meets the needs of the Aranda Primary School community.

We are governed by a committee which meets at least quarterly.

We would like to invite new and existing families to join the committee and contribute to maintaining Aranda Afters. The next meeting will be held between 6:30 and 8:30 pm, Thursday 27 February at the Belconnen Labor Club. As a reasonable benefit to support attendance, child care is provided during the meeting at the venue and, on this occasion, meals for those children in care will also be provided. For more details or to RSVP, please contact the President, Ben Vagnarelli on phone: 0437 650 193 or email: benrock@riverland.net.au

Ben Vagnarelli
President, Aranda Afters Parents Committee
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

| Belconnen Cats Registration Day, 22 February |
| Ice Hockey Come and Try Day, 15 March |
| Canberra Model Train Expo, Kaleen High School, 29 to 30 March |
| Canberra Toy and Hobby Fair, Kaleen High School, 6 April 2014 |
| GKR Karate Lessons |

Liz Gregory Irish Dance Academy

Enrol in your Irish Dance Class NOW for 2014!

BEGINNERS: Classes for girls and boys from 4 to 12 years. Beginners Classes are held after school Tuesday and Thursday at our fully equipped dance Studio in Aranda at the former Aranda Scout Hall, Kubura Place, Aranda.

From the 1st lesson children will learn “Riverdance” style and Traditional and energetic Irish Dancing. Children are taught dance for public performances, competitions and local and international championships.

Hurry! Classes are filling quickly!

Enrolments will be accepted at any time during the Term

For further enquiries please contact Liz T.C.R.G., A.D.C.R.G – 0419 225195

Ph: 0419225195

www.lizgregoryida.com email: lgida52@hotmail.com

In-2–Cricket

If you have never played cricket before or come from either an indigenous or multicultural background, you are invited to the Global Cricket Day on Sunday the 2 March 2014 from 10:00 am at Boomanulla Oval. This is a FREE event where registered participants will receive a FREE cricket clinic, FREE cricket pack, FREE lunch and the chance to meet past and present cricket stars including Maximus Thunder! To register, 1) log onto www.in2CRICKET.com.au, 2) enter the postcode 2604 and 3) select Global Cricket Challenge. For more information, please contact Matthew on 0416 531 998 or matthew.william@cricket.com.au

Kidsoccer – pre-season skills based program

Is your child playing soccer this winter? Give them a great headstart by joining our skills based term 1 program.

Kidsoccer runs skills based, age appropriate programs for pre-school and primary aged children. Our program is designed specifically for children – from ages 3 to 12. Whether you are new to soccer or wanting to play Division 1, we have the program for you.

We have sessions available at O’Connor, Bonner, Garran and Hughes – visit www.kidsoccer.info for all the details. It is never too late to register with us. Keep fit, make new friends and impress your old ones with your new found agility and ball skills.

The Aranda App Codes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belnorth Football</td>
<td>Registration Day</td>
<td>4 to U-17</td>
<td>Saturday 1 March – Rebel Sport, Westfield Belconnen. 10:00 am to 1:00pm</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>
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<td>Belconnen Cats Junior AFL Club</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Free Sausage Sizzle on the Giralang Oval, Coree Place Giralang</td>
<td>10 to 17</td>
<td>Saturday 22Feb 11:30-1:30</td>
<td>Brett Yeomans (Registrar) 0412 960 638 or <a href="mailto:byeomans@netspeed.com.au">byeomans@netspeed.com.au</a> or Nicole Thorne (Football Manager) 0419 486 082, <a href="mailto:nicstu@grapevine.com.au">nicstu@grapevine.com.au</a> for further information.</td>
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<td>Ice Hockey ACT (IHACT) and efficient way.</td>
<td>FREE Come and Try Day at the Phillip Ice Rink on the 15th of March 2014.</td>
<td>Juniors, aged 4 -16</td>
<td>15 March 2014.</td>
<td>Darren Cope IHACT Junior Delegate 0417 656 006</td>
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The National Disability Insurance Agency presents the third NDIS Webinar:

A Strong Voice: Self-Advocacy

‘A Strong Voice’ will focus on self-advocacy, and how people with disability take control of their own lives to speak for themselves with greater confidence. Our panel of guests will discuss ways that self-advocacy has helped them to make informed choices about their reasonable and necessary supports and achieve their personal goals as valued, contributing and included members of the community. Strong self-advocates will bring stories from their own lives and share with you their insights into self-advocacy as part of a panel discussion. Our guests will answer your questions about how to build self-advocacy into your own life.

Thursday 27 February 2014 at 12:00pm (AEST)

The NDIA invites people with disability, family members, carers, advocates, support providers and community members to join the discussion online and contribute to the conversation.

Please register your attendance at engagement@ndis.gov.au or phone 1800 800 110. On the day you can join the webinar here NDIS Webinar – ‘A Strong Voice: Self-Advocacy’. You can test your connection before the webinar using this test link.

Take part in the conversation. Online viewers can contribute to the conversation by submitting questions and comments to engagement@ndis.gov.au, via Twitter using the hashtag #NDISWEBINAR or via the Livechat facility. Visit our website for more information.