Dear Aranda Primary School community,

As you read this Newsletter, our Years 5 and 6 children are off having a great time at camp. Camp Cooba is one of my favourite camps. The food is great, the teachers are looked after and the children respond really well to all of the challenging activities on offer. I often look back fondly on my own Year 5 and 6 camp experiences. As a student, I loved the thought of travelling to new places and the chance to survive without Mum and Dad for a few days. As teachers we enjoy watching the children test themselves and support each other in an unfamiliar environment.

Camp offers challenging, fun activities and plenty of time in the great outdoors.

EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) breakfast

Thirty percent of the children at Aranda come from an EALD background. We are proud of our diverse community and I look forward to the EALD breakfast with our EALD families which will be held in the Gymnasium next Wednesday morning.

Belconnen Swimming Carnival

Good luck to all of our swimmers who are off to the Belconnen District Swimming Carnival next Tuesday. As part of our comprehensive Health, P.E. and Nutrition program at Aranda, a very generous parent offered training to our district swim team. To the team’s delight, they discovered that the parent in question is a renowned international swim coach.
Parent Expertise Register

Last year I made the point to a group of parents that we don’t utilise the parent skill sets in our primary schools very well. I now have a small group of Aranda parents on my expertise register and I am happy to collect some more. If you have a skill or a talent that you think might be useful in our classrooms then please contact me. Call, email or drop in and I will add you to our growing list.

Aranda Primary has formed a partnership with CSIRO Education and we look forward to meeting our new ‘Scientist in Schools’ partner, Monika Kupfelwieser who works with the Department of Environment. We have also partnered with Mathematicians in Schools. We are proud of the Maths and Science programs at Aranda and I believe that the connection with ‘Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools’ will enhance our teaching.

Phil’s Soapbox

Last weekend I read in the paper that due to a string of accidents involving young drivers, one of our state governments will be reintroducing driver safety courses to all High Schools in that particular state. I am not making a judgment that driver safety classes in schools aren’t important but where does it stop?

It seems to me in recent times that the answer to all of society’s ills is “to fix it in schools”. Swimming lessons, road safety, drug education, driver education, coping with stress, violence in the home and on the streets are all worthy topics in a young person’s education but I can tell you our curriculum is looking mighty crowded. Sometimes I think that in the future we won’t have to worry about the incredibly limited information provided in the Canberra Times NAPLAN league tables because schools won’t have time in their daily schedules to teach Maths and English let alone administer NAPLAN tests.

Have a great week,
Phil Gray

Aranda Preschool

The Preschoolers are having a wonderful first term at Aranda Preschool. The children are becoming familiar with the daily routine and they are beginning to demonstrate resilience, enthusiasm and a sense of belonging in the learning environment.

In the first five weeks of school the Aqua Marbles (Monday-Tuesday) have focused on social skills and on their own identity. They have played many games in which they learned to take turns, work together and listen to others. Encouraged by a safe and supportive new environment they have also started to gain confidence and take risks. The children are, for example, quite happy to perform newly learned songs for others and to show their skills (writing and drawing) on the class whiteboard. All their efforts are celebrated, so they know that they are capable and successful learners. Class discussions have enhanced their understanding and inspired them to try what others do or have already done. A highlight of these first few weeks are the self-portraits that are on display in our room.

The Thursday-Friday group Crimson Magnetics have done and learned similar things, but have explored different interests, such as a stick-and-leaves campfire in the playground. Their excitement about this campfire has carried on inside and inspired us to set up our home corner as a camping site. This is a work in progress: the more we learn and discover, the more we add to it. Again, class discussions have inspired everyone to think about all that is involved in making a camp fire. To light a real campfire we would need matches or sticks and a rock (to rub against each other), we would also need our phones to be able to call the fire engine or ambulance should things go wrong. However we would be very careful and sit away from the fire, which is why we would have marshmallows on a stick.

The Indigo Daydreamers (Monday-Tuesday) and Emerald Lizards (Thursday-Friday) have been eagerly searching for ripe tomatoes and beans from the vegetable patches in our outdoor learning.
environment. The children have been sharing information about the produce they grow at home and making suggestions about fruit and vegetables we could grow at Preschool. We have been putting out the tomatoes and beans in bowls at morning-tea and the children have been munching away on them. Last week, we made pasta sauce with the tomatoes and both classes had a shared eating experience. These shared experiences, along with time spent together exploring the indoor and outdoor play environments and ‘getting to know you games’, are helping the children form a sense of belonging at the Preschool.

Both our indoor and outdoor environments are providing opportunities for the children to develop and extend upon their interests. For example, the Indigo Daydreamers have been interested in exploring printmaking using a range of both natural and processed materials. The Emerald Lizards have been discussing sea creatures and engaging in imaginative play with pirate props. Both classes have been interested in creating self-portraits and collage pictures. These art experiences have provided the preschoolers with the opportunity to express their creativity, as well as practise manipulating art and craft tools and writing their own name.

Thank you to all the Mums and Dads who have already been on the roster this term. It is a wonderful way for us to get to know each other! Your child loves sharing part of their preschool day with you and the other children also benefit from your interactions.

Kelly and Marny
Aranda Preschool

U-Can Read
Places Available for the Next Intake of the U-Can-Read Program

U-Can Read is a program dedicated to developing children's literacy skills by providing parents and careers with strategies, knowledge and support. It is delivered via a series of 5 parent seminars followed by up to 12 weekly, one hour sessions with students and their parents/carers.

U-CAN Read Literacy Intervention Years 3 -10 has several places available for the next intake beginning in April. Application forms can be found on Index under Teaching and Learning, You Can Read and will be accepted until COB Friday 21 March 2014.

Teachers of students in these year levels may wish to promote the program to parents and carers.

Contact: Nicole Hughes or Jan Herold
Ph: 620 79407

Colette Brown

Running Club
Running Club Start Date Delayed

Due to the closure of all Government ovals in Canberra until the 1st of April, the Aranda Running club will not commence running until Wednesday, 2 April at 8:30 am. This will be Week 9 Term 1.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause and look forward to starting this new health venture with many enthusiastic students.

Janine Collins
Running Club

Book Fair

Don’t forget about the Book Fair. The books will be supplied by Carnival Fairs.

Books will be sold each day from 8:30 to 9:30 am and 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the LIBRARY (in the Resource Centre).

Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant
EALD

Harmony Day
This year we will be celebrating Harmony Day on Friday, 21 March. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day for all Australians to celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

There are many ways we can celebrate Harmony Day and this year at Aranda we have decided to join with our buddy classes in the middle session of the day and share lunch together. The students will then participate in a junior and senior sports rotation after lunch to give them opportunities to mix across year levels and make new friends.

Sandra Kelly and Anastasia O'Donnell
EALD Team

Bank On It

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 marquees to be won in the ACT region. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of the two $50 credits to their School Banking account on offer.


Banking day at Aranda is every Wednesday
Sharon Wood
School Banking

P&C Matters

THANK YOU!

A BIG THANKS to all who responded to our call for an Auditor for the P&C.

Adrian Watts, who is new to the Aranda School Community, has agreed to take on the role.

Welcome, and thank you Adrian! We are still looking for a Secretary. If you are interested please contact Matt Stocks (P&C President) arandapandc@gmail.com

SOCS

More SOCs are coming so please use up your current SOCs coupons.
If you need more free SOCs coupons, ask the front-desk or visit www.CommunitySOCs.org.

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Unpaid Annual registration fees. Our records indicate that some parents have not yet paid the annual registration fee. This is separate from the term fees charged by the tutors, and is used to pay room rental and administration costs of the Program. The annual registration fee is $35 for one child, and $65 for two or more children. The preferred method of payment is direct deposit to:
BSB: 062 919,
Account No: 0092 4742.
Please use your child's name as the reference to the payment.

Vacancies: There are currently vacancies in violin and Continuing Music.

Emma Cole
Aranda Music and Arts Program
Aranda Afters Program

On February 27, Aranda Afters Committee President Ben Vagnarelli was presented with a plaque, by the Aranda Afters Committee to recognise his dedication to the Aranda Afters program and community service to the Afters Committee.

Michael Wright
The Aranda Afters 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

- Connect and Participate Expo, 29 March
- Canberra Model Train Expo, Kaleen High School, 29 to 30 March
- Canberra Toy and Hobby Fair, Kaleen High School 6 April 2014
- Jamison YMCA Junior Vacation Care  
  Booking open 24 March
- Positive Partnerships Autism Workshop – 2 April (Bookings close 31 March)

The Aranda App Codes

![Apple App Store](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

![Google Play](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
## Support Your Local Sports

### Belsouth Soccer Club - Fun, Family and Football
We officially draw from those living or attending school in Aranda, Bruce, Cook, Hawker, Macquarie, Page and Weetangera.

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<td>Belsouth Soccer Club</td>
<td>Gala Day Registrations are now open!</td>
<td>Boys and girls from age 4 up to those turning 18 this calendar year.</td>
<td>16 March at Murrangi Street, Hawker</td>
<td>Register now! and learn more about your local soccer club at our new website: <a href="http://www.belsouthsoccerclub.com.au">www.belsouthsoccerclub.com.au</a></td>
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### Ice Hockey ACT (IHACT)

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### WESTERN DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB

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<td>WESTERN DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB</td>
<td>2014 REGISTRATION DAY</td>
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<td>Kev Whitton, President ph: 0402 805 219 <a href="mailto:westsjuniorrugby@gmail.com">westsjuniorrugby@gmail.com</a></td>
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Canberra Southern Cross Club Jamison (Catchpole Street, Macquarie)
$150* – includes the cost of playing socks, shorts and jersey (which players keep at the end of the season)
* sibling discounts apply