Dear Aranda Community,

**Harmony Day**

We believe that everyday should be Harmony Day at Aranda Primary, but last Friday the whole school joined together to celebrate the official Harmony Day. We began the celebrations with a whole school assembly at which two senior students presented Mr Gray with a beautiful artwork. The painting was created by Karen Telese and several Aranda students. Each of the countries represented in our classrooms was included in the artwork. We are looking for a special place in the school to display the work but until we can share it with everyone I have included a photo below. After recess each class spent time with their buddy class and participated in a variety of activities including making banners, dressing dolls in cultural costumes and singing songs. My Kinder class and their buddies from 3/4RF read a story titled ‘It’s okay to be different’ by Todd Parr. We talked about all of the ways we are different from each other and at the end of the session we thought of some extra pages we could add to the book, including ‘It’s okay to have different coloured skin’ (Ayansa), ‘It’s okay to have freckles’ (Toby and Zoe), ‘It’s okay to have a different hairstyle’ (Tom and Louis), ‘It’s okay to be brown (Yousef and Nick), and even some specifically included for the Kinder students … “It’s okay to colour outside the lines’.

**School App...**

Did you know Aranda Primary School has its own APP for smartphone? The QR codes are at the back of each newsletter or you can download it from the App store. You can use the App to view the school events calendar, tell us when your child is away from school, request a meeting with your child’s teacher or advise us if your contact details have changed. There are also links to the school website so you can read the latest newsletter or look for a permission note. Possibly the most useful feature for busy parents is the capacity to receive reminders about upcoming events eg. The school photos this week or permission notes due. If you aren’t already one of the many families using the Aranda Primary School App – download yours today!
Grandfriends’ Day

Mark your calendars and talk to the grandparents to be sure they can clear the decks… Grandfriends’ Day is a wonderful opportunity for students to spend some of their day sharing their learning with grandparents and special visitors. Grandfriend’s Day will be Friday 9 May (Term 2 Week 2).

Sue Whitney
Executive Teacher

School Board

Congratulations to Peter Shaw and Richard Saberton who have been successful with their nominations and subsequent election as parent representatives for the School Board. They will commence on 1 April 2014 for a period of two years. Thank you Cecilia Jones and Louise Ray for your contribution to the Aranda Primary School Board.

Congratulations also to Penny Whitford who will continue as a staff representative for the next two years.

Suzanne Vincent
Assistant Returning Officer

Harmony Day with Year 1/2

Children across the 1/2 classes were involved in a variety of activities for Harmony Day. These included Soccer, Builders and Bulldozers, Skipping, Parachuting and other fun activities. Children were grouped with their buddies to share peer support.

Harmony Day is a special event where children can come together to celebrate diversity across the grades.

The 1/2 Team
Grandfriends’ Day
Friday, 9 May 2014

Our celebrations will begin with a visit to classrooms at 9:00 am.

This will be followed by a special morning tea for Grandfriends that will be held from 10:00 am in the Resource Centre.

After morning tea Grandfriends will be treated to a performance by both the Year 5 and Year 6 bands and songs by the Choir and the Year 1/2 students.

We would be grateful if families could send in a plate of food for morning tea on the day.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open in the Library from 8:30 to 9:30 am and 2:30 to 3:30 pm every day next week. I just cracked open the cases to have a look and check out the titles. There were a range of books for boy and girls from the earliest ages to the older readers.

Many of the titles and series were familiar and I know that the children will have their favourites because I am constantly seeing those books pass over the circulation desk. The series include Rainbow Fairies, Lego, Star Wars, Alex Rider and Billie B. Brown. The authors range from Andy Griffith and Adam Blade to Philippa Gregory and Derek Landy. There will also be non-fiction books including science and craft (there is even a Ripley’s Believe It or Not title.)

I will be setting up tomorrow, so if anyone really wants a sneak peak, they are welcome to have a squiz. Also, if you think that you can possibly spare an hour to help with sales next week, it will be welcome.

Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant

French News

This term, the French club has been busy creating items for the Francophonie competition organised by the Alliance Francaise and the French Embassy. Francophonie is an international organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language, where a significant proportion of the population are francophones (French speakers), or where there is a notable affiliation with French culture.

This competition was opened to primary and secondary schools. Primary schools were given the name of a Francophone country and could either create a hat representing that country (for Years 1 to 4) and/or a poster (for Years 5 to 6). The country we were given was Cyprus, a little island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. After some research, we came up with some great ideas and finished our creations in time to have them displayed at the Alliance Francaise.

The winners will be announced this Saturday at the Alliance Francaise Open Day, at 1:00 pm. If you are interested, come and have a look at all the entries. The Alliance Francaise is located at 66 McCaughey Street in Turner.

Madame Davies
The French Club

SCR Fundraiser

For the first fundraiser of the year we will be holding a mufti day (uniform free) on Friday 11 April Week 10, Term 1. We will be raising money for a new cause, a Fijian school. The money raised will be put towards much needed stationery for the school. Please bring along a gold coin donation on the day and help us to help another school.

Thank you
Murphy, Gary, Jessica and Alyssa
School Leaders
From the Counsellor

Protective Behaviours Questions for Children

Does your child know their phone number and address?
Can they call ‘000’ if they need to?
Do they know what safety means?
Do they have a safety plan if they get lost?
Do they know up to 5 adults who they can talk to and who can take action to help them?
Can they identify the difference between safe and unsafe behaviour?
Do they know where in their body they feel safe and excited or unsafe?
Do they know the difference between public and private (e.g. behaviours, clothes, places and body parts)?
Do they know about their own personal space?
Do they know about safety online?

Have you talked to your child about safe and unsafe touches?

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor

Looking for a Computer

Do you have a computer you no longer need? We are setting up an online ordering system with FlexiSchools, for which we need a machine in the canteen. It doesn’t need to be fancy - just has to run on some flavour of Windows (XP, Vista, 7 or 8).

So if you have a laptop that is getting a bit old and slow and have been wondering what to do with it, then the canteen would love to give it a good home! Contact Chris via arandacanteen@gmail.com.

Matthew Stocks
Aranda P&C

The Uniform Shop

SALE: This Friday from 8:30am the Aranda Uniform Shop is having a summer sale.

We will have on sale:

Girls’ and boys’ shorts - $10.00 (usual price $21 or $23). (Note this does not include cargo shorts).

Girls’ cotton boot leg pants - $10 (usual price $30)

Girls’ old style dresses – size 4 - $5

The Cross Country Carnival is on soon, so buy some sports shorts – The school has decided to introduce a black microfiber sport short for boys and girls either to run in or just for everyday wear. We are selling them now at the uniform shop for an opening price of $15. Buy a pair for the upcoming Cross Country Carnival.

Tara Munro-Mobbs
Uniform Shop coordinator
ph: 0411 518998

P&C Matters

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

SOCs

SOCs
Before School Care

Before School Care is available to Aranda Primary School children. YMCA operates before school care at the adjacent St Vincent Primary School Monday through Friday from 7.30am to 9.00am and includes breakfast and an escorted walk to Aranda Primary School. Further details and initial enquiries can be made by phone to 6242 4040. To enrol, visit www.canberra.ymca.org.au and complete a waitlist application under St Vincent’s Before School Care and the YMCA office staff will be in contact with you.

Ben Vagnarelli
President, Aranda Afters Parent 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

- Canberra Model Train Expo, Kaleen High School – 29 to 30 March
- Canberra Toy and Hobby Fair, Kaleen High School – 6 April 2014
- Sports Expo, National Hockey Centre – 14 to 16 April
- The Conductor and the Clown, Nishi Gallery – 15 April
- Canberra Minecraft Camp, Communities at Work, Greenway, 19 and 20 April
- Get Active Sports soccer, Weetangera Primary – starts 4 May

K idsoccer Holiday Clinics and winter programs

Registrations are now open for Kidsoccer’s April holiday programs. We run skills based, age appropriate programs for 3 to 12 year olds. Our emphasis is on fun, participation, fun, development, and did we mention - fun! Visit our web page - kidsfc.com.au –and click on the program link for all the details. A fantastic 35% discount is available if you register before 8 April. Whilst you are looking at our website, check out our winter program – special early bird discounts also apply if you register before 18 April. Our program caters for the very beginner through to the more experienced player, and we take kids as young as 3! It is a great way to keep your kids fit and active and improve their skills. Kidsoccer – it’s just more Fun.

The Aranda App Codes