Dear Aranda Community,

**Soccer**

This week we had several Year 3/4 children participate in a 5-a-Side Soccer Day at Hawker Football Centre. In addition to the players, we had some of the Year 5/6 students attend as leaders. This was a fun day with a non-competitive focus. Children had the opportunity to participate and try a new sport or practise their skills. Feedback about the leadership of our Year 5/6 students was exceptional – what a great opportunity for both the Year 3/4 and 5/6 students. Thank you to the teachers who attended, Caitlin Jones and Kellie Nissen.

**Year 6 Speaker**

Each year, at the graduation assembly, we have a guest speaker talk to our Year 6 students about leadership and making the most of opportunities as they arise. This year we have discussed having someone who attended Primary School at Aranda and who has recently completed, or is in their final year of study at University. If you know someone who would fit the description and would like to help out, please email kim.mccormack@ed.act.edu.au.

**Concert 11 December**

Please read the more detailed note that was sent home today for information about our end of year concert.

**Book pack orders**

Orders for book packs for 2015 need to be placed by Thursday 11 December. Payment can be made either now or in Term 1, 2015. All book pack lists and order forms are available at the Front Office or can be downloaded from the school website.
If you have not returned your feedback form, please do so as soon as possible. This will enable the school to prepare the Chromebooks for students to take home in the first week of term in 2015.

Preschool Enrolments for 2015
We are full for preschool in 2015 so if you haven’t yet enrolled your child, please go to www.det.act.gov.au and follow the prompts to enrol online. All in-area families will be placed on a waiting list and advised when a place becomes available.

Regards
Kim McCormack
Deputy Principal

News from Kindergarten
A couple of weeks ago Kindergarten had a visit from the fire brigade! Hopefully you have heard all about how we “get down low and go, go, go” if there is a fire in the house. The firemen spoke to the children about the importance of knowing where their ‘safe meeting place’ was in case of a fire at their home, as well as their address in case they needed to call for assistance. We hope they all came home and had a discussion with you afterwards. Of course the highlight for many was seeing the spray of water from the top of the truck. The garden at the front of the school received some much needed water!

At the last Junior assembly KDR and KSW shared some of the highlights of our year in Kindergarten. From special events like the 100 day celebrations, our excursion, sports carnivals and walkathons, to the regular events such as gross motor rotations, dance (including the Charleston with Mrs Alexander!) literacy rotations and investigations it has certainly been a busy year.

On Thursday of Week 9 we will hold the whole school end-of-year concert in the grounds of the school. We hope you have added the event to your calendars. Details about the very simple costume requirements for Kindergarten have been sent home today – please check bags for the note.

Kindergarten Team

Aranda Volleyball Teams
Another great performance by the Aranda Volleyball Teams over the weekend!

Each team played three matches. While competing against the teams from Weetangera Primary and Amaroo School, our teams were coached by a member of the Canberra Heat women’s volleyball team. This was an exciting opportunity for the kids to get to know some of the top female players in the State.

It was lovely to hear comments from the Heat players about the great sportsmanship from the Aranda players especially when the children’s teams were mixed up!

The following students represented Aranda Primary at the tournament: Aislin (3/4TF), Austin (5/6LG), Claire (5/6AW), David (5/6PD), Elizabeth (3/4CJ), Emily
Congratulations to all the Aranda children involved in the tournament. We hope to have more opportunities to play again next year!

Rachel Uren
Aranda Volleyball

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**Volunteer Morning Tea**

If you have volunteered or assisted the school in anyway during the past year, we invite you to a special volunteer morning tea in the Resource Centre on Thursday 4 December Week 8 10:30 am

Please mark your calendars

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**Ben Donohoe Run and Walk for Fun Results**

A massive thank you to all those who ran or walked with the Aranda Primary team in the Ben Donohoe Run and Walk for Fun. In the past 3 years the Aranda Primary community has helped to raise over $3500 to support children and families of children with cancer which is a fantastic effort.

This year Adrian Kennett placed 3rd in the 6km masters and 12th overall. Kate Porter-Smith came 2nd in the 3km open, Olivia Martin (ex-Aranda student) was 1st in the 6km junior and 4th female and Davis Atkins (ex-Aranda student) 3rd in the junior 6km. Gena (5/6JH) was the first current Aranda student to cross the line in the 6km event.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this event.

Tanya Ford

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**G Force**

A few weeks ago, we mentioned the school No Waste competition in which students were encouraged to either use recycling material to create an art work or promote the idea of recycling through various media. It is my pleasure to announce that Aranda Primary School was awarded a Highly Commended distinction for the year 1-3 category, thanks to the recycling art works of the following students:

- Breanna Gillego: Cat sculpture using plastic bottle, paper rolls, and bubble wrap. (1/2AO)
- Daniel Weston: Toy Trucks made out of cereal boxes. (1/2JB)
- Andie Bonasera: Video Presentation about Waste to Art and Sculptor Richard Nagel. (1/2JB)
- Clarissa Gautama: Photo frame using cereal boxes cardboard (1/2AO)
- Zoe Harris: Dinosaur sculpture using paper and cardboard boxes (3/4RF)
- Umm-E Kalsoom: paper plate rabbit bag (3/4TF)

On Monday this week, some of these students attended the launch of Recycling Week in the presence of the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury, who handed them some well-deserved certificates. Congratulations to these recycling artists. Their art works will be displayed in the cabinet in the school foyer.

Myriam Davies
G-Force

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**From the Counsellor**
Year 6 Transition to High School Group

Last week all Year 6 children participated in a session provided by the Aranda school psychologist which was designed to assist in the preparation of students getting ready to attend high school. The students discussed the best things about going to high school as well as sharing their concerns. It was reassuring to have a discussion about high school to dispel some high school myths as well as providing some practical suggestions.

Some of these include:

- being organised e.g. use a diary, a watch helps, have a study area at home.
- visiting the school before next year as familiarity is important.
- talking to your parents about any issues and their experiences.
- using your map of the school to find places.
- developing a high school network of adults to talk to.
- asking for help if necessary.
- remembering that children will become used to it fairly quickly.
- knowing that change often involves feelings of mild anxiety. If anxiety persists talk to one of the network people.

The children were reassured to know that most children have a range of feelings about going to high school which is normal e.g. excited, happy, confused, sad, nervous, concerns about safety, relieved, overwhelmed and happy. Please encourage your children to share their thoughts and feelings about high school and help them to develop a positive attitude to the changes ahead.

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor/Psychologist

Friday Barnes: Girl Detective
by R.A. Spratt

Friday Barnes: Girl Detective is a great book about a girl who has a talent solving mysteries. When she earns prize money for solving a bank robbery, she sends herself to a boarding school, Highcrest Academy. As she discovers many mysteries in the high school the plot of the book takes many turns which I found quite interesting. The book is a one of a kind and a fantastic read. I recommend this book for Years 3 to 6 and I rate it 4½ out of five stars.

By Jennifer (5/6AW)

Roses are Blue by Sally Murphy

Roses are Blue is an enchanting story about a young girl who fears everyone knowing about her mother, who was in a horrible accident. She still loves her “new” mum, but deeply misses her “old” smiling mum. Like all of Sally Murphy’s books, this novel is a quick read with a powerful meaning behind it. This story has powerful imagery and I loved every moment of the book. Year 5 and 6s may enjoy this novel for the meanings behind it and for students in other years it is a great read. I really enjoyed this book and give it 4 ½ out of five stars.

By Elaine (5/6JH)

Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant

P&C Matters

Donations for Christmas Gourmet Food Hampers

Week 9 is rapidly approaching and along with it the much-anticipated Aranda Primary end-of-year concert! Coordinated by the talented Mrs Alexander, it promises to be a fantastic family evening and picnic in the school grounds. The children are already busy practising. As part of the event, the P&C will be running a Christmas Raffle to be drawn on the night. In Week 6 we are kindly looking for donations of non-perishable gourmet food, vouchers for any businesses or Christmas items to help fill the hampers. Items can be given to your class teacher or left in the basket at the Front Office.

The P&C Canteen committee will also be providing a range of picnic hampers that can be ordered in advance through flexischools for the end-of-year Concert, and picked up on the night - one less job to worry about at that busy time of year. More details to follow in Week 6.

Thanks,
Emma Stockings
P&C Canteen Committee

Library Shelf

The end of the year is fast approaching and sadly, this means that after next week there will be no more book borrowing.

At the moment there are still a number of overdue books out there. If you received a note about your child having an overdue book, could you please have a look around your house to see if you can find it. The school is requesting that if you think that you have lost a book or that it is irreparably damaged, that you pay for the cost so that we can replace it.

Student Book Reviews from the Library Monitors

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by R.A. Spratt

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By Elaine (5/6JH)

Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant
Canteen Convenor required
Did you know that we are one of the lucky ACT schools that still have a parent-run canteen?

A big plus is that we as parents and carers can have a say in the service and menu offerings. But we are still looking for a Convenor for the Canteen Committee (a sub-committee of the P and C) that is going to shape the future of the canteen in 2015.

If you have an interest in the food that is sold in our school and are willing to take on some oversight and coordination responsibilities, please let us know as soon as possible. The Canteen Convenor role is one in which you could really contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of our children - and there is an active committee to help.

For more details, email arandacanteen@gmail.com

Fiona Bray
Canteen Committee

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.

Bank On It
Last Day for Banking in 2014
As we are in Term 4 and it is a short term (only 9 ½ weeks), our last school banking day will be Week 9, Wednesday 10 December. The last day to put in for rewards will be Week 8, Wednesday 3 December.

Sharon Hewett
School Banking Co-ordinator
DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN HIGH SCHOOL?

The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with financial support for students in Years 7 – 10.

Eligibility: Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card with means tested ‘payment codes’
- see application form for more details

APPLY NOW

ACT EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTORATE
Secondary Bursary Scheme
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning
GPO Box 158 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Application forms are available at all high schools, colleges, Centrelink Regional Offices and online at

Enquiries: 6205 8262

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.