From the Executive

Sophie Isabella has arrived

Congratulations to Emma and Adrian Janssen on the safe arrival of Sophie Isabella. Sophie was born at 7:30 am on Tuesday 20 May and weighed 3.05kg. Mum and bub are both doing well.

Public Education Week – It’s this Week!

Public Education Week celebrates the achievements of ACT public schools, teachers, staff, students and community members. As a part of the celebrations, the Choir and Year 6 Band will be performing at Belconnen Mall on Centre Stage, tomorrow, 23 May. Approximately 93 choir students will sing at 1:30 pm and 20 students will play in the Year 6 Band at 2:00 pm. If you can make it, go along and give them a great big cheer.

Our amazing Kindergarten artists have 20 pieces of work, five from each class, hanging at Calvary Hospital for Public Education Week. Lucky visitors to Calvary!

Using Technology at School

The explosive development of communication technology in recent years has led to an opportunity to revolutionise the way we deliver quality learning experiences for students. Have a chat with your child about some of the technology they are using at school, you might be surprised. The 5/6 students just couldn’t live without their Chromebooks (so they tell me) and the 3/4s are using the HP Elite laptops in some exciting ways. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and K to Year 2 students will begin to use iPads soon. We also use desktop computers, Alpha-smarts, mp3 recorders, digital cameras and Flip camera. For our students it’s just all business as usual!

ACT Primary Concert Band

Congratulations to eight of our students who were selected to join the ACT Primary Concert Band. What an achievement! Places in the Band are highly sought after. Auditions were held at the IMP Office at Kaleen High School a few weeks ago. Students will attend an extra practice session each week and will also do a day tour where they give three concerts in one day, at different schools in the broader Canberra region.

Congratulations to; Jenny (5/6AW), Elaine (5/6JH), Gary (5/6PD), Zhou Zhou (5/6AW), Gena (5/6JH), Arianna (5/6AW), Ruthy (5/6PD) and Giselle (5/6TB).

Winter Bugs

With the winter season almost upon us, coughs, colds and other illnesses are becoming more prevalent. In the interest of minimising the spread of illness to students and their extended families, staff and visitors, please do not send your child to school if they are unwell.
Preschool Obstacle-a-thon

Preschoolers certainly enjoyed the obstacle-a-thon and had lots to say about it. The atmosphere was filled with energy, enthusiasm and excitement. One student told me about their card, their number, what they did and how much fun it was. Thanks to the families who supported the obstacle-a-thon in any way. This includes cooking the BBQ.

Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge

Keep up the great reading for the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. Lots of new books that have been added to the list. Check out the website for more information.


Colette Brown
School Leader C

Year 3/4

Sydney Excursion

On Thursday, 1 May all the 3/4 students went on an excursion to the Hyde Park Barracks and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney. We got up at 5:00 am just to get to school on time! It took us five hours to get to Sydney.

We were separated into two groups, one group going to the Hyde Park Barracks (where we learnt all about the lives of the convicts) and the other to the Royal Botanical Gardens (where we learnt about foods and medicines used by Aborigines and the early settlers). We swapped after lunch. Here’s what some students thought of it.

- I thought it was fun but I learnt a lot at the same time. – Arantxa (3/4RF)
- I liked the way that we got to see how convicts lived and worked. – Sophia (3/4KN)
- I liked handling the objects at the Hyde Park Barracks and tasting the flowers at the Royal Botanical Gardens. – Llewellyn (3/4CJ)
- I really like the Botanical Gardens because there were flowers we could eat. – Rose (3/4KN)
- I was amazed by how the convicts had to make 600 bricks per day. – Lisa (3/4CJ)
- It was an epic excursion! – Brodie (3/4CJ)
- We had a fantastic day. It was very tiring, but it was worth it. – Ethan D (3/4KN), Noah S (3/4RF) and Jack B (3/4RF)

The 3/4 Classes

Help!!!

Looking out over where the First Fleet landed. It’s a bit different now.

Cat-of-nine-tails - ouch

Sleeping in the convict hammocks

Convict Identification activity

Convict Identification activity

Cat-of-nine-tails - ouch

Learning about how the Aborigines lived before invasion.

Hunting for plants at the Botanic Gardens

What a long day! It was worth it though.
From the Counsellor

CHILDREN AND SEPARATION
When a family decides to separate it is typically a difficult time for all members of the family. Children react differently according to their age and temperament and their understanding of what is happening. Sometimes children will regress to earlier stages of development and this is a normal reaction to stress. Children can become caught up in the separation and can become scapegoats for their parent’s resentment of each other. It is important to allow children time to experience the separation in their own way as their loyalties to both parents can be tested.

The family Court Counsellors suggest this advice to parents

- Tell your children what is happening and why. This will depend on your child’s age. It needs to be kept simple and developmentally appropriate.
- Allow time for all members of the family to adjust to the new order of things. Expect erratic outbursts from your kids from time to time, as they will probably experience the full range of emotions
- Try to be available and reassuring to your kids that things will be ok.
- Encourage them to talk about their feelings.
- Reassure them they are not to blame for the breakup.
- Remember that children continue to need firm limits and discipline.
- Try to avoid a competitive or overcompensating cycle with your former partner.
- Establish a routine of access visits so your child knows what to expect and when. Visual routines also work. Plan the visits in advance if possible.
- Let them know that you still love them and you are there for them.
- Seek professional help to understand the different reactions of children and what is normal in these circumstances if you are concerned.

Sheri Bottomley
School Psychologist

G-Force
The G-force team is pleased to see that everyone is doing a good job with their bins. Just remember that citrus goes in the landfill bin, not the compost. Everyone is eating in their designated area and putting rubbish in the appropriate bins. We are also very happy to report that classes are turning off the power when they are not using the class room and are trying hard to keep the hallways nice and clean.

It’s our playground, our problem. If we get together we can make a difference.

Radeeka (5/6PD) and Mia (5/6PD)
G-Force Leaders

Aranda Music and Arts Program
Vacancies: Guitar, Tuesday afternoon from 4:15 to 4:45 pm. Please contact Nicole Roberts 0408 650 629 or nicole.mark.roberts@hotmail.com

Emma Cole
Aranda Arts and Music Co-ordinator

Afters News
NOTICE OF AFTERS AGM
6:30 pm Wednesday 11 June
Belconnen Labor Club
Guest Speaker: Yvette Berry MLA

NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION AT AGM:
Propose that Afters Service be transferred to the Aranda Primary School Parents and Citizens Assn. Inc. (P&C) following P&C acceptance of the proposal and then Aranda Afters Association Incorporated be wound up.

More information for families will follow.

Ben Vagnarelli
Aranda Afters Parent Committee President
MEDICAL ALERT
Please note that there has been a confirmed case of chickenpox in the school. If you suspect that your child has contracted chickenpox, please have them seen by a medical professional.

Sharon Wood
First Aid Officer

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.

Canberra High Open Night, Canberra High – tonight
PCYC Bluelight Disco at Belconnen Community Centre on Saturday 31 May, 5:00 to 7:00

Free
Taste of Chinese Cultural Exhibition

The Federation of Chinese Community of Canberra Inc (FCCCI) invites the community to the Taste of Chinese Cultural Exhibition to experience and learn more about Chinese culture, art, music and language. There will be interesting events and activities for both children and adults.

When: Saturday 24 May
Time: 12:00-3:00pm
Where: Belconnen Arts Centre; 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen, ACT
Cost: Free