From the Principal

Dear Aranda Primary School community,

Welcome back to Term 3. Make sure you read the Kindergarten section in the Newsletter this week. Last Tuesday was the kindergarten children’s 100th day of school and there was plenty of excitement in the classrooms and corridors. Some thought it was time to move straight on to Year 1 and others loved the idea of eating the Hundred Day celebration cake during class time. One young fellow told me he was eating hundred day old cake and it tasted good.

Aranda Community Information Sessions
The Aranda staff and I enjoy sharing with you what we do in our classrooms. It is our aim to share with you the progress your children are making in a range of subjects.

Written reports are not the only way to do this and this term we will be hosting more of our community information sessions. Tonight the Year 5/6 teachers and I look forward to sharing information about the Chromebook program with parents. The event will be a detailed ‘show and tell’ and I will take the opportunity to thank parents for their faith in the program. Later in the term we will host a Family Science Night. Parents, family and friends can join us after hours to have a look at what goes on during science lessons at Aranda Primary School.

I appreciate the fact that parents and teachers attend these important events after long, busy days at work. These are the community partnerships that support our children’s progression and engagement at Aranda school.

Aranda Athletics Carnival
Our thanks go to Caitlin Jones, Anthony Watson, Anastasia O’Donnell and the athletics committee for organising an outstanding athletics carnival yesterday. I was impressed with the effort shown by the children during their events and the support they showed each other all day.
Don’t Forget Your SOCS

Remember if you need more free SOCs coupons, visit www.CommunitySOCs.org. If you can’t use them, give them to someone who can.

Teacher Professional Development

The Aranda staff met during the recent school break to learn more about the Australian Curriculum and how to use it in our planning. We also continued our work towards refining and improving our spelling programs at Aranda Primary School.

I am looking forward to another busy and productive term at Aranda.

Have a great week,

Phil Gray

Kindergarten 100 Days

On Tuesday 22 July Kindergarten children (and staff!) celebrated 100 days at school. We enjoyed 100 minutes of fun ‘100’ themed activities in the morning. Some of us put 100 spots on Spot the dog, while others put 100 froot loops on a necklace. We built lego structures with 100 pieces of lego and made 100 day bookmarks. And of course, what would a celebration be without a 100 day cake?

Australian Mathematics Trust Competition

Due to a clash with the Jamie Perlman Cup 5/6 Boys Basketball Competition, the Australian Mathematics Trust Competition will be administered on Friday 8 August.

Kind regards
Liz Gocentas and Pam Daly
UNSW Competition Coordinators

G-Force

As you may know, “National Tree Week” is this week as well as “National Tree Day” is this Friday (for schools). However, due to unforeseen circumstances, our “National Tree Day” will be delayed until Friday 1 August. Greening Australia has been kind enough to donate our school 30 plants/trees/shrubs. These will be planted around the school in designated areas. SRC representatives will also be invited to help the G-force with the planting of the trees.

James (5/6PD) and Murphy (5/6JH)
G-force
Music News

Junior School- Choir is Starting!

If you are a student in years K, 1 or 2 and you would like to try singing in a choir, next Tuesday (Week 2) come on over to the music room at 8:30 am and join Mrs Alexander. We will be singing up a storm and learning how to be a good choir member. After Choir, you will walk to your classroom and begin your normal day. We welcome any parent volunteer who may be able to accompany us during this rehearsal time.

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<tr>
<th>Junior Choir</th>
<th>Tuesdays 8:30 am</th>
<th>Music Room</th>
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Attention 3/4 Students
3/4 Percussion Ensemble

I am creating a new and exciting ensemble to start rehearsing each Wednesday at 8:30 am. There are 25 spaces available to the first 25 children to return a permission slip to Mrs Alexander to join the Percussion Ensemble. We will rehearse every Wednesday and work towards performing at assemblies using the xylophones, glockenspiels and un-tuned percussion instruments.

If this sounds like you, then please see Mrs Alexander for a permission note and return it as soon as possible. There will also be a waiting list created.

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<tr>
<th>3/4 Percussion Ensemble</th>
<th>8:30 am Wednesday</th>
<th>Music Room</th>
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Thank you and see you soon,
Mrs Alexander

From the Counsellor

Children and Stepfamilies

Stepfamily life is becoming increasingly the norm in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics suggest that there is a great increase in sole parent families and stepfamilies. They found it difficult to estimate the true number of stepfamilies. Whilst one in every three marriages in Australia is a remarriage, then information and understanding about the uniqueness of stepfamilies is important.

A stepfamily is defined as ‘a family where at least one partner has at least one child from a previous relationship’. Stepfamilies come in all shapes and sizes.

There are many different living arrangements and types of interactions. There are also many different kinds of stepfamilies and each will have different strengths to build on and different obstacles to overcome.

For children living in a new stepfamily there may be issues that place stress on the family. There may also be opportunities for children to enjoy an extended range of people to build positive relationships with. Understanding these issues for your children and observing how your child is adapting to the new arrangements is important. In her book ‘Stepfamily Realities’, Margaret Newman looks at the issues common to stepfamilies, stages of Stepfamily life and typical children’s reactions to being in a stepfamily. Letting your child know that many other children are in the same situation as they are in, helps to normalise their reactions.

What is clear about stepfamilies is that they neither mirror the Brady Bunch or Cinderella.

If you have continuing concerns about your child’s wellbeing seek the help of a professional.

Sheri Bottomley
School Psychologist

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Vacancies:

Singing with AJ America, 4:45 am Mondays. Please contact Roslyn Prinsley if you are interested roslyn.prinsley@gmail.com.

Piano with Grant Roberts on Wednesdays. Please contact Laura Morrissey laurapez12@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Introduction to Music (for Kindergarten and Year 1 students) with Michael Sollis, Mondays 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Continuing Music (for Year 1 students who have done Intro to Music and any Year 2 students) with Michael Sollis Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Please contact Jane Atchison janeatchison@grapevine.com.au if you are interested in either Intro to or Continuing Music.

Emma Cole
Aranda Music and Arts Program
Community News

To view or download flyers, 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.

The Aranda App Codes

Adventure + Life Skills =

Scouting is for boys and girls aged 6-25. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests. Come and try Scouts today, and take advantage of our 3 week FREE trial.

Visit scoutsact.com.au to find your closest Scout Group or call 1800 SCOUTS

Protective Behaviours session for parents

On Wednesday 6 August there will be an information session for parents of Preschool to Year 3 students on the topic of “Children and Personal Safety”. It will be held in the Resource Centre from 6:00 to 7.30 pm.

➢ Find out how to teach children about their early warning signs.
➢ What are safe behaviours?
➢ Learn how to practice personal safety skills for your family.
➢ How to find safe adults to ask for help.
➢ How to talk to your child about safe and unsafe touches?
➢ What is stranger safety?
➢ Find out how to have a family safety plan.
➢ How to teach children to be safe without scaring them.

This session will be run by our School Psychologist Sheri Bottomley (Protective Behaviours Coordinator) and Kim McCormack Deputy Principal