From the Executive

Solar Oven Challenge
Recently 28 Aranda Students from Years 3 to 6 joined students from schools across the ACT at Lake Ginninderra College to spend a day exploring solar technology. They had spent time at home and at school designing their own Solar Ovens, which were used with varying success to cook a muffin or boil water on the day. James (5/6LG) and Ananya (5/6PD) succeeded in cooking their muffin in a record time of 15 minutes using a Fresnel lens, recycled from the tip, to focus the sun onto an insulated thermal storage base. By designing, making and appraising their ovens, students learned about the physics of light and sustainable energy technology. They also enjoyed sausages cooked using only sunlight. Our thanks go to Bob Bannister for coordinating Aranda’s participation and Lake Ginninderra College and Roger Amey for organising the event.
Athletics Competitors
This week we congratulate three of our talented athletes who are off to the National Championships for Track and Field this weekend. We wish Claire (5/6 AW), Emily (5/6 JH) and Lara (5/6 AW) all the best in their events in Tasmania and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Preschool Transition Visits
Preschool students have been making regular visits to the Primary site this term, enjoying lessons with Madame Davies and Mrs Alexander as well as trips to the library and time spent with their Year 5 buddies. This week they have spent time in the Kindergarten classrooms, sharing a story and fruit break and then joining the Kindergarten students for recess. It is wonderful to see the ease with which they are discussing the next phase of their schooling.

Food Hampers for Concert Night
The Canteen Committee have organised a variety of food options which can be pre-ordered to enjoy on Concert Night. It is a great time of year to let someone else do the catering! There are five different options available and orders can be placed on FlexiSchools (www.flexischools.com.au) before 4:30 pm Sunday 7 December. Packs will be available to collect on the night of the Concert between 5:15 and 5:45 pm.

Volunteers' Morning Tea
We are very lucky at Aranda to have a large community of volunteers who regularly spend time helping to support the school. Whether it is in classrooms, the canteen, at P&C or Board meetings, in the uniform shop, in the gardens or coordinating the music program we really do appreciate your time and effort. We would like to take the opportunity on Thursday 4 December to say a special thank you to all of those volunteers who have supported school programs throughout the year. Please join us in the Community Room at 10:30 am for a morning tea.

Christmas Appeal
Aranda Primary would like to support the Smith Family’s Annual Toy and Book Appeal. Sadly, thousands of Aussie kids will go without receiving a gift this holiday season simply because their families cannot afford it. This year the Smith Family aim to deliver over 43,500 new toys and 29,000 new books to children in need around Australia.
You can support the Appeal by purchasing a toy or book and placing it under the tree at the Front Office from Monday 1 December through till Friday 12 December (Week 8 & 9 this term).

Sue Whitney
Executive Teacher

Aranda Preschool
We started our term with a visit to the Farmyard Nursery on Mugga Lane. It was wonderful to see the children interact with the animals and to see so many parents involved. It was also lovely to receive feedback from the Farmyard staff that they love having Aranda Preschool visit because they are so engaged in learning about the animals and listen so well.

Celebrations of Children’s Week at the Preschool were a huge success. The Preschool Parent Committee funded the Gecko Gang to provide a jumping castle and face painting activities. It was fantastic to see the children share happiness and a sense of belonging.

As part of the preschoolers developing a sense of belonging to the broader Aranda Primary School community they have participated in a buddy program with the Year 5s. Initially the Year 5s came to the Preschool to meet their buddies and shared play experiences with them. The second time involved the preschoolers going to the primary school and spending time with their buddies. It will support the children to have this connection with their buddies next year, who will then be the big Year 6 students.

All classes have also had a French numeracy lesson with Madame Davies and a Music lesson with Mrs Alexander. We have started Kindergarten transition visits as well.
This week we have had visits from Constable Stuart and Kenny Koala and learned about personal safety. He encouraged the children to continue talking to their families and educators about what to do when lost and to start learning their parents’ mobile phone numbers.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the concert on the 11 December at the primary school. The children have enthusiastically been practising their songs.

We would like to thank the Aranda Preschool community for your support and involvement this year and we wish you all the best for 2015.

Kelly and Marny
Aranda Preschool

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**Aranda Primary School Board Elections for 2015**

If you are keen to contribute to the governance of the Aranda Primary School, you should nominate for a position on the Aranda Primary School Board. No prior experience is necessary.

**Positions**

We have one (1) parent and citizen member and one (1) staff member positions vacant. Both positions are for a two (2) year period commencing 1 April 2015.

**Nominations**

Nominations open on Monday 2 February 2015 at 11:00am. (Note: This is the first day back at school for Preschool and Kindergarten children) Nomination forms will be available at the Front Office. There will be no online or electronic nomination facility available.

Nominations must be made by 11:00 am Monday 16 February 2015 by placing the completed nomination form in the ballot box at Front Office.

All nominees will be required to submit a short piece about themselves for the school newsletter that will be published on Thursday 19 February 2015.

**Voting**

Voting will open at 11:00am on 23 February 2015. Voting forms will be available at the Front Office. One voting form per family will be sent home with students on Monday 23 February 2015. Completed ballot papers need to be lodged in the ballot box at the Front Office. There will be no online or electronic voting facility available.

Voting will close at 11:00am on Monday 2 March 2015.

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Suzanne Vincent on 6142 3030 or Suzanne.Vincent@ed.act.edu.au
**G-Force**

Last week was National Recycling Week. All classrooms were encouraged to reduce their daily waste and pick up rubbish. It was a complete success and we had less rubbish than usual (9.5 kilos). However, this is still a bit too much!

Unfortunately we were not able to weigh the rubbish this week due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, but next week we hope to weigh the rubbish. Our aim is to have less than 8 kilos of rubbish.

Tomorrow we are looking forward to our trip to the Arboretum. We will be learning about water issues and sustainability. We will be using this data to advise our school on water sustainability. The main concept of this program will be to learn about sustaining water and keeping plants safe from diseases.

We would like to encourage you and your family to bring renewable containers and wrapping/packaging to school instead of plastic wrap or general waste packaging. Remember that bread goes in the compost bin but meat, cheese and butter go in the general waste bin.

Remember, it’s our planet, our playground and our problem and together we can make a difference.

Dimitri (5/6TB) and Finlay
G-Force

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**P&C Matters**

**Aranda Family Picnic & Celebration Concert**

Raffle Tickets and Picnic Packs

We would like to thank all of the Aranda families who kindly donated items and vouchers for our Celebration Concert raffle. Their generosity, combined with donations from Knead Patisserie, IGA Cook, Go Troppo Jamison, Macquarie Discount Pharmacy and Jamison Centre Newsagency means that we have a number of wonderful gift baskets to be won. Raffle tickets can be purchased through your Flexi-schools account or paper tickets can be collected from the front office.

Orders for the picnic packs are now rolling in on Flexi-Schools, with sushi proving to be popular. Don’t forget your orders must be placed by Sunday, 7 December. Details of packs are available on Flexi-schools or the Aranda Primary notes home page.

Thanks,
Emma Stockings
P&C Canteen Committee

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**Bank On It**

Rewards – Unfortunatley the **Projector Cup** and **Swimming Bag** are out of stock.

Don’t forget last **banking day** is Wednesday 10 December and the last day to put in for **rewards** is next Wednesday 3 December.

You will be able to carry over any leftover tokens to next year.

Sharon Hewett
School Banking Co-ordinator

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**Library Shelf**

Please remember that all books must be returned by next week. If your child comes home with an overdue book notice, have a look around and see if you can find it. Lost or damaged books should be paid for. Thank you to all those families who have already paid for lost or damaged books, we can use this money for replacements.

Here is another library monitor book review. This is for one of our new books that will be available for borrowing next year.

**Withering-by-Sea**
by Judith Rossel

This book is the first in a series about an orphan girl called Stella who lives with three dreadful aunts in a hotel. She has an adventure that leads to her finding a mystery about her family. The story starts off well and it leads up to the answer for this first mystery really well. It makes a good light read for Year 5/6 students and a good moderate read for Year 3/4 students. For anyone who is interested in adventure, mystery or books about people’s lives, this would be a good book for you. It is a series that is, so far, well developed and taking an interesting path for a children’s book. I rate it 4 ½ stars.

By Elizabeth (5/6LG)

As well the this book, the library has acquired a range of new and replacement books, including the **Tin Tin**, **Percy Jackson** and **Alice Miranda** series. We have also replaced the Series of Unfortunate Events books which have, sadly, gone walkabout over the years. Early next year is going to be busy trying to get these books into the system and ready for borrowing.

Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Horrible Histories Stage Production</td>
<td>27 – 28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Holiday Program At Canberra High School</td>
<td>12 to 16 January or 18 to 23 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Sports Camps Summer Programs</td>
<td>December 2014 to January 2015</td>
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<td>Hellenic Club Community Christmas Party</td>
<td>Sunday 14 December</td>
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<td>Torah Bright Book Signing</td>
<td>Friday, 5 December</td>
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<td>Christmas Song Program at Parliament House</td>
<td>Tuesday, 25 November to Wednesday, 10 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Active Sports Weetangera Aussie Rules for Juniors</td>
<td>Sunday, 15 February 2015</td>
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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.

Chrome Books for Private Sale

This service is to allow families who wish to sell their Chromebooks to another Aranda family to advertise their names and phone numbers. Please contact the listed families rather than the school for information.

Name: Kathie Mackay
Mobile Number: 0435968959