Dear Aranda Primary School community,

Welcome back to Term 2.

I am looking forward to Grandfriends’ Day on Friday May 9. Grandfriends’ Day has been a terrific community event for many years at Aranda Primary School. I would like to emphasise that on Grandfriends’ Day we welcome any family member or family friend to join the children and share their school experiences. Obviously, not all children will share the morning with a grandparent for a variety of reasons. We make sure that no child feels left out and quite often visiting grandparents share their time generously with several children. This event allows us to recognise and appreciate all of our grandfriends and to take some time to think about and remember those who can’t be present on the day.

Joy Arblaster Retires

Joy is a dedicated teacher and school leader who made a difference in many children’s lives over many years and in a range of schools. Joy has decided to retire and we farewelled her with family and friends at the National Library café recently.

Joy didn’t want any fanfare or fuss but how could we let her slip away quietly after all she has done for the Aranda community? The staff and children will honour Joy with a farewell whole school assembly this Friday. Community members are welcome to attend but I must let you know that space will be at a premium.

On behalf of the entire Aranda school community – Thank you Joy.

Enrolments

Enrolments for preschool and Kindergarten in 2015 were opened online on Monday 28 April 2014. If you have a child you would like to enrol for 2015 or you know of a family who does, please ensure you get your enrolment application in as soon as possible. The first enrolment period closes on 30 May 2014, so be sure you don’t miss your place!

All enrolments are now done online at:
I have been asked to include the following message from the ACT Minister for Education, Joy Burch.

**Message from the Minister**

**Getting Involved in Your Child’s School is a Key to Education Success**

The ACT’s national leadership in education is founded on the quality of our schools, our teachers, and our focus on putting parents and children at the centre of everything we do.

I recently announced the Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT project, an Australia-first to help parents and families get more involved with their children’s schools and education.

Simply by reading this newsletter, you are showing your interest in being involved with the education of your children. We know children do better at school when parents and families are actively engaged. After all, you are your child’s first teachers and I encourage you to maintain connected throughout their schooling.

There are many ways of doing this and, as part of the project your school will be invited to develop innovative ideas to help you to be an active part of your school community. We will keep you updated on how the project will support you in doing this.

**With your help we can ensure that your child will get the very best education, tailored for them – and that the ACT will continue to lead the nation in educating our children.**

Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training

Have a great week,

Phil Gray

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**Grandfriends’ Day**

**Preschool**
Tuesday 6 May 9:00 to 10:00 am
Friday 9 May 11:00 am to 12 noon

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 Year 1/2 students.

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

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**Health and PE**

Welcome back to another wonderful term. There will be many sporting experiences occurring throughout this term. Last term the students were able to participate in rugby union clinics operated by the ACT Brumbies. They found these to be enjoyable experiences and developed some great skills. This term the students will be participating in AFL clinics which will run from Week 6 through to Week 10. These clinics will give students an opportunity to enhance their kicking, running and catching skills and will be a great lead-up to the Year 5/6 girls and boys James Hird Gala days.

During our PE sessions we have been focussing and will continue to focus on fundamental motor skills. These skills are not easy for students to learn and they must be mastered during the primary school years. Fundamental motor skills consist of catch, run, kick, vertical jump, overhand throw, ball bounce, leap, dodge, punt, forehand strike and two hand side arm strike. In PE lessons students have the opportunity to learn, practice and master a specific skill through games and explicit teaching.

Our Cross Country carnival was a huge success. All students competed and demonstrated great sportsmanship. The senior students displayed fantastic leadership skills by encouraging all in
their houses to participate, cheer each other on and demonstrated a positive attitude towards each other.

Don’t forget Running Club will recommence next Monday, 5 May (Week 2). Running Club will occur every Monday and Friday morning from 8:30 am until approximately 8:55 am. On Monday mornings we will focus on long distance running with Friday’s focus being sprints. There will be no Running Club Week 4 or Week 10 this term. It has been fantastic to see so many enthusiastic students braving the cold mornings to join in. Thanks to Claire (5/6AW) and Emily (5/6JH) for taking on a leadership role and leading the warm up and cool down sessions.

Our specialist PE lessons in the second half of this term will have an athletics focus to ensure all students are keen to participate at our school athletics carnival. More information regarding the carnival will be sent home closer to the event.

Alison Reid and Janine Collins
Health and PE Program

The Canteen Committee is made up of parents, the Canteen Manager, and a school representative and meets once or twice a term. If you are interested in being a part of the Canteen Committee or contributing in any way please email arandacanteen@gmail.com

The next Canteen Committee meeting is at 8:15 am, Wednesday 7 May in the Resource Centre.

Fiona Bray
Aranda P&C Canteen Committee
arandacanteen@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED
PLEASE
I AM GETTING DESPERATE

Aranda Primary has the privilege of organising the Belconnen Zone Cross Country Carnival at Stromlo Park on Monday 12 May 2014. We have the opportunity of raising some funds for the school by running a canteen. We will be selling warm drinks, water, cakes etc. I still need two more helpers to staff the canteen (9:00 am to 12:00 noon) and some cooks to make muffins and brownies to sell. I will provide base mix and recipe. Many hands make light work! Please contact me if you can assist.

Many thanks
Sue Witchalls
sjwitchalls@bigpond.com
0458 512 646

P&C Matters

Canteen Committee
The Aranda Primary Canteen is operated by the Aranda P&C who employ a Canteen Manager.

In 2013 the Aranda P&C reviewed the canteen operations and surveyed parents, teachers and students about the canteen service. Like many school canteens there are challenges in providing a 5-day week service, staying financially afloat and providing a healthy food service for our kids with one paid staff member and limited volunteers.

Following the canteen survey and review a P&C Canteen Committee was set up in Term 4 to implement some of the changes and support the Canteen Manager. The canteen aims to:

- Provide a canteen service for the school community that is financially self-sustaining
- Continue to improve the nutritional value of the menu with food clearly labelled using the traffic light system and meeting the expectation of the wider community
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in food service and money handling.

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Bank On It

Welcome back to school for Term 2. This term there are some new rewards on offer along with Term 1 rewards:

- Whale shark pencil case (NEW)
- Penguin or shark plush key ring (NEW)
- Handball
- Scented pencils

I will be sending out flyers to our current bankers for the new competition this term.

Don’t forget that any student who would like to start banking should come and see me in the office or speak to your local Commonwealth Bank branch.

I am also excited to announce that we are a SCHOOL BANKING MARQUEE WINNER!!

A BIG WELL DONE to the students at ARANDA PRIMARY SCHOOL for helping us win a marquee in the Term 1 School Banking Competition.

Look out for details on the Term 2 national competition, it’s AWESOME!!

DON’T forget that BANKING DAY is EVERY WEDNESDAY!

Keep saving to win a family underwater adventure holiday.

Plus make friends with the dolphins at Sea World. The Dollarmites have found sunken treasure in the Lost City of Savings. For your chance to win a share of exciting prizes, simply make three or more deposits at school during Term 2 and you’ll be automatically entered into the competition.

Major prize.
- Five nights accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet’n’Wild Gold Coast;
- A Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
- A $3,000 travel gift card to get you there.

Runner up prizes.
130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each to spend on your favourite toys. Plus, there will be a separate draw of $1,000 cash for one school in each state/territory.

To find out more, visit commbank.com.au/deepseasavers

Happy Banking
Sharon Wood
School banking co-ordinator

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Just a reminder that lessons have started again this week.
There are currently vacancies in piano. Please contact info@arandamusicprogram.org.

Emma Cole
Aranda Music and Arts Program

The Aranda App Codes
Free Parent Workshop
How to Support your child with learning difficulties
at home and school with Karen Starkiss

It is estimated that up to 10% of the Australian population is dyslexic. A dyslexic child, who finds it difficult to read and write, can also suffer anguish and lack of confidence with some aspects of the school curriculum and/or when they compare themselves to their friends. Dyslexia is a learning disability; however there is so much that can be done with appropriate support and resources to help children who are dyslexic, both at home and at school.

When: Tuesday 13th May 2014
Where: Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning 51
Fremantle Drive Stirling
Time: 4.00 - 6.00pm
Room: Multipurpose Room
Presenter: Karen Starkiss
RSVP: Monday 5th May 2014 to julie.ireland@act.gov.au
for further information phone: 6207 2331

The course content includes:
- What is dyslexia and what causes it?
- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of dyslexia in children
- A dyslexic child’s strengths and talents
- What does it feel like to be dyslexic?
- practical sessions to help parents understand their child’s difficulties
- Common questions asked by parents
- How can you support your child at home and school?
- Where to get advice and help
- Useful websites and resources for children and their parents

About the Presenter
Karen has 30 years teaching experience. In England she was Principal of one of the top performing primary schools in England despite the fact that the school had the largest number of students with significant Learning Difficulties in the region. She also lectured nationally about integrating children with dyslexia into mainstream classrooms and provided training for schools. Since she has been in Australia Karen has continued to assess and advise a number of adults and children with dyslexia and has run courses throughout Victoria for teachers about how to create a Dyslexia-Friendly school. She has also appeared in articles in The Age newspaper concerning her work with children and adults. In addition to her professional expertise and involvement, two of Karen’s children are dyslexic and therefore, she has very personal experience of the problems that parents face, the frustrations and successes.
Enrolling at Aranda Primary School

All applications for enrolment or transfer from another ACT Government School are now done online at:


Enrolment for 2015 placement opened on Monday 28 April 2014 and will close on 30 May 2014.

Once you have submitted your application for enrolment, please wait until the school contacts you before bringing in your additional documents for proof.