From the Deputy

Dear Aranda Community,

**Grandfriends’ Day**
The children are excitedly preparing for Grandfriends’ Day this Friday, 9 May. Each year the community looks forward to this event where the children have the opportunity to showcase their work to a grandparent or special friend. Please remember that visitors do not have to be grandparents and can be an aunty, uncle or just a special friend. Visitors are welcome in classrooms from 9:00 until 10:00 am. Morning Tea will be provided at 10:00 am in the Resource Centre followed with performances by the school bands, the choir and all 1/2 classes in the school Hall.

**NAPLAN Testing**
As many of you will be aware Year 3 and Year 5 students across Australia participate annually in NAPLAN testing. This assessment begins next week and includes reading, grammar and punctuation, writing, spelling and numeracy components. Our aim as a school is to minimise stress on our students during this time, ensuring they are aware of the schedule and understand that NAPLAN is an assessment of their understanding to assist us as a school to meet their needs. The article for parents from ‘Parenting Ideas’ by Michael Grose about practical tips for parents to assist children to take NAPLAN in their stride is included with this newsletter.

**Enrolments for 2015**

If you currently have a child attending the preschool, they are considered as being enrolled at the school and already have a place in Kindergarten in 2015. Enrolments close on 30 May so please endeavour to complete the process prior to this date.

Thank you,
Kim McCormack
Kindergarten

What’s happening in Kindergarten?

We are excited to be back in Term 2! We are looking forward to sharing our amazing work with our grandfriends tomorrow. Did you know we have been at school for 58 days? We are counting our way to our 100 day celebration which is approaching quickly.

This term KJK and KZW will be hosting assembly in Week 3 on Friday, 16 May. KSW and KDR will be hosting in Week 5 on Friday, 30 May. Both assemblies will commence promptly at 9:15 am in the Hall.

As a new addition to our curriculum, Kindergarten have been participating in investigations three mornings a week. During this time the children have an opportunity to direct their learning which reflects an area of personal interest. This provides a wonderful opportunity for a writing stimulus. Some of the activities we have been involved in include…

Grandfriends’ Day

Preschool
Tomorrow, 9 May 11:00 am to 12 noon

Primary School
Tomorrow, 9 May 9:00 to 11:00 am

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.
G-Force

G-Force News!
Here at Aranda Primary School we are passionate about recycling our things. All over the school we provide bins for different use: compost, plastics (red), waste and paper (blue) bins. A larger compost bin is also supplied for emptying the smaller compost bins. Please remember to use the compost bins wisely by putting the fruit and vegetable scraps in it instead of the waste bins. But an important thing is that we put CITRUS peels in the WASTE bin, not the compost bin, as it is bad for the compost. Also remember to clean the bins in your classrooms.

In G-Force this term, we have started to create a point system to make the G-Force award system fairer (More information will be given later on). So try to remember to pick up rubbish whenever you see it! Please enjoy the rest of your week.
Remember: It's our playground, our planet, our problem and together we can make a difference

By Photina (5/6AW), Ruthy (5/6PD) & Elizabeth (5/6LG)
G-Force School Leaders

From the Counsellor

Children experiencing Grief and Loss
At some stage in their young lives children are touched by circumstances that can lead to reactions of grief. It may be someone unwell in their family, a friend or someone close dying. The grief may be sparked by a family breakup or a perceived family breakup. It may be the death of a pet or moving house or being ill.

What we know is that children growing up will experience losses in their lives and that change is an inevitable part of everyone’s lives.

Children grieve in their own unique way and this may be in a very different way to that of the adults in their lives. Many children can grieve intermittently, that is they may forget about the incident, play as usual, laugh and then grieve intensely for a period. Some normal behaviours are regression where young children can become quite clingy and even tantrum. They may experience physical symptoms or change their usual behavior. Sticking to usual family routines may help children cope.

Expressing their feelings through drawings, play and writing a story or diary can help support children through their experiences. Parents listening to their children’s concerns can also help at this time and reassuring them that what they are experiencing is normal. Taking time out to really listen to your child is important. If a child has had significant losses and you are worried about their reactions or need some advice about navigating them through a difficult time, then seek out a counselor and appropriate information as to how to best support them through it. Remember that for many children these grief reactions will lessen with time and that a safe supporting environment is important for all members of a family who are grieving.

School Psychologist
Sheri Bottomley

P&C Matters

The Uniform Shop
Thank you shoppers: Many thanks to everyone who waited patiently in the long queue last Friday which was one of the Uniform Shops busiest days of this year so far. Many thanks also to those parents who left their contact details for items we sold out of, and those who gave us change! Bron and I were definitely run off our feet.

Opening hours: The Uniform Shop is still open from 8:30 to 9:30am every Friday. We only take cash or cheques.

Volunteers: As you know, the Shop is staffed by parent volunteers. The Uniform Shop needs new volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering for 2 hours per term on a Friday morning. My phone number is below.

Second hand clothes: Children at our school rely on the second hand clothes to help with their wardrobe. Please consider donating your children’s old or too small clothes to our shop. You can leave all donated items at the Front Office.

Tara Munro-Mobbs
Uniform Shop coordinator
ph: 0411 518998
Aranda Afters

Aranda Afters is pleased to announce the appointment of Amie Dever as Director. Amie commenced with the service on 1 May. Amie has worked in the after school care sector for 14 years most recently with the City of Sydney. Please join with me in welcoming Amie to the Aranda Primary School community.

Afters was well served by Virginia Armstrong who acted in a temporary position for some months prior to Amie’s appointment. We thank Virginia and wish her well for the future.

It is with regret that Afters has accepted the resignation of Verna Galvin. After 15 years with Afters, Verna’s last day will be Wednesday 28 May. The opportunity to say a proper thank you and farewell will be organised and notified to the school community.

Ben Vagnarelli
President, Aranda Afters Association

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.

Support Your Local Sports

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| Belsouth Soccer  | Peewees Program    | The Peewees program is    | Starting this          | For more details visit the Peewees page at www.belsouthsoccerclub.com.au
| Club             | sessions held each Saturday from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Walhallow Street soccer fields in Hawker. | for girls and boys turning 5 or 6 this year, | Saturday 10 May | At Belsouth, we pride ourselves on providing a positive experience for all our players regardless of their age or ability. We hope you can join us for a year of fun, family and football in our Belsouth community. |