From the Principal

Dear Aranda Primary School community,

As you read this newsletter, the school validation panel will be half way through their visit to our school. The validation panel consists of two principals (one from the Catholic system and one from another ACT government school), a deputy principal from an ACT government school and a lead validator who drops in to oversee the process. The validation panel spends three days in the school and during their time here they will consider recommendations for the future and they will assess our progress in relation to the last school plan (2011 – 2014).

The panel recommendations will help set the direction for the next school plan and so will input from the entire Aranda community. It will be my job to allow as many stakeholders to have their say as possible in the coming months. The school Board and the Executive will then consider what goes into the new 2015 – 2018 school plan.

This plan will change to meet the needs of the school community as necessary. The new plan will be succinct and relevant to the needs of the children. Some ideas will be included and others will miss out. As far as I am concerned, we will target areas of proven need. All members of the Aranda School community are always welcome to email, phone, visit or write a letter to Kim McCormack or myself and have your say about what you think should be in the next school plan. Kim and I will host a school plan discussion evening some time during Term 4 – more details to come.

A Great Way to Let Us Know What You Think

School Satisfaction Survey. We really would like as many families as possible to fill in the survey – it only takes a few minutes and is very valuable for the school. It is completely anonymous and a letter has been sent home to all families with a unique code so that you can access the site. If you lose your code, haven’t received it or need a new one please contact the front office or Bob Bannister and you can receive another one.
Phil's Soapbox  

I apologise for such a dry front page to the newsletter so I will finish with some good news and a bit of fun

Two students from Aranda Primary have been selected by audition for the ACT Instrumental Music Program’s first Primary Concert Choir in 2014. Congratulations to Jennifer Ding and Elaine Li.

The following two pictures made me laugh. I use them for no other reason than to hopefully brighten your day.

Have a great week,
Phil Gray

G-Force

We would like to inform you that the lost property bins are overflowing. Please remember to check them for any clothing items, containers and drink bottles that you may have lost. All unclaimed property that is not school clothing will be donated to charity.

Remember to put citrus in the normal bin as it will not decompose quickly in the compost. Also remember to empty and clean your bins or they will become mouldy and start to smell.

Thankyou for keeping our school clean when eating outside your class. And remember: it's our playground, our planet, our problem and together we can make a difference.

Jazz (5/6LG) and Tiv (5/6LG)  
G-Force)

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Vacancies: Violin on Mondays. Please contact Tracey at Tracey.Martin@anao.gov.au.

Emma Cole  
Aranda Arts and Music Co-ordinator
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.

| ACT Softball Come and Try Day, 14 September          |
| PCYC MASH Sports Holiday Program                    |
| Week 1 – 30 September to 3 October                  |
| Week 2 – 7 October to 10 October                    |
| Boomeranges Softball, Come and Try                 |
| Cartoon Camps – September and October               |

Belconnen Little Athletics

Does your child like to run, jump and throw? If so, then little athletics could be the summer sport for you.

The philosophy of little athletics is self-improvement in an environment promoting fun, family and fitness. The development of skills and fitness is encouraged in children of all abilities aged 5-17.

Your local club is Belconnen Little Athletics, with meets held on Saturday mornings (and some Thursday evenings) at Cook oval. The 2014/15 season starts on 18 October and online registrations commence 1 September.

For more information:
- Visit our website www.bwlac.org.au
- Attend our registration days on Sunday 7 September or Sunday 14 September 4:00-7:00pm at the Canberra Southern Cross Club Jamison (Catchpoles Room)
- Contact our Registrar – Paula McMahon at blacregistrar@gmail.com or 0407 017 463 (after hours)

Local Neighbourhood Watch to Close

The Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch is set to close from the end of this year. After a plea went out for more involvement by residents, in the July newsletter, it was hoped that at the recent AGM there would be sufficient people volunteering to take up some of the vacant positions.

Neighbourhood Watch involves communities by:

- Developing initiatives and educating residents on personal and home safety.
- Encouraging neighbours to get to know each other.
- Fostering partnerships between NHW and other organisations such as Scouts, schools, business and local resident associations.

The success of Neighbourhood Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between residents and the police and importantly between the residents themselves.

If you can spare some time each month to help your local community please contact Aranda.Cook.NHW@gmail.com to discuss how you can help. There are several levels of commitment, most are not overly taxing and any support you can provide would be welcome.

We have had a very successful NHW area for many years and with crime rates dropping, it would be disappointing to have to fold because of a lack of interest by many newer residents to our suburbs.
The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and is supported by Vision Australia and Guide Dogs. It is the first national register of children in Australia with vision impairment. The Register has been collecting data since 2009, and this data is providing important information about the types of eye disease and vision disorders children have and the support they need. The data is also used by service providers and researchers. Data is stored securely and no child can be identified in any way when the data is released.

Families are invited to register their child (aged 0-18 years) if they have vision impairment in both eyes which has been diagnosed by an eye specialist or ophthalmologist. Registration can be completed by contacting Register staff on (02) 9872 0303, or by visiting the VI Family Network website at: vifamilynetwork.org.au. The website also provides information on eyes and vision; family support; education and related issues; braille and low vision aids; technology supporting vision impairment; newsletters from Australian low vision agencies and support groups, useful websites; and news and events that might interest families across Australia.

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