From the Executive

Reading with Your Child

Last week the Kindergarten Team held an information session for parents before the kindergarten students began their home reading for the year. It was wonderful that so many families, some more experienced than others with this ‘learning to read’ concept, were able to come along to find out more about how to help their children be successful.

Reading is a tricky business and one of the most rewarding things about teaching in the early years is watching the children put all of the strategies together to make sense of a text. At the start it seems like we may be sending home those pink and green readers forever but have faith, they do get more interesting as they progress! One of the reasons we encourage children to read their books as many times as you can handle is to help them imprint the picture of those high frequency words in their minds. One of the strategies that we use when learning to read is our visual memory of how letters fit together to make words. So please, read and re-read those early readers when you have a chance and then pop it away and find another book you will both enjoy. Read it together or read it to your child, the love of books and reading is our main goal. Early next term members of the Literacy Committee will present a workshop for all parents about strategies you can use to help your child with reading. Stay tuned for details.

Here is a link to 300 of the most common words found in reading:

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated annually around Australia on March 21 as a day for recognising our multicultural country. The day is also the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

At Aranda we are taking the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the benefits and potential that cultural diversity brings our community on Tuesday March 17. Starting with the EALD Family Breakfast in the Community Room at 8:30 am, we will celebrate the Harmony Day message: Everyone Belongs, by coming together for a whole school song, joining our buddy classes to do an activity highlighting
inclusivity and respect before participating in a world sports rotation. Orange is the designated colour of the day. PLEASE NOTE - Children are invited to wear orange clothing or an international costume on the day.

**Chess Club**

Chess Club runs every Wednesday in the Community Room immediately after eating time – that’s at 1:00 pm. We have two groups, the Rooks for beginners and the Bishops for more advanced players. In each session we look at some chess problems, then play a game.

Each Thursday at lunch time we also take the Giant Chess Pieces out on the playground, and club members are able to play a game with an audience.

We will be participating in various competitions over the year. If you are interested, please come!

**Paper Planes**

Bob Bannister and Colette Brown are running a Paper Plane flying competition. Did you register on Tuesday? If so, then you will be able to join them in the Hall next Thursday! The rules are:

- There will be two competitions: distance, and time in the air. There will be one prize for each year level. Participants may enter either or both competitions. Participants will be given a single sheet of paper on the day, from which they must fold their plane. No other equipment is permitted.

So, make sure you know what sort of paper plane you will fold and happy flying!

Sue Whitney
Executive Teacher

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**Kindergarten**

Kindergarten have had a wonderful start to the year. Can you believe we have been at school for 28 days already?!

This term we have been exploring the weather in Science, Fabulous Families in our Inquiry Based Unit, gross motor in Physical Education, number and graphing in Numeracy and guided reading in Literacy as well as many more exciting concepts.

From Week 5 children have been enjoying sharing their readers with families and friends. If you would like more information regarding the take home reading process, it will be posted to the school website.

Kindergarten Team
Parent Representatives

The Class Parent Representative program is up and running. Thank you very much to the parents who put their hand up to be the parent rep for their child's class. If you have not heard from your parent representative or you have not passed on your contact details to them as yet, please get in touch with them by returning the form on the bottom of the class list note. If you did not receive a note, you can email me and I will forward your details to your class parent representative.

The parent rep program is a great way for us to enhance communication around the school and to keep you up to date with P&C activities.

2015 Class Parent Reps

PMAE: Vanessa Roarty  PMSW: Inga Eveston
PTAE: Nicole Bailey
KDR: Kim McAuliffe  KFA: Paula Banks
KJA: Rachel Eggleton  KJK: Anna Colwell
1AO: Julia Gardiner  1GM: Petra Cole
1KM: Ceri Donohue  1PW: Jason McCrae
2CB: Katie Lubiejewski  2JB: Larissa Lulic
2JO: Carolyn Howard
3/4RF: Emma Stockings  Drummond
3/4ZW: Shuang Zhou
5/6AW: Kath Reid  5/6 JH: Ilona Horvarth
5/6LG: Lil Bryant-Johnson  5/6PD: Tara Munro-Mobbs
5/6TB: Nicki Taws

Allison McGurgan
Class Parent Rep Coordinator
allymike99@gmail.com

UNSW and AMC Competitions

This year Aranda Primary is giving students in Years 3 to 6 the opportunity to participate in a range of competitions. The University of New South Wales offers students competitions which include Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, English, and Spelling. We are also offering students the opportunity to be involved in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

These competitions are being offered as an enrichment component of our school program. They are not compulsory and Aranda Primary School recognizes that these competitions are more suited to some students than others. Families should feel under no obligation to enter. Notes have been sent home outlining the details of dates and the costs associated with the competitions.

If you would like your child to participate in any or all of these competitions, please return the note and payment to the Front Office no later than Thursday 2 April.

Competition Coordinator
Bobbi Smith

Library Shelf

The Book Fair is Coming!

Put it in your calendars: the Carnival Book Fair is coming to Aranda in Week 9 from Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April. Carnival Books stock plenty of popular titles in their catalogue such as Zac Powers, Cupcake Diaries, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Exploring Space, Hey Jack, Billie B Brown and lots more. They also stock a wide range of non-fiction titles. The Book Fair is a great time to get these books at a discount. Speaking of discounts, I have requested that we get a few crates of the discontinued and damaged books again. Last year there were some great bargains (as well as some rather odd books!) for the keen shopper.

These events usually work best with some help. Today, each family will receive a request for volunteers. I know that we all lead busy lives and the times are not convenient for working parents. That said, if anyone does find that they have a few minutes, especially on Friday, 27 March to help setting up after school, it would be greatly appreciated. Please return offers of help notes to the Front Office or the Library.

Keep on reading,
Catherine Gilbert
Library Assistant
P&C Matters

Get your order in for the Term 1 Special Lunch!

Mark your diary and get your order in: there's no need to make lunch on Wednesday 24 March! The Term 1 Special Lunch Order is Wrap Day. Order forms will soon be sent home, so please don't forget to place your child's order by Friday 20 March. Lunch includes a delicious salad and cheese wrap, a fruit juice and an icy pole.

This is always a popular fundraiser for our canteen, and the kids hate to miss out. Get your order in by Friday 20 March, so that you can have the morning off and your kids can enjoy a fun and nutritious lunch.

The canteen is always very grateful for volunteers to make lunches and serve kids on Fridays between 9:00 and 11:00 am or 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you can help, please email Tiffany Bonasera at arandacanteen@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting our canteen!

Tiffany Bonasera
Aranda P&C Canteen Subcommittee

Aranda Music and Arts Program

Places are currently available in Continuing Music (Monday 3:00 to 4:00 pm for Year 1/2 students), Beginning Recorder (Tuesday afternoons from 3:15 to 4:15 pm), Introduction to Music (for Kindergarten/Year 1 students on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm) and General Music (for Years 3 to 5 students on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 pm). There are also vacancies for 30 minute individual lessons in:

- piano on Monday at 5.15pm
- piano on Tuesday at 3.15pm, 3.45pm, 4.15pm, 4.45pm and 5.15pm
- violin or piano on Friday at 4.45pm and 5.15pm
- singing at 4pm on Tuesday.

If anyone has questions about the program please contact your AMA coordinator or see the website at www.arandamusicprogram.org.

Tracey Martin
Aranda Music and Arts Program

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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.

Model Train Expo, University of Canberra High School, 28-29 March
Bricks at the Woden School, the Woden School, Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 March
Hockey Come and Try Carnival, Hockey ACT – Saturday, 21 March
2015 Sports Expo, National Hockey Centre – 15 to 16 April
Cartoon Camp, La Trobe Park Scout Hall, Forrest, Saturday B, 21 March or Sunday, 22 March
Get Active Sport Soccer for Juniors, Weetangera Primary, starts 3 May
National Disability Insurance Agency Hawker College, 11 March; UCHS Kaleen, 17 March; MacGregor Primary 23 March
Kid’s Biggest and Best Veggie Competition, The Environment Centre Saturday, 28 MacGregor

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ONE A PENNY, TWO A PENNY……

HOT CROSS BUNS!
FRESHLY BAKED FRUIT AND PLAIN
FOR SALE AT THE CANTEEN
TERM 1 WEDNESDAYS
ONLY $1.50 EACH, DON'T MISS OUT!
Matty Grey - Age-Less 2 - Game On
March 21-22 Canberra Theatre
Courtyard

Winner Best Kids Show 2013 Sydney Fringe
Festival

Want to be in the crowd of kids where everyone has a Nerf Gun? Well, AGE-LESS 2: GAME ON is a show about games. All types of games. Whether it’s the latest in 3D-4G-hi def-surround sound-wifi-Wii-fit-on-line interactivity or…well, you know, games where you actually interact, Matty Grey will entertain and delight with his rapid-fire comedy and non-stop energy. He’s a performer who unlocked the hyperactive play mode and never turned it off!

This is a show for 5 to 12 Year olds with plenty of humour for the Mum’s and Dad’s. This is the follow on from his sell out show in the 2014 Festival Grossed out Game Show.

Tickets are at the web site canberracomedyfestival.com.au