**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>4 December 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>5 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>8 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>10 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>11 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>12 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Canteen Roster Class – 1/2AO
- Open Afternoon at the Preschool for 2015 students – 4:00 to 4:30 pm
- EALD Student Christmas Party – 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- End of Year Concert – 5:00 to 8:00 pm
- Canteen Roster Class – 1/2EC
- Cranleigh Visit for House Captains and Vice Captains – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Reports and Portfolios go home

**NOTES HOME**

- **EVENT DETAILS**
  - **End of Year Concert Picnic Hamper Options**
    - P – 6
  - **2015 Book Pack Information**
    - Order by Sunday, 7 December
  - **Cranleigh Visit**
    - House Captains and Vice Captains
    - Wednesday, 10 December
  - **EoY Concert Costume Information**
    - 5 – 6
    - Thursday, 11 December
  - **Kindergarten End of Year Party**
    - K
    - Wednesday, 17 December

**From the Executive**

**End of Year Concert**

Children are becoming more and more excited about the End of Year Concert coming up just next week on Thursday, 11 December! The start time is 5:30 pm.

Join us in a wonderful community event. Sit back, relax and have a picnic dinner on the grassed area. The P & C have organised hampers that can be pre-ordered through FlexiSchools to make your family catering very easy and stress free. There are lots of options: Turkish, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cheese & Crackers or Christmas Dessert hampers. The hardest part is choosing which hamper/s to order. Pickup is from 5:00 pm Thursday, 11 December. Please order by Sunday, 7 December.

**The Giving Tree**

You may have noticed the Christmas Giving Tree is now up in the corridor near the front entry. Families who wish to do so, can place a gift for a child under the tree this week and next week. If possible, label the gifts, e.g. “Boy 9 years old”. The school leaders will take the gifts to the Smith Family early in Week 10 this term. It is a great opportunity to talk with children about others who are less fortunate and how they can take some action to help others.
Christmas Sale BMX Bikes

To support the Ride or Walk to School Program, Backbone BMX at 82 Kalgoorlie Crescent in Fisher, are offering a 10% discount on all BMX bikes. See this coupon in this newsletter for more details. As you may know, Aranda will commence the Ride or Walk to School Program in 2015.

Volunteers’ Thank You Morning Tea

Once again, we would like to say THANK YOU to the many volunteers who have contributed to the life of Aranda Primary over 2014. Your support and contributions to the development and well-being of our students and facilities are truly appreciated. We hope you were able to come to the Thank You Morning Tea this morning in the resource centre. We also hope you will join us again in 2015 for what is shaping up to be another wonderful year, jam packed with opportunities for people from the community to share their diverse skills in a meaningful way.

Keeping Kids Safe

I thought I would share an idea with you that I overheard a very important visitor telling our preschool students last week. Constable Kenny Koala was talking to the children about what to do if they are lost. One thing he said was that it is a great idea to remember your mum, dad or carer’s mobile phone number. If you are lost, your home number is probably not going to be very helpful. However, mobile numbers are very long, so he told them about some children at a preschool he visited recently, where some of the children had a bracelet with the number engraved on it. Others had a bracelet made from beads that children like to thread. Or simply writing the mobile number on a piece of paper and getting the child to put it in their pocket works just as well. It’s one of those things you hope will never be needed but it is good to be prepared.

End of Year Break

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable break from the hectic routines of school life, some relaxation and time with family and friends. Have a safe, happy and joyous holiday season.

Colette Brown
Executive Teacher

Junior Choir Parliament House Visit

A chance email was the beginning of an epic adventure for the Junior School Choir children. We were invited by Parliament House staff to come and join them as they celebrate Christmas and Democracy in Australia and so of course, we gladly accepted. All children were buzzing with excitement at the prospect of meeting Tony Abbot or another politician whilst we were there plus the thrill of singing in public for the first time.

We arrived at Parliament House on Wednesday 3 December and after passing through security, entered the Grand Foyer and were greeted by our tour guides Steve and Vicky. We were shown through to the Great Hall where we heard beautiful music played by a Chinese Musician as part of the Chinese Great Artist Exhibition, the children were blessed to hear such beauty. We were then taken into the chambers
and saw Christopher Pyne and others carrying out their daily business. This was followed by the Namatjira Family art installation, a truly worthwhile vision of art and country.

After another highlight, a snack provided by the Hospitality Team, we were ready to sing and share our music. We were placed on the mezzanine above the Grand Foyer and our singing floated down to the family and friends listening below and the many tourists who stopped to listen to us perform. We certainly had a great time singing.

Our final highlight arrived expectantly as we were leaving Parliament House. We passed John Howard signing his latest book and stopped to say “good afternoon, Mr Howard.” He was so delighted by the kids that he joined the mob of smiling faces and asked if we’d like some photos and we had a ‘selfie’ with Mr Howard.

Back to the bus and time for some more singing as we made our way back to school. Thank you to Colette Brown, Karen Telese, and Anne Freeman – our amazing accompanist, and to the many parents and friends who joined us on this special occasion. It truly was a celebration.

Melissa Alexander
Singing Teacher

---

**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 position vacant. Both positions are for a two (2) year period commencing 1 April 2015.

**Nominations**
Nominations open on Monday, 2 February 2015 at 11:00 am. (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 the 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 11:00 am 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 11:00 am 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
**EALD Team**

The English as an Additional Language / Dialect teachers would like to finish the term with a small celebration for the children who have been working with us this year.

We are planning an afternoon tea for the children from 2:00 to 3:00 pm on **Wednesday, December 10**. This will give us the opportunity to celebrate the children’s successes.

**Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.**

We have all had a very exciting and rewarding year and have seen our students, your children, go from strength to strength.

We thank you for your support and partnership in their learning.

Kind regards,

Denise Bennett, Janine Collins, Emily Clarke, Sandra Kelly and Alison Reid
EALD Teachers

---

**2015 Book Pack Orders**

Orders for the 2015 book packs are due on **Thursday, 11 December 2014**.

If you haven’t yet ordered your pack, please collect an order form from the front office or download one from the school website.

Payment can be made now or in Term 1 2015.

*Suzanne Vincent*
Business Manager

---

**G-Force**

On Friday in Week 7 the G-force went to the Arboretum to see how they conserve water and if we could implement their strategies in our school. They taught us how water travels through the Arboretum and how certain plants would grow better in certain places. We also learnt about some of the rarest plants that the Arboretum is hoping to propagate and that some of the smallest plants can make the biggest difference. It was a very interesting excursion and we learnt a lot.

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

Ryan (5/6LG), Riley (5/6AW) and Oli (5/6AW)
The G-Force

---

**SRC**

The SRC has had a very successful year running fundraisers and group meetings. The SRC would like to thank everybody for their support during our prosperous, fruitful year! The classes have been very helpful to the SRC. We hope next year is just as successful and fruitful.

We would like to remind you that the Christmas tree appeal has started. Please do not put old or second hand presents under the Christmas tree. Please remember to consider others when we are approaching Christmas time. The presents will be sent to the Smith Family.

Thank you and have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

*Kim McCormack*
SRC Co-ordinator

---
**Library Shelf**

The library is well into the yearly inventory process. This entails a lot of hard work shifting the books around to make sure that we have them all. It’s a good thing that I have a few willing and (so far) enthusiastic library monitors to help.

Here is another Library Monitor Book Review. We have had these books in the library for a few years now, but they are still incredibly popular with some of the Year 5/6s as you can see.

**Skulduggery Pleasant** by Derek Landy

*Skulduggery Pleasant* is a wonderful blend of fantasy and urban action in a thrilling world of magic. It’s impossible to put down and is gripping to the core. It is about a teenage girl named Stephanie whose uncle’s murder drags her into a life of magic and crime. Follow Stephanie and her companions Skulduggery, the walking talking skeleton, Ghastly, a magical tailor and Tanith, a master swordswoman in their quest to stop evil from taking over. I would recommend this book for Year 5/6 and above only, because of complicated concepts and language.

Overall, I give this book 5 out of 5 stars. It is the best read ever!

Yang (5/6LG)

Please remember, if you receive an overdue notice from the school, to have a look around the house and see if you can locate the book.

Catherine Gilbert
Library Technician

**Help Needed at End of Year Concert**

We are looking for some helpers on the afternoon/night of the concert. If you can help prior to the concert with preparing and handing out platters or during the concert by selling drinks, that would be great.

If you would like to help out, my contact details are below:

Thanks in advance,
Emma Stockings
Email: emma-resolve@grapevine.com.au
Mobile: 0418604089

**Aranda Family Picnic & Celebration**

**Concert Picnic Hampers Reminder**

Just a quick reminder that orders for picnic hampers must be placed on Flexi-Schools by this Sunday 7 December. Don’t forget to purchase your raffle tickets! They are available either online through Flexi-Schools or can be collected from the front office. We have 7 fabulous baskets as prizes.Tickets will also be sold on the night with the raffle drawn at the conclusion of the concert.

Emma Stockings
Aranda P&C

**Bank On It**

**Last Day for Banking in 2014**

As Term 4 is a short term (only 9 ½ weeks), our last school banking day will be **NEXT WEEK on Wednesday 10 December**.

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

Sharon Hewett
School Banking Co-ordinator

**P&C Matters**

**Are you interested in our canteen?**

The school canteen is looking towards 2015 and we are keen to add some more parents to our P and C subcommittee.

If you might be interested in joining, please contact me on arandacanteen@gmail.com.

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

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.