Dear Aranda Community,

School Grounds
We have received much feedback in recent times from the Aranda Community about the state of the school grounds. They do sometimes look less than perfect. Earlier this week Phil and I visited other schools to explore possibilities and talk to others who have been through the same process of upgrading their grounds and facilities. Throughout our discussions and forward planning we have had the benefit of working with Paul Barnett, a well-respected Canberra based architect with a passion for linking indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Paul has won several awards for his design work in schools.

Walkathon
I would like to thank you all for supporting our walkathon. The event has raised significant funds for our school. We are hoping to put the funds towards developing a science focussed outdoor environment area. The space will incorporate rocks, plants and digging areas, allowing the children to play, explore and experiment. This initiative is part of the school’s long term plans to upgrade our grounds and facilities.

Concert
The children are busily preparing for our inaugural end-of-year outdoor concert. This year we will be performing outdoors on the school grounds with the assistance of a quality sound system. We are aiming for a relaxed and happy night where families can enjoy a picnic dinner and watch their children perform. We are thrilled with the support of the Canteen Committee who will be offering a range of picnic hampers to assist in making your evening as enjoyable as possible. The hampers are very reasonably priced as...
this is not a fundraiser but more a community celebration. You can pre-order hampers cash-free on flexischools. For more information, please see the blue note from the canteen committee that was sent home today. We are really looking forward to a relaxed evening outdoors with the Aranda Community.

**Orienteering**

This week we had several children attend an orienteering day. We are pleased that we have been able to offer this to our students. Thanks to Colette Brown and Matt Stocks for their support in preparing the children.

Regards

Kim McCormack  
Deputy Principal

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**Year 1/2 News**

We have been having such a busy time in 1/2 it is hard to believe the year is almost over already!

This term all 1/2 classes have been learning about the environment as part of our geography Inquiry Unit, *Biodiversity: Be Aware, Take Care!* We have been looking at natural and man-made parts of our environment and discussing how we can look after our local environment to ensure a sustainable future.

We are very thankful to Nicki Taws for giving up her afternoons to allow us some hands-on practice in our school garden. We are also looking forward to our excursion to “Greening Australia” which will be taking place on Tuesday in Weeks 7 and 8.

As the weather gets hotter, we would like to remind everybody to bring water bottles to school. Water bottles are easier to access for students and don’t interrupt learning time, unlike making trips to the bubbler. They are useful for sports lessons on the oval and also concert rehearsals in the hall and allow students to avoid the end of lunch bubbler line which is growing longer and longer as the weather gets warmer.

Students in Year 1/2 are very excited about our end of year concert and have been practising very hard on our dances and songs. We hope you will all be there to enjoy the event.

1/2JB and 1/2AL for the 1/2 Team
Orienteering

Yesterday, a team of 20 Year 3 to Year 6 students competed in the ACT Primary Schools Orienteering Championships at Mt. Ainslie, run by Orienteering ACT. What a wonderful day it was. The weather was perfect, the setting beautiful and of course, the Aranda children lived up to their excellent reputation of being the best kids in the world. Several people went out of their way to let me know what they thought of our children on the day.

Students participated either as individuals or as a pair. They were given a map, just 1 minute before starting their course and then navigated their way around the bushland to visit a series of controls in a set order. They all did an amazing job, combining problem solving and athletic skills with a sense of good sportsmanship.

Aranda came 4th overall, an amazing effort! Ede (5/6JH) and Marie (3/4RF), ran as a team and placed 3rd in the 12 years partner category. Congratulations Aranda Team: Andrew (3/4KN), Stephen (3/4LLD), Ben (3/4KN), Aania (3/4TF), Alexandra (3/4LLD), Marie (3/4RF), David (5/6PD), Jessica (5/6AW), Max (5/6LG), Jennifer (5/6AW), Radeeka (5/6PD), Lara (5/6AW), Elaine (5/6JH), Mia (5/6PD), Ellen (5/6AW), Sophie (5/6TB), William (5/6AW), Elijah (5/6LG), Genia (5/6JH) and Ede (5/6JH).

A special thank you to Matt Stocks for all his work in preparing our students for the event. His expertise was essential in enthusing students as well as gaining skills needed for the event.

Colette Brown
Orienteering Co-ordinator

ACT Public Primary Schools Parents and Carers Survey

The ACT Education and Training Directorate is conducting an online survey of primary school and early childhood parents and carers as part of a wider research process on communicating the benefits of the public school system in Canberra.

As a parent or carer of a student in an ACT public primary or early childhood school, your views and feedback are very important.

The survey takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Data collected goes directly back to Piazza Research (an independent Canberra-based research firm contracted by the Directorate to conduct this survey). The survey can also be accessed on mobile devices and tablets.

In order to achieve a reliable response rate, several reminders will be sent to all parents over the next two weeks.

Volunteer Morning Tea

If you have volunteered or assisted the school in anyway during the past year, we invite you to a special volunteer morning tea in the Resource Centre on Thursday, 4 December Week 8 10:30 am

Please mark your calendars
Your information is protected
This survey is completely anonymous and individual answers will not be tracked or attributed to an individual.

Who to contact
If you require help with completing this survey, please email admin@piazzaresearch.com.au as an initial contact point, providing a phone contact with an email address. Piazza Research will contact you from there.


From the Counsellor

Moving on to HIGH SCHOOL
As there are only a few weeks left for the Year six students who are about to go to High School it is a good time to reflect on what it means for the family. Going to high school is a smooth process for most children, a change that is much anticipated and also one that can cause some apprehension as well as relief for children as well as their parents. Some of the changes that are involved in this transition to a new school are coping with a new environment, engaging with a variety of teachers with unique styles and expectations of students, new social and peer pressures, dealing with fears of getting lost and the normal changes that adolescence brings.

This is a period in their lives when young people need structure, a sense of belonging and being valued. Visits to your child’s new high school have already helped in this process of familiarisation. Other ways to support your child is by being available to talk with them about their thoughts and feelings about this transition and dealing with any worries they may have. It is important to reassure them that this is a normal part of the process and that they will manage this change well over time. Enlisting the support of older siblings or family friends can enable your child to feel supported and at the same time assist in dealing with any student concerns.

Moving to high school although a big challenge is usually managed well and sometimes students may be unsettled for some of the first few weeks of the new term. Maintain communication about your child’s progress with their new teachers and the Year 7 Coordinators who are available for support.

Encourage your child to have good organisational skills and to keep a diary for the new school year. Also encourage them to ask for help if they need it and help them identify a support network of adults at their new school. If you have any queries or concerns about the transition to high school, please contact me or the school psychologist at your child’s new school.

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor/ Psychologist

P&C Matters

Donations for Christmas Gourmet Food Hampers and Picnic Packs
Huge thanks to the wonderful families who have already donated items for the food hampers which will be raffled off at the Aranda Family Picnic and Celebration Concert in Week 9. It’s not too late to donate! Non-perishable gourmet food, vouchers for any businesses or Christmas items to help fill the hampers can still be given to your class teacher or left in the basket at the Front Office tomorrow only. A note has gone home today detailing the picnic packs available and how to order.

Thanks
Emma Stockings
P&C Canteen Committee

Friday Canteen Roster
A huge thank you to the numerous parents and carers that have volunteered in the canteen this year. Thank you also to the class reps for helping organise the rosters. Everyone’s assistance has been much appreciated!

The following 1/2 classes are rostered on for the remainder of Term 4:

Friday 28 November – 1/2AL
Friday 5 December – 1/2AO
Friday 12 December – 1/2EC

Only two volunteers are required for each 9:00 to 11:00 am and 11:00 am to 1:00 pm shift. Class reps will also be sending reminder emails closer to your rostered day.

Please email Karolyn at arandacanteen@gmail.com to volunteer.

Karolyn Carmody
Aranda P&C Canteen Committee
Walkathon 2014
We originally advertised that the Walkathon course would be a one kilometre lap. However, on the day, the course length did not get the attention it needed. As some parents have noted, the kids did a lot more laps than was perhaps expected. We sponsored our own kids for $5 a lap! So please accept our apologies if this caused any trouble. We will highlight it in our notes as something to keep an eye on for future walkathons.

Just a reminder that Walkathon donations can still be paid up to this Friday. Thanks so much to everyone for their generosity. At last count we had raised about $8000, which will be a great boost for the school's science resources.

Cheers
Tracey Voss
P&C Social Committee

Bank On It
Last Day for Banking in 2014
As we are in Term 4 and it is a short one (only 9 ½ weeks), our last school banking day will be Week 9, Wednesday 10 December. The last day to put in for rewards will be Week 8, Wednesday 3 December.

Sharon Hewett
School Banking 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horrible Histories Stage Production</td>
<td>27 – 28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitesized Circus at Kaleen High School</td>
<td>18 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Holiday Program At Canberra High School</td>
<td>12 to 16 January or 18 to 23 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrabundah College Year 12 Art Show</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Sports Camps Summer Programs</td>
<td>December 2014 to January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canberra Xmas Swiss Chess Challenge at Melba Copland Secondary School</td>
<td>30 November</td>
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Hellenic Club Community Christmas Party – Sunday 14 December

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:
- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

Parentline ACT,
Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833

A CSO Christmas
Join the Canberra Symphony Orchestra to herald in the festive season with style.

On 6 December, Llewellyn Hall will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland with the help of special guests, conductor Timothy Sexton, soprano Rachael Beck, and the Woden Valley Youth Choir, and more. With a mix of modern and traditional Christmas songs, this concert will fill your family’s heart with cheer and merriment as only the magic of Christmas can!

This is the first time CSO has presented a Christmas Concert and we hope you can join us for this very special event.

6 December, 2pm & 7.30pm, Llewellyn Hall ANU.
Visit cso.org.au or phone 6262 6772 for more details.

Is your child starting school next year? Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Patricia Jones, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 6283 7606/0448 730 305
or patricia.jones@thesmithfamily.com.au

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Patricia Jones, your local Saver Plus Worker:
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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.

Does your child have a medical condition?

With a genuine MedicAlert® ID your child’s medical information and special needs can be quickly identified in an emergency.

SAVE $15 with our school code: ARAZKY

Join online at medicalert.org.au, enter our school code at the checkout and the $15 registration fee will be waived.