



## Newsletter

### Dates to Remember:

14 March	Public Holiday (Canberra Day)
22 March	Harmony Day
23 March	Preschool Thurs/Fri Harmony Day
8 April	Last day of Term 1

Scan the below QR codes for:

### School Calendar



### Parent Resource Folder



### Known Medical Conditions

If your child has a known medical condition, please ensure you have completed/updated the relevant forms. This must be done at the commencement of each school year.




**If your child is sick,  
they should not  
come to school.**



## Executive Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are ending Week 6, and it is clear that the students are into the full swing of school. Our newest students in the Preschool are busy with their Walk on Country unit, exploring the land of the Ngunnawal people. It has been a delight to see the Kindergarten students progress in the top corridor. Their level of enthusiasm is infectious. The Year 1 students are busy practising for the Cross Country Carnival. Year 2 have been learning about the Past and Present and trying their hand at vintage games like sack races. Year 3 have been learning about how the movement of Earth creates changes. Year 4 have been busy earning Deben in their Ancient Egypt unit. Last but not least, our Year 5/6 students are living up to their name as the school's leaders.

## eSafety

Aranda Primary prides itself on the level of opportunities we provide our students. One of those is having access to information at any time. Across the years, we run a one to one Chromebook program from Years 3 - 6. In addition, from grades Kindergarten to Year 2, students have access to a class set of Chromebooks and iPads.

As children move up through their schooling, their access to various types of technology increases. It stands to reason that their exploration and curiosity increases too. The positives of the digital world overwhelmingly outweigh the negatives, but children, schools and parents all need to be aware of various online risks.

Our intent at Aranda is to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully and confidently operate in an information-rich digital world. However, we know that whilst many of you are proficient in navigating the digital world, you still have concerns and questions about what this means for your



## Important Messages

### Current, up-to-date information

Updated information for the education sector and other public sectors can be found on the Education Directorate's website (<https://www.education.act.gov.au>) and ACT Health (<https://www.health.act.gov.au>)

### Seesaw

If you are unable to access Seesaw, or do not receive communications from the school to connect your child, please contact the Front Office with your updated email address.

### Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open for Flexischools orders only. If you have any questions, please email [apsuniformshop@gmail.com](mailto:apsuniformshop@gmail.com).

### Canteen

The Canteen operates from Wednesday to Friday. The Canteen can be contacted via email on [arandacanteen@gmail.com](mailto:arandacanteen@gmail.com) or phone on 0459 599 114.

### Known Medical Conditions

If your child has a known medical condition, please ensure you have completed/updated the relevant forms. This must be done at the commencement of each school year.



### Medication at School

All student medication must be signed in by a parent/carer at the Front Office on arrival at school. Medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. No medication is to be left in school bags during the day.

### Newsletter Publication Deadline

Items for inclusion in the fortnightly newsletter must be emailed to [info@arandaps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@arandaps.act.edu.au) by 3.30 pm every odd week on a Tuesday.

### Anaphylaxis

Aranda Primary School is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL avoiding eggs and all nuts. Our policy is available on the website.

children. It is essential that our school and community partner in this digital citizenship responsibility; therefore, parents need to be involved in how best to support their child online at home. If you need any guidance about keeping your child safe online, please refer to the 'Being Safe Online' section on the ACT Education Directorate Website.

In addition, the eSafety Commissioner is running a series of webinars aimed at providing parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe, positive online experiences.

Please follow the below links for more information

2022 Webinars - [eSafety Webinars](#)

eSafety: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Think You Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>

ACT Education Directorate: [Being Safe Online](#)

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN for students in Year 3 and Year 5, is planned to be conducted from Tuesday, 10 May to Thursday, 12 May. The [information brochure](#) for parents and carers addresses common questions about NAPLAN Online testing.

Students will have the opportunity to use the demonstration site in class before the test window to help them familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN Online tests.

If you would like to withdraw your child from NAPLAN please contact James Harrison through [info@arandaps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@arandaps.act.edu.au).

## School Absences

If your child is away from school at any time, please get in touch with the front office for explained absences.

If your child tests positive to Covid-19, please inform the front office by email and include the following - date of first symptoms, date of the positive test and last day at school.

All the best,

James Harrison



## Harmony Day

We are looking forward to celebrating Harmony Day at Aranda on Tuesday, March 22 (Week 8). Students are encouraged to wear national dress, if applicable, or the colour orange. Orange has been the colour representing Harmony Day since its inception in 1999. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Typically, Harmony Day in Australia is marked by community events and local activities. The message of Harmony Day is social cohesion and racial harmony, and it is expressed through community participation, inclusiveness, celebrating diversity, respect and belonging.

In the morning, on Harmony Day, we will celebrate our diversity in class groups. Next week, teachers will speak to students interested in doing a small presentation about their family's country of origin on the day and provide direction about the content of that presentation. We encourage all interested students, especially those in years 3 - 6, to consider sharing their cultural knowledge.

Please note - the Superb Fairy Wrens preschool class will celebrate on Wednesday, March 23.

## G-Force



Last Friday was School Clean Up Australia day. In our cohorts, we were able to walk around our schoolyard and give it a thorough clean up. Well done Aranda!

From The G-Force





## Aranda Volleyball - Year 5/6 lunchtime session spots available

We are excited to restart our volleyball sessions at Aranda this term!

Olympic Volleyballer Rachel Uren's OzSpike Junior Volleyball Program is aimed at teaching children how to play Volleyball in a fun and friendly environment. We use lower nets, softer and lighter balls and a smaller court.

There are spots available in the Year 5/6 Monday lunchtime volleyball sessions this term. If your child would like to join these sessions, please contact Rachel Uren asap for more information on 0412 014 280 or [rachel@ozspike.com](mailto:rachel@ozspike.com). Places are limited.

## Scholastic Book Club

The catalogue for Term 1 of the Scholastic Book Club (Issue 2) was sent home with your child/ren last week.

### HOW TO ORDER

The Book Club will be accepting orders and payments online – this means **no forms or money need to be returned to school**. Orders are submitted through the LOOP (Linked Online Order & Payment) platform on the Scholastic website, <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/parent/login.aspx> or via the LOOP app.

Orders are due by **Wednesday, 23 March 2022**.

### WHAT IS SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB?

The Book Club is a great way to encourage reading. Once a term, students will bring home a book club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. The books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests.

### HOW DOES ARANDA PRIMARY SCHOOL BENEFIT?

Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for the school, however, there is never any obligation to order.

### QUESTIONS?

Please remember, the Book Club is a P&C project and is run by parent volunteers. The Book Club is not administered by Aranda Primary School. If you have any questions, please contact: [arandascholasticbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:arandascholasticbookclub@gmail.com).



## Messages from the Education Directorate

### Public Health Alert: protect against mosquito bites

The ACT Health Directorate has alerted the Canberra and surrounding community to protect themselves against mosquito bites. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) has been detected in samples from pigs in commercial pig farms at locations in regional New South Wales, Northern Victoria and Southern Queensland, indicating the virus is likely circulating in the mosquito population.

For more information please visit, [Public Health Alert: protect against mosquito bites](#).

### Incidents involving strangers approaching students

**Please note this is generalised information provided from the directorate, there has not been a direct incident at Aranda Primary School.**

This is a reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the Australian Federal Police website for tips on [Child Safety](#) or the [Safety4Kids](#) non-government website for useful information and links. The [Constable Kenny website](#) also has a number of tips for parents.

### Mask rules remain in schools

The mask rules for ACT schools and early childhood settings have not changed. Face masks must continue to be worn by staff and visitors in all indoor spaces at school and early childhood education and care settings.

Students in years 7 to 12 are also required to wear a face mask while in an indoor space at school.

The wearing of masks for primary school students is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers but is not recommended for children in ECECs, or preschool to year 2.

The measures we have in place, including mask-wearing, are helping to limit the impact of COVID-19 and ensure continuity of learning for our students.