

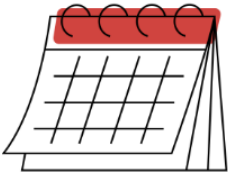


Newsletter

Dates to Remember:

12 th April	Last day of Term 1
29 th April	Pupil Free Day
30 th April	Term 2 Starts
3 rd May	Ride or Walk to School Day

2024 Aranda Calendar



Click this link <https://bit.ly/31hH976> on any device to view the calendar in your browser.

Parent Portal:

If you already have a Parent Portal account, use this [Parent Portal access](#) link to start using the great features. You can't access Parent Portal directly through the ACT Digital Account website, you need to use the link above.

When you are logged into Parent Portal, we recommend saving the browser as a favourite or to the homepage on your mobile phone for quick access in the future. The website can only be viewed using a web browser on your computer, mobile phone or tablet. An app is not available at this time.

Executive Report

Dear Aranda School community,

We have enjoyed a busy and enjoyable first term at Aranda School. Camps for children in years 3 to 6 were all held this term. Camp was one of my favourite experiences at Primary school and I am so pleased that our children at Aranda School continue to enjoy their camping experiences. Sports carnivals, assemblies, Harmony Day, Choirs and bands, camps, parent information sessions and a multitude of classroom learning experiences were just a few of our term 1 highlights. One of my personal highlights was meeting our Preschool and Kindergarten children and families on their first day this year. Our Kindy group were so positive and excited to start school. They settled into Primary School routine very quickly and credit must be shared with last years Preschool staff and our Kindy parents for such a positive start to school life for our Kindy children.

Term Dates reminder:

Term 1 ends on Friday 12 April (this is an 11-week term)

Term 2 begins: Tuesday 30 April – First Day of Term 2 for all students.

Monday 29 April – Pupil Free Day.

New School Board members:

Congratulations to Liz Allen and Jonathan Dampney for their election to the Aranda School Board. The School Board represents our diverse school community, and the Board is primarily concerned with the strategic direction of the school. School Board decisions are always made with the best interests of all children in mind.

School Boundary Fence:

Construction of our new school boundary fence is almost complete.

Boundary Fence Access - School Holiday Period

During the upcoming school holidays, we are conducting scheduled maintenance of the school grounds and buildings. These works include the painting of external buildings and fixtures as well as the removal of hazardous waste. As a result, for the safety of all, we have decided to lock the boundary fence while works are being completed.

Starting Friday 12 April through Monday 29 April, the school boundary fence will be locked.

These works are essential to ensure a clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing environment for our students and staff when they return. We understand that some families may utilise the school grounds during the holiday period, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



Important Messages

Uniform Shop

The shop will open three times a term, with our first sessions scheduled for 8.15 - 9.00 am on the Fridays of Weeks 1, 5, and 10 of Term 2. Payments will remain cashless, and we'll continue offering second-hand items for a gold coin donation as availability allows.

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.

Canteen

The Canteen operates from Wednesday to Friday. The Canteen can be contacted via email on arandacanteen@gmail.com or phone on 0459 599 114.

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 by 3.30pm every 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.

Please note that arrangements have been made with YWCA to ensure that their vacation care program will continue to operate smoothly and will not be impacted by the maintenance works.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to maintain our school facilities to the highest standards.

Phil's Soapbox:

This is more of a comment than me jumping up on the old soapbox. During the Christmas break all staff at Aranda School read the book "Resilience Project" by Hugh Van Cuylenburg. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the power of positive attitudes.

Gratitude is a fundamental cornerstone of a fulfilling life. It serves as a powerful antidote to discontentment, shifting focus from what we lack to what we possess. By acknowledging the good things, big or small, we cultivate resilience and perspective, enabling us to meet challenges more effectively. Gratitude strengthens relationships, deepening connections through appreciation and acknowledgment. It fuels optimism, enhancing mental well-being and resilience in the face of adversity. Embracing gratitude flicks a positive switch, amplifying the beauty in everyday moments. In a world often fixated on what's lacking, gratitude reminds us to celebrate the richness already present, enriching our lives immeasurably. We really do have so much to be grateful for at our wonderful school.

Have a great week,

Phil Gray

Principal

P&C Uniform Shop Update

As many of you know, running the Uniform Shop is a significant effort, relying entirely on our community's volunteers. The P&C is dedicated to continuing this valuable service, but to do so sustainably, we need to transition to a less labour-intensive model.

Starting Term 2, we're moving from online and weekly delivery services to a physical shop experience inside the school, next to the hall. This shift is necessary to strike a balance between maintaining our service and adapting to the realities of reduced volunteer numbers.

The shop will open three times a term, with our first sessions scheduled for 8.15 - 9.00 am on the Fridays of Weeks 1, 5, and 10 of Term 2. Payments will remain cashless, and we'll continue offering second-hand items for a gold coin donation as availability allows.

If, between scheduled shop openings, you require new uniform items, they are available from Lowes at Belconnen Mall. However, we hope that if the timing is suitable for you and your family, you will still use the P&C service as items are less expensive and contribute directly to resourcing the needs of the students.



Should you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please reach out to us at apsuniformshop@gmail.com. Your understanding and support are what make our community strong.

We look forward to welcoming you to the shop and thank you for your continued cooperation.

Warmly,

The Aranda Primary School Uniform Shop Volunteer Team

EAL/D News

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, present and participate in our Harmony Day celebrations. We had a truly wonderful morning learning about 'games from around the world'. A special thank you to our amazing parents who spoke to junior classes. And to the 63 students in years 3 - 6 who chose to contribute. We are so grateful and inspired by your insights into other cultures.

Here are a couple of things about Harmony Day some of the junior students enjoyed most about the day.

Preschool

I liked it when my Dad and sister came to talk to us about Sri Lanka. I liked going to the Harmony Day Parade. It was fun. (Mindy Numbats)

Kindergarten

I liked watching the parade and the outfits. (George KJC)

Year 1

I liked listening to people talk about other cultures. (Evie 1NK)

Year 2

Harmony Day is about everyone coming together.

I like people sharing their cultures. (Fatima 2LA)

Year 4

I enjoyed talking about my home Ukraine and sharing the popular games from my culture I play. (Zakhar 4MG)





News from the Specialist Team

Breakouts – Specialist Teachers

Our breakouts program offers diverse, enriching experiences from Kindergarten to Year 5/6. Each year level engages in breakout lessons once a week. From STEM to Mental Health and Wellbeing, alongside French culture immersion, Music, and Passion Projects, our specialist teachers deliver a range of topics each week. Please enjoy a snapshot of some of the breakouts taking place this term.

Mental Health and Wellbeing - Happy Campers!

In Week 8, Our Year 3 students set off on their very first school camp to Birrigai! Before setting off on their adventure, our young explorers participated in a special mental health and wellbeing lesson. During this time, we read 'The Invisible String'.

This beautiful book shares the message that even when we're apart from our friends and family, we remain connected by an 'Invisible String'. This string cannot be cut, torn, or broken in any way. Instead, it acts as a conductor of love between the people who we care about.

"Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it in your heart and know that you are always connected to everyone you love."

Armed with this message, our Year 3's ventured into the native woodland surrounding Birrigai, not only discovering the wonders of nature and connecting to country but also feeling the presence of the invisible strings that bind them to their loved ones!

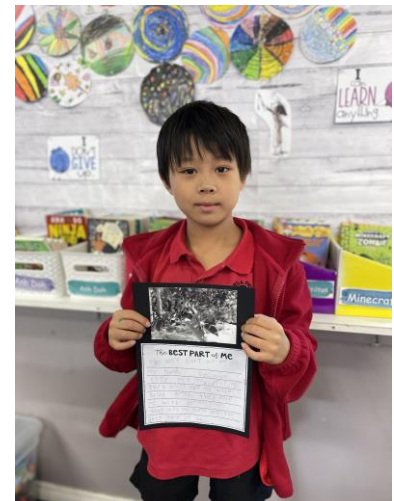
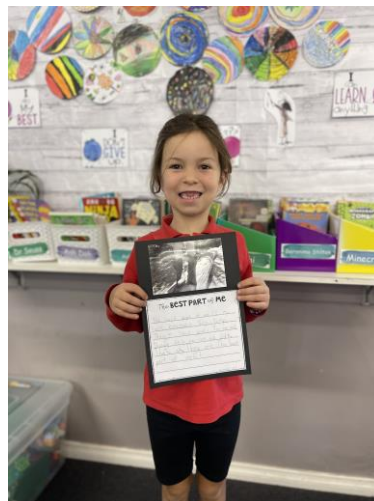
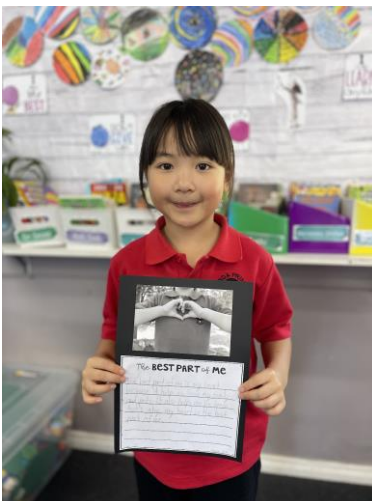
Mental Health and Wellbeing - The Best Part of Me!

In Week 3, Year 2, read the heartwarming book 'The Best Part of Me'. This lesson wasn't just about reading; it was about discovering the beauty within ourselves. Each student selected a part of their body that they cherish and find truly special. Through this lesson, we nurtured more than just literacy skills; we fostered self-esteem and confidence, empowering our Year 2's to celebrate their uniqueness and appreciate the extraordinary qualities that make them who they are!

The best part of me is my heart because it helps me love my family and pets. It also helps me be brave. That's why my heart is the best part of me. - Stella

The best part of me is my feet because they jump. They shoot goals for me, and they help me run and walk. That's why they are the best part of me! - Jasmine

The best part of me is my hands because they help me with writing. They also help me with being a goalie and gymnastics. That's why my hands are the best part of me. – Felix





We hope everyone has a safe and happy term break!

- Jessie Wilson and Ellie Duckett

French

This term, our students in Years 2 through 5/6 have been diving into the fascinating world of Francophonie, where they discovered the diverse cultures of French-speaking countries across the globe. Each class has been assigned a specific French-speaking country for the year, providing a focal point for our learning journey. Some of these countries are familiar names, such as Canada and Belgium, while others, like Mali, Haiti, or Luxembourg, offer exciting opportunities for discovery. This exploration not only allows us to immerse ourselves in different cultures and ways of life but also provides a fantastic platform for practising our French language skills.

As part of our studies, we also conducted research on New Caledonia, our designated country for the Francophonie Competition organised by the French Embassy and the Alliance Française of Canberra. Our Year 4 students had the privilege of attending a presentation on New Caledonia by Mr. Yves Lafoy, the representative of New Caledonia in Australia. The presentation proved to be both enlightening and engaging, with Mr. Lafoy impressed by our students' insightful questions and thoughtful responses. Furthermore, Year 3 and 4 students showcased their learning by creating posters displayed at the Alliance Française. This endeavour culminated in a vibrant Francophonie market, complete with a prize ceremony. We were fortunate to receive a bag of small prizes and books graciously provided by New Caledonia.

Through these experiences, our students are not only expanding their linguistic abilities but also developing a deeper appreciation for the cultural richness of the French-speaking world.



Receiving our prize at the Alliance Francaise.



Music Term 1



This term has been very creative! We have been creating new lyrics to songs and making sure they make us laugh - who's ever heard of a frog in underwear? And what would happen if all the raindrops were lemondrops and gumdrops? Oh! What a rain that would be! I have been singing these songs with all the children across the school, hoping that your family can join in with each other in the car or share during dinner time.



Music lessons began this year with a song from Dolly Parton called "Coat of Many Colours". This song is also a picture book and tied in very well to our focus on gratitude and resilience. I encourage you to look up this song at home.

We have been exploring songs from other languages and cultures. Harmony Day at Aranda is proof that our multicultural community is very valuable. Savalivali is a song in both Samoan and English, Kye Kye Kule is an African song, and we have begun a song that originates in Liberia. If your family has a simple song that you enjoy, please share it with me! melissa.alexander@ed.act.edu.au

Many instruments have been shaken, strummed, hit, scraped and played each week. The most expensive has been a plastic bag! The children have been using untuned instruments to create the sounds of a rainstorm or sunshower as we sing songs about rain. This has helped us to learn how to sing in solfa using Curwen hand signs and allows us to talk about sound and to improve our singing voices.



Both junior and senior choirs have begun, and we are well on the way to knowing many songs and sharing them at an assembly in the future. I thank and acknowledge our wonderful volunteer accompanists - Rachel de Hosson joins us every Wednesday to play for our juniors and Nigel Leach on Fridays for the senior students. We could not be successful without them.

I wonder what the next term will bring? So many songs, so little time! Happy music making,



Melissa Alexander

Year 4 STEM

This term, Year 4 are excited to participate in the Paper Pilots unit. Students have explored forces that affect flight: thrust, drag, gravity and lift. We have explored the difference between contact and noncontact forces. Students have begun making different types of planes to see how they fly. We have created simple and complicated dart planes which have flown long distances. Students will be making gliders, acrobatic planes and even a plane called the 'Manta Ray'. At the end of the unit, we will have a competition to see who can create the plane that flies the farthest distance as well as the plane that can spend the longest time aloft.

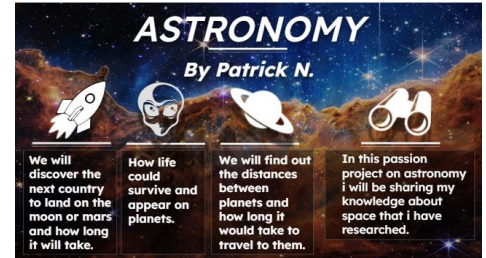
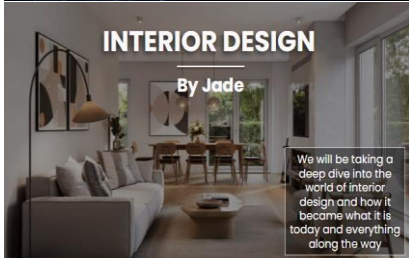
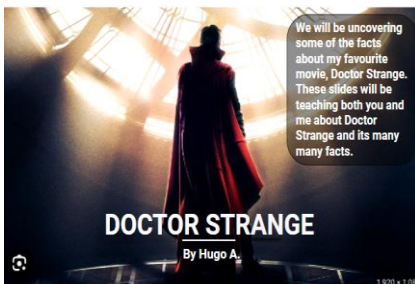
Jess Beaton



Year 5/6 Passion Projects

This term, students in 5/6 TF, 5/6 EH, and 5/6 CT have embarked on their 'Passion Project' journey during breakout rotations. They have the opportunity to delve into areas of personal interest, conducting research and preparing to showcase their projects by the end of Term 2. Topics range from sports, animals, coding, and gaming to art, music, fashion, DNA, interior design, and human rights laws. Along the way, students are honing skills such as effective research methods, proper citation, design principles, presentation techniques, public speaking, self-assessment, reflection, independence, and time management.

Maya Hayward



AMA Vacancies

Aranda Music and Art program has the following vacancies for term 2:

Drawing and other art adventures 3.15-4.45pm:

Tuesday: 2 spots available

Wednesday: 3 spots available

Thursday: 1 spot available

Guitar:

Monday - 5.30pm

Tuesday - 5pm and 5.30pm

Wednesday - 3.30pm, 4pm and 4.30pm

Thursday - 3.30pm, 5pm and 5.30pm

Friday - 3.30pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm and 5.30pm

Please visit the AMA website to [register/join](#).



Community Information and Events



JOIN THE FUN!

ARANDA AFTER SCHOOL AUSKICK CENTRE

Every Monday from 3rd June - 24th June @ Aranda playing fields from 3:30pm - 4:30pm!

Each child will receive: Giants NAB AFL Auskick pack stacked with footy goodies including an Auskick football!

Your child will enjoy a safe, fun, action-packed 4-week program of games and skill development, ideal for boys and girls aged 5-12 for only \$50!



Register Now!

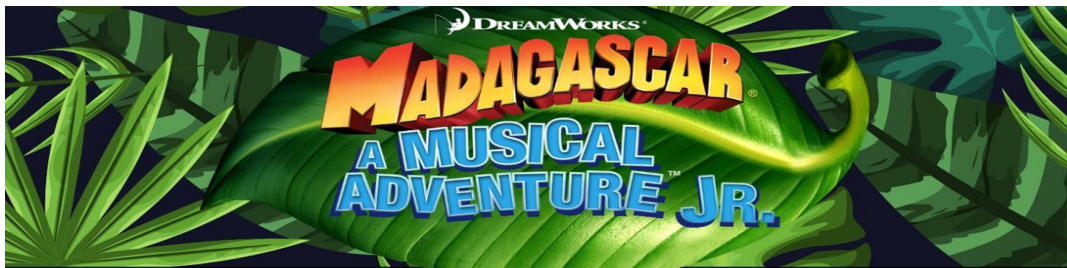
To register, visit Playhq.com and enter 'Aranda PS' then click Register or Scan the QR Code

To receive FREE tickets to GWS GIANTS home games, make sure you select YES to become a GIANT'S RECRUIT!



For more information email: finn.waters@afl.com.au

play.afl/auskick



DIRECTOR
NINA STEVENSON

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
THOMAS HEATHER

CHOREOGRAPHER
JULIE HEATHER

COSTUME DESIGNER
RHEANNAN VERGANO

A COVID SAFE PRODUCTION

19th - 26th APRIL 2024



Dates & Times:

19 April	7pm
20 April	3pm
21 April	11am
22 April	11am
23 April	11am
24 April	11am & 3pm
25 April	11am & 3pm
26 April	7pm



Location:

Canberra College
Performing Arts
Centre,
Launceston St,
Phillip, ACT



Running Time:

80mins (without interval)



Tickets:

- ▶ Single \$30 each
- ▶ Family (2 adults + 2 children) \$114
- ▶ Groups of 10 or more \$27 each



0409 823 640



info@pied-piper.com.au

BOOKINGS: WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CKDIT