Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

**Problem Solving / Thinking Skills – the Basics of the Future**

Our curriculum strongly supports the teaching of content, understanding and skills. It is necessary that students master fundamental skills and learn certain amounts of content as this forms a platform from which further learning can be based. Content is organised in a “spiral” nature, such that it grows in complexity as students progress throughout the year levels.

However, at every child’s level of development, it is important that students are taught to think and reason, applying what they know to gain deeper understanding from their reading, to solve problems in Maths or to develop and test hypotheses in Science.

Indeed, the difference between a “C” and a “B” or “A” on a student’s report card, is determined by his/her ability to apply what has been learnt in a more challenging situation.

Bloom is a researcher who has done extensive work on thinking skills. He sees thinking as follows, in increasing level of complexity.

- **Remembering**
  
  Recalling information. Recognising, listing, describing, retrieving, naming, finding.

- **Understanding**
  
  Explaining ideas or concepts. Interpreting, summarising, paraphrasing, classifying, explaining.

- **Analysing**
  
  Breaking information into parts to explore understandings and relationships. Comparing, organising, deconstructing, interrogating, finding.

- **Evaluating**
  
  Justifying a decision or course of action. Checking, hypothesising, critiquing, experimenting, judging.

- **Creating**
  
  Generating new ideas, products or ways of viewing things. Designing, constructing, planning, producing, inventing.

Analysing, Evaluating and Creating are considered by Bloom to be “Higher Order Thinking”. It is important that in our teaching, our students have extensive opportunity to learn the skills to function at this level.

These skills are critical for students’ continued learning at secondary school, in every workplace and in life in general.

**IGA Promotion**

An easy way for you to help raise funds for your school’s P&C is to simply shop at the IGA at Crestwood Plaza on Olsen Ave using an IGA card. Each time you shop you swipe the card and points are given to our school. **We have 100 IGA cards that have already been activated available for collection at the school office.** All you have to do is register the card online and nominate Arundel State School as the recipient of points. The points translate into funds donated to the school and the card also gives you access to special member discounts.

**Please collect a card and start shopping at our local IGA.**

**Prep Enrolment 2015**

Enrolments for Prep for 2015 are open. Already there have been many enrolments. The support of all families is sought to **spread the message** that early enrolment allows for the school to plan ahead, for a smooth start to the new year. **Prospective parents may collect an enrolment pack from the school office. Students should be born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010.**

**Each enrolling student requires a birth certificate.**

Information sessions are now being held, to provide parents with an insight as to how they can prepare their child for Prep, the curriculum, the wider school and screening processes. Information sessions were held today, however a further information session is being held on **Tuesday, 11th November – 9:15am to 10:15am** in the staffroom.
Every child enrolled to begin Prep in 2014, will undertake a screening process. This takes approx. 30 minutes and provides information about the child’s readiness for school, how he/she can be supported from the first day of school and to form balanced classes.

Screening will take place on: Monday 20 th October (Pupil Free Day) and on other days as arranged. The Uniform shop will be open each day of the screenings. School tours will be offered after the completion of screening sessions.

**Breakfast Club**

At the P&C Meeting this week, a suggestion to establish a Breakfast Club was discussed. A Breakfast Club would involve the provision of breakfast to students at least one day per week, at approx. 8:15am.

To conduct a Breakfast Club, an organising committee is required as well as a team of parent or community volunteers to set up and oversee the operation of the Breakfast Club each day of operation. Parents and community members who are interested in establishing such a club and assisting it weekly, are invited to attend a meeting next Thursday, 18 th September at 8:15am in the staffroom.

Please advise of your intention to attend to theprincipal@arundelss.eq.edu.au

**Father’s Day Stall**

A very successful Father’s Day Stall was held last week. Almost 2000 items were sold to students which became presents for dads for Father’s Day.

Thanks to all students and their parents who supported the stall. Also, our thanks are extended to those P&C members and parents who organised and conducted the stall.

I hope all of our dads enjoyed Father’s Day.

**Congratulations**

Our school extends its best wishes to Rebecca 6D and Matilda 4D for their selection in the Gold Coast Athletics team, to participate in the Qld Championships in Brisbane. Rebecca and Matilda are both in the discus event.

This is an excellent achievement and we wish both girls good luck as they compete against Qld’s best.

**Graduation / Awards**

At the end of this year, both our Year 6 and Year 7 classes will be transitioning to secondary school. There will be one Awards Ceremony held on the morning of Tuesday, 9 th December for both year levels. The awards will be the same for each year level.

The Year 6 students will attend a Graduation Ceremony at Sharks in the evening. Year 7 students will attend their Graduation Ceremony in the evening at Sharks on Wednesday, 10 th December.

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**WHOLE SCHOOL SHARING – Prep - Year 7**

**Monday, 15 September 2014 - 2:10pm**

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**UP AND COMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, 11 th September**

Eisteddfod Showcase Concert – 6pm

**Tuesday, 16 th September**

Year 3/4/5 Dance Spectacular – 2:10pm

**Friday, 19 th September**

Last Day of Term 3 – Tuckshop Closed

**Monday, 6 th October**

Labour Day Holiday

**Tuesday, 7 th October**

First Day of Term 4 - All students return

**Monday, 13 th October**

Year 5 Swimming commences

**Tuesday, 14 th October**

Year 6 & 7 Aquatic Program commences

**Wednesday, 15 th October**

Year 3 Swimming commences

**Friday, 17 th October**

Fun Run; Prep Swimming commences

**Monday, 20 th October**

Student Free Day

**Friday, 31 st October**

Halloween Disco

**PE NEWS**

**Swimming Dates**

**Prep, Year 3 and Year 5**

Term 4 sees the start of the Learn to Swim for Prep, Year 3 and Year 5. The cost of the program is $50 and covers, bus travel to and from the pool, pool hire and qualified swimming instructors. **Please pay this amount through our Money Window on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings only between 8:15am and 9:15am. All money must be paid by Friday, 10 th October.** This is fantastic value for the 8 week program. Students will commence their program in week 2 of Term 4 on the following dates:
Year 6 & 7 Aquatic Program
Students will commence their aquatic program on Tuesday, 14th October in week 2 of Term 4 for 5 weeks. The program focuses on stroke correction and life-saving at Guardian Angels Pool, Ashmore followed by a Surf Life Saving Awareness Practical Activities at Main Beach on Tuesday, 18th November.

Caps and Rashies
All students require a swimming cap and rashie for all swimming programs. This is both safety and hygiene policy of the pool. CAP & RASHIE DONATIONS are gratefully accepted. If your child has grown out of their current cap or rashie please bring any spares to the school office. Sorry we cannot accept swimmers.

NEWS FROM 2C
This term in our English lessons, 2C have been learning about “procedures”. Over the term we have made pizzas, chocolate coated coconut balls, chocolate slice, white coated and chocolate spiders! We have loved cooking. In addition, we have also grown grass heads in Science and we are caring for a stick insect in our classroom. In our classroom block we also have a turtle called Myrtle. She loves us and we get to feed her and watch her grow. We have had a fun and busy term.

TUCKSHOP
A reminder that our Tuckshop will be closed on the last day of Term, Friday, 19th September, for cleaning.

LOST PROPERTY
Our Lost Property Bins are overflowing. If you are missing any items you might find them in the office. We have so many jumpers, including non-school items. Many came from the Hall and are left around the school when the children get hot. We still have some camp items including a sleeping bag and winter clothing. Other items such as watches, glasses, jewellery, books, etc. If you can’t find it at home it may be here in our Lost Property!

CHICKENPOX
The school has numerous cases where children are reported to contracted Chickenpox. Chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

Signs and Symptoms: The disease starts with cold-like symptoms such as a mild fever, headache, runny nose and cough. A day or two later a rash begins, starting as small pink blotches but rapidly progressing to itchy blisters which usually last three to four days before drying out and turning into scabs.

Treatment: No specific treatment is recommended or required for otherwise healthy children and adults with Chickenpox. It is important to try to prevent a young child from scratching the rash as this can result in permanent scarring or secondary infection. To reduce the itchiness, try adding an anti-itch solution (eg. Pinetasol) to frequent baths. Use paracetamol to lower temperature or to reduce discomfort. Aspirin must not be given to young children and adolescents due to the risk of developing a severe condition called Reyes Syndrome. This is particularly important for children who have or who may be developing Chickenpox.

Transmission: Chickenpox is spread through coughing, sneezing and direct contact with the fluid in the blisters of the rash. The dry scabs are not infectious. Since shingles blisters also contain the virus, a person who has never had chickenpox can become infected with chickenpox from someone who has shingles. An individual with Chickenpox is infectious for about one to two days before the onset of the rash and until the blisters have all scabbed, usually four to five days. The usual time between contact with the virus and developing the illness is about 14 to 16 days, although sometimes it can take longer.

Parents should contact their medical practitioner in cases where Chickenpox is suspected.

SCIENCE TRIVIA CHALLENGE
Next Wednesday, 17th September, we will be holding our inaugural House Science Trivia Challenge. Teams of 5 or 6 students from the same house group will compete in a six round trivia challenge testing their science knowledge against other house groups. Years 6 will compete at 2:00pm and Year 7 will compete at 12:00pm. Prizes will be awarded to the winning groups from each year level. It’s going to be a great day!

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS 2014 – SPECIAL GROUP ORDER FORMS
Special Group Photograph Order Forms for the Sporting, Leadership, Chess and Performing Arts Groups Photographs taken in August were distributed to students this week. Please ensure payment is made directly to MSP Photography, PO Box 367, West Burleigh, Qld 4219. Ph: 55202999. Fax: 55202900 by 19th October in week 2 of Term 4 for 5 weeks. The program focuses on stroke correction and life-saving at Guardian Angels Pool, Ashmore followed by a Surf Life Saving Awareness Practical Activities at Main Beach on Tuesday, 18th November.
The Arundel State School is once again supporting the Shoebox Appeal for children living in extreme poverty. A small gift at Christmas time brings amazing excitement and joy to these underprivileged children. This is an opportunity for our own children to spend some time and/or money giving to one or more of these suffering children. To do this just cover a shoebox and lid separately and pack it with a number of items.

The shoeboxes are divided into 3 categories for either BOYS or GIRLS: 2-4 years; 5-9 years; 10-14 years. Each shoebox should contain one or more of each of the following:

**Something to play with** e.g. small car/truck, ball, yo-yo, slinky, costume jewellery

**Something for school** e.g. pencils, textas, glue stick, writing pad, rubber, calculator

**Something for hygiene** e.g. soap, washer, hand towel, comb, brush, toothbrush etc

**Something to wear** e.g. t-shirt, shorts, cap, sunnies, hair clips, scrunchies, thongs etc

**Something to love** e.g. Australian animal, soft toy, doll etc.

Please do not send – Second Hand Clothes, Food, Liquids, Toothpaste, Aerosol Cans, Vitamins, Breakable items or war related toys.

Closing date: Friday 17th October 2014.

Collection points: Mrs Fogarty (3F) or Mrs Nelson (1A).

Thank you in anticipation for those who are able to contribute.