Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

This is the final newsletter for the term, signifying the end of our school year. 2014 has been a very positive year for our school. Our teaching team is to be commended on its work with our students. School based assessment data and Naplan data indicate we are achieving high standards with our students. The support provided to all students is second to none and contributes towards our students being comfortable, safe and positive, building a platform for continued learning.

I would also like to express my thanks to the following people who play an important role within our school:
- Our skilled teacher aides for their work with our students.
- The admin team for its leadership and commitment to our school and its growth.
- The office ladies who are continually under pressure with an array of issues, always treated professionally, efficiently and politely.
- Our P&C members and tuckshop and uniform shop workers and all parents who have contributed towards our school being the highly valued and progressive place that it is.
- Our grounds staff and cleaning staff who keep our school safe and clean for our students.
- All parents for their support of our school and its programs and policies.
- Our magnificent students – for their commitment to their learning, the progress they have made and their enthusiasm with whatever is being provided throughout the school year.

I extend to all families best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas and a new year in which all the success and happiness you could wish for becomes a reality.

Since last week, when I advised that I would not be at Arundel in 2015, there have been two developments. I have accepted a role as Principal at Grand Avenue SS (and not in the School Improvement Unit). This fine school is only 30 minutes from home which I anticipate will make a huge difference to me. Also, the new principal at Arundel will be Mr Mike Kelly. Mr Kelly is a very experienced and respected principal who has been working in Metropolitan region for the past three years. Please ensure Mr Kelly receives your full support in the new year. Coming to a large school like Arundel is a genuine challenge and it will take Mr Kelly time to settle in and come to know everyone.

2015 – READY FOR A GREAT START

The new school year begins on Tuesday 27th January. Monday 26th is the Australia Day holiday.

In the week 19th – 23rd January, the school office will be open from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Teachers will attend their Pupil Free Days on Wed 21st, Thurs 22nd and Fri 23rd January. The program for our teachers includes professional development on a range of topics, undertaking mandatory training and collaborative planning with year level teachers, in readiness for the new term. On the first day of school, Tuesday 27th January, there will be class lists and maps indicating rooms for each class, displayed in the large undercover area.
PLANNING FOR 2015
The period over Christmas is a time when many families experience changed circumstances. This often results in students having to change schools. **Families whose children are moving schools are asked to advise the school office either in person, by phone or email/letter.** Further, if a parent wishes to have advice about the process of changing schools or information about prospective schools in another locality, please contact the office. We are disappointed to lose students, but recognise that this is necessary at times and therefore are willing to assist with any transition into a new school.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**
Parents, due to the recent storms our telephone system is currently out of order due to a fault with the Telstra system. While the fault is being repaired, please only contact the school for urgent issues using the school mobile on 0411654552. To contact the school for absences, please text or email the.principal@arundelss.eq.edu.au.

**LATE START FOR 2015**
The new school year begins on Tuesday 27th January 2015. Should any students be returning to Arundel later than this first day, please inform the school office via written letter. In the first 2 weeks of next year, there is very careful scrutiny of our enrolments. This is because enrolments determine our staffing and therefore our arrangements. The practice of having written information as to the circumstances of every student who has not attended from Day 1 of the new year is necessary for our school to meet audit requirements.

**GRADUATION PHOTOS**
Photos from the Year 6 & Year 7 Graduation Nights will be available from Cheers Photography. To order photos from the night please email Kylie Gustafson (kylie@cheersphotography.com.au) quoting the individual student’s name and number given to you by Mrs Gustafson on the night. Please note viewing of these photographs will not be available at school this year.

**ARUNDEL SPIRIT AWARD**
At this Sharing on Monday, there was a presentation of the “Arundel Spirit Award” sponsored by the Parkwood/Arundel Rotary club. This award recognises:
- Positive behaviour and co-operation
- Support community fundraising activities – fun run, free dress days etc
- Involvement in a range of school activities in accordance to their year level
- Is motivated and enjoys learning
- Supports peers in a positive and caring manner
- Initiates positive interactions with others
- Initiates leadership opportunities
- Initiates learning opportunities

Congratulations to Rebecca Reid from 7B who was named as the recipient of this award. Rebecca received a trophy to keep and her name will be engraved on the perpetual trophy, retained at the school.

Our appreciation is extended to Parkwood-Arundel Rotary Club, in particular Halli Raeburn, the schools liaison officer for presenting the award.

**KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL**
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school. If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number, police or State Government Protective Security Service to deal with the matter.

Skateboarders have caused some damage last weekend. If you are passing the school, drive into the front/side car park and if you see anyone, please report your findings.

**Student checklist for the holidays**
- Plan a holiday reading program.
- Check uniforms – ready for the new year?
- Check school shoes – is each student’s footwear predominantly black or white, with laces / Velcro.
- Ensure books are ready for new year
- Plan some fun activities
- Do some jobs at home
- Talk to parents about safe play
LIBRARY NEWS
We still have over 500 Library Books outstanding. If your child has Library books or home readers at home please return them as soon as possible. Great holiday activity – make your own Library Bag. There are some great ideas on the Internet.

A MESSAGE FROM 4D
This term has certainly been fast-paced and full of wonderful learning opportunities for our class.
We have been working towards our move to Year 5 in 2015 with a multitude of Mathematical and Literacy tasks including Fractions, Measurement and a design brief for an advertisement.
Our class participated in the Project 600 Numeracy online program with great results.
We would like to wish family and friends of Arundel State School a safe and happy holiday season.
Tamara Lassau and Sally Kingston.

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER – CLEAN UP DAY
Friday 12th Dec, the final school day is a regular school day. Students will be well supervised and those attending will assist in tidying classrooms and generally cleaning up. Many parents choose to keep their child home on this day – this is a parent’s decision, not a school decision. Students who attend will be well catered for as per usual.

UP AND COMING EVENTS
Friday, 12th December Last Day of School
Monday, 26th January Australia Day Holiday
Tuesday, 27th January First Day of School - 2015

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS – 2015
Monday, 19 January 8:30am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, 20 January 8:30am – 2:00pm
Wednesday, 21 January 8:30am – 2:00pm
Thursday, 22 January 7:30am – 12:00
3:00pm – 6:00pm
Friday, 23 January 8:30am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, 27 Jan to Friday, 30 8:30am – 2:00pm

BOOK PACKS
Book Lists have been sent home. Our school uses the company Kookaburra Educational Resources. The cut-off date for all orders is Thursday 18th December for delivery to your home by Friday 16th January, 2015. Orders received after Thursday 18th December will be given a lower priority. Please also note that only online ordering is available after Thursday 18th December, 2014. Student Packs are unable to be collected from School.

PLEASE NOTE TUCKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER FOR CLEANING. THURSDAY 11TH IS THE LAST DAY FOR ORDERS.

PREP 2015
Enrolments for Prep for 2015 are progressing very well. 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 an original birth certificate. For the first two weeks of the new school year, Prep students will finish their regular classes at 2:45pm. This measure is intended to allow parents to park, walk in to collect their child from class and then to depart by 3pm, hopefully diminishing the congestion in the side car park. Students will be supervised in their classroom until collected. This makes it easy for children who are being collected by an older child.

HELENSVALE NETBALL CLUB
Sign on Day – Saturday, 31st January, 2015
10am – 2pm
Fees $220 (includes team photos)
Netball Courts, Viney Park, Yaun Street, Coomera
WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY