Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Yesterday a doctor from the Gold Coast Public Health Unit contacted me to inform me that a second student from our school has developed Hepatitis A.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection which affects the liver and is highly infectious. The virus grows in the liver and passes into the intestines. It can cause abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, fever and tiredness, sometimes followed by yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), dark skin and pale faeces. The Health Unit reports that Hepatitis A takes about 28 to 30 days from contact with the virus until a person starts to feel unwell. However it can take up to 50 days.

Hepatitis A spreads when the virus enters the body by the mouth. This can happen in a number of ways:

- People drink contaminated water or eat contaminated food
- Infected people do not wash their hands effectively after going to the toilet; contaminated hands can then contaminate food or touch surfaces that may be touched by other people.

The virus can survive on unwashed hands for several hours.

The Health Unit advises that you should contact your doctor if your child becomes unwell with any of the symptoms mentioned above.

Adults and children aged 12 months or over can receive long-term protection against hepatitis A through vaccination. This is particularly recommended to people who work with children, or who are likely to travel to countries where standards of sanitation are poor.

An officer from the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service Public Health Unit has visited our school to make an assessment of sanitary practices in our toilet amenities. We have been vigilant in ensuring our toilets have soap and paper towels for the children.

Important preventative measures against hepatitis A are thorough washing of hands after going to the toilet, washing of hands before preparing or eating food and of course, through vaccination. The education of our students in maintaining high standards in hygiene must be a joint effort from school and home. I urge you to speak with your children and I’ll do so at our school assemblies.

I’ll keep you updated on any further advice received from our health experts.

Last Monday we held the Annual General Meeting of our P&C Association. A strong executive has been elected for the year with some new members joining the executive. Congratulations to the following members of the executive:

President: Amanda Clark
V/President: Tanya Leckie
Treasurer: Trish Smith
Secretary/Grants Officer: Karen Bell
V/President/Teacher Liaison: Rebecca Moutin
Assistant Secretary: Leanne De Cler
Assistant Treasurer: Kristy Clark
Social Media Coordinator: Rose Norgrove
Database Coordinator: Andrea Giokas
The P&C has two events planned for this term, which you should note:

- Free Dress day – Thursday April 2
- Term One Disco – Friday March 27

Another date to note is the school cross-country on Friday March 27. No doubt there will be some tired kids that evening after the cross-country and disco.

Today I signed some letters which are to go home to parents of students with unexplained absences of three days or more. This letter forms part of our current school procedures when addressing absenteeism. We are required to follow up with parents to ensure students have a legitimate reason/s for not attending school. Interestingly last year our overall student attendance was 92.7% - a little below the state average. Our best attenders last year were the preps, year one, year two, year three and year four students. The worst attenders were the year seven students followed by year six and year five. I must admit that data surprised me.

Earlier this term I included a note in our newsletter about the voluntary contributions scheme. Many thanks to those parents who were able to support us by making a donation. If you haven’t made a donation and would like to do so we would love to have you on board.

Have a nice weekend,
Michael Kelly
Principal

CLASS AWARDS (SENIOR SHARING)
Toby and Stephanie – 3A, Hiro and Harley – 3B, Rongo and Rivaleah – 3C, Madison and Brayden – 3D, Talia and Manaia – 3E, Ashleigh and L’Sandro – 3G

Kasey and Lilla – 4A, Russell and Jack – 4B, Amber and Blake – 4C, Hannah and Chloe – 4D, Helena and Maddy – 4E, Colin, Noah, Olivia and Blake – 4F

Lucas and Liam – 5A, Madason and Jorga – 5B, Deen and Anisa – 5C, Blake and Jesse – 5D, Jemma and Noah - 5/6A

Cooper and Lorenzo – 6A, Jake and Taniesha – 6B, Sowmya and Teegan – 6C, Emma and Milan – 6D

JUNIOR SCHOOL PARADE – PREP TO YEAR 2
Monday, 16 March 2015 - 2:10pm

Up and coming events

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UP AND COMING EVENTS

**Friday, 27 March**
Cross Country
Disco

**Wednesday, 1 April**
Easter Extravaganza Prep and Year 1 – 2:00pm School Hall

**Thursday, 2 April**
Free Dress Day
Last day of Term 1

**Friday, 3 April**
Good Friday – Public Holiday

**Monday, 20 April**
First day of Term 2

**13, 14 and 15 May**
Year 4 Bike Safety
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted for Prep to Year 6 in weeks 9 and 10 of term 1 (23/3/15 to 2/4/15). This year to schedule parent teacher interviews Arundel State School is using the internet-based booking system “Parent Teacher On-Line” (PTO). By using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from the available time slots from any internet-connected computer.

Complete instructions for accessing this online system will be distributed to students on Monday, 16 March. These instructions include each student’s individual EQ ID number which is required to logon to the interview booking system.

Bookings will open on Monday, 16 March at 6:00pm and will close at 3:00pm on Wednesday, 1 April.

- The link to the booking page for parent teacher interviews can be found on the school’s home page (www.arundelss.eq.edu.au). Please click on the (PTO) icon.

- Or logon to https://bookings.parentteacheronline.com.au?school=88am4

If you do not have internet access, please contact the school on 5561 4888 for assistance.

Please note the class teachers of Prep B, Prep E, 1E, 2G, 3A and 5A are currently on leave or will be on leave during the interview period. These teachers will organise interview times on their return to school.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Easter Extravaganza – Prep and Year 1

Our Easter Extravaganza will be held on Wednesday 1 April at 2:00pm sharp at the school Hall. This is for our Prep and Year 1 students. They will receive a letter that invites all parents and tells them what to wear on the day. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Junior Choir- Tuesday 1st break in Mrs Thornton's room
Senior Choir- Monday 2nd break in Mrs Thornton's room

Before School rehearsals- (all in Mrs Thornton's room)
Junior Band Wednesday at 8:00am
Senior Band Monday at 8:00am
Senior Choir Thursday at 8:15am
Dance Excellence Tuesday at 8:15am

PE NEWS

The Arundel State School Cross Country 2015

Our annual Cross Country Championships will be run on Friday 27 March on the school oval. All students will run their age event during PE (or an allocated time for Year 4 and Year 6 students who attend swimming). From this class event, the top 4 girls and top 4 boys in each age from each class will be invited to compete at the Cross Country Championships. Students who come in the first 4 places at the Championship event will get to represent the school at the Broadwater District Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 20 May at the Runaway Bay circuit. Race times will be published in next week’s newsletter. All parents are welcome to attend.

Broadwater District Sport Representatives
Congratulations to Deijah in 5A who was selected in the girl’s netball representative team.

ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – YEAR 1 – YEAR 6

As part of religious education at Arundel State School we will continue to offer Islamic religious education for 30 minutes a week for Year 1 through to Year 6. If you would be interested in your child participating in Islamic Religious Education classes, please complete a permission form, which is available from the school office.
NEWS FROM 5/6A
This year has been more challenging than most classes because we have a composite class. In term 1 we have been doing Science. The Year 5’s go to Mr Pearse and the Year 6’s stay with Mrs Moutin. This way both grades can learn their curriculum easily. Most of our English lessons are together and Maths can depend on what we are learning. We really like being a composite class because we have gotten the chance to meet new friends. We help each other and learn to work independently.
By Bianca and Chloe

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 8:30AM TO 11:30AM

ONLINE NEWSLETTER
Every week our Newsletter is uploaded to the school’s website at www.arundelss.eq.edu.au for your convenience. Past Newsletters can also be accessed.

If you would like to receive our Newsletter via email instead of a paper copy, please send an email to news_subscribe@arundelss.eq.edu.au. Include your name, child’s name and class and the email address you would like the Newsletter to be sent to.

SOUTHPORT STATE HIGH SCHOOL
Excellence Information Evening -
Wednesday, 25 March 2015 at the Sports Centre (Brooke Ave) 6:00pm-7:00pm
The Excellence Information Evening is an opportunity for you and your family to find out about the Southport State High School’s Excellence Programs, meet the staff who run these programs and find out how to apply.
Limited spaces available – RSVP by Friday, 21 March to Nicole on 07 5509 1279 or email ncrac3@eq.edu.au

GOLD COAST BULLETIN FUN RUN
A fun running festival for all ages and abilities including a half marathon.
Sunday, 26 April 2015 at Robina's CBus Stadium, Gold Coast.
Enter now at www.gcbfunrun.com.au