Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

**Pupil Free Day – Monday 20th October**

Parents are reminded that Monday 20th October is a designated Pupil Free Day in all Qld schools. While staff attend school, students are under the care of their parents on this day. The Outside School Hours Care Service is open on this day, if required.

During this day, staff will be involved in a range of professional development activities, including the teaching of writing and grammar & sentence structures, learning to use a new reading assessment tool, and a mandatory training module.

**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.

The support of parents is sought by informing the school office if your child will not be at Arundel in 2015. This is important information for our school as our enrolments are limited in some circumstances. We do decline enrolments from inquiries from parents who live “out-of-catchment” where classes are large or full. Thus, if current students are moving, it is best that we can offer their current place to another prospective student in 2015.

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.

**Fun Run**

The Fun Run was held today. A report will be provided in next week’s newsletter. There will be a special “Sharing” tomorrow afternoon in the Hall at 2:10pm to present prizes and awards. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Performing Arts Update & Christmas Concerts**

Our first performance this term is at Dance Ed in the Spotlight at the Gold Coast Arts Centre with our Dance Excellence on Friday, 24th October. Dance Excellence students should have notes to bring back to Mrs Adamson this week.

There will be auditions for Dance and Drama on Friday of week 4. Students will be sent by their classroom teachers at specific times on the day. There are only limited places in the program and your child has to excel at one of these subjects. We will send notes home to those students who receive a place in the program. It is open to Years 3, 4 & 5 this year. The Showcase DVD will not be sold as there are technical issues with it. I will keep you updated. Christmas Concert info will be out soon so you can put it on your calendar. There will be two concerts held on Thursday, 4th December, one in the morning and the second in the evening. Students from Prep to Year 5 will have the opportunity to be involved.

**Classes for 2015**

Deputy Principals will begin planning class groups for 2015, in the next few weeks. Every child’s progress, needs and friendship groups, will be considered by our Deputy Principals, in association with teachers. In every case, the best placement for each child is our desired goal.
However, we welcome parent assistance in this process, especially for those few students who may have special circumstances that should be considered. Should parents have special circumstances in relation to their child’s learning and class placement for 2015, these matters should be submitted to the school office, in writing or by email, by Friday 31st October. This is the avenue for parents to have input into this process. If you wish to discuss your child’s needs with the class teacher, this is fine. However, the class teacher will also ask you to record your thoughts in writing and submit them in written form to admin. These letters will then be handed to the relevant Deputy Principal for consideration. All requests will be confidential.

This invitation is for parents to table genuine matters for consideration, to support the best placement for the child – it is not an avenue for parents to endeavour to choose a specific teacher. Late requests may not be considered due to progression of the planning process. All placements are ultimately the decision of the Principal. Every student will know of his/her 2015 class during the final week of 2014.

**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 have been 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. 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 2015, 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 20th October (Pupil Free Day) and on other days as arranged. Appointments are arranged through the school office.

The Uniform shop will be open each day of the screenings. School tours will be offered after the completion of screening sessions.

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**COME ONE COME ALL TO THE SPOOKIEST PARTY IN TOWN**

Friday 24th October is the Spooky School Disco and LAST DISCO for the year

4:30pm - 6:00pm - Prep to Year 2/3 students

6:30pm - 8:00pm - Years 3/4 to 7 students

(Year 3 may choose 1 disco to attend)

Sorry for any confusion. The disco date is 24th October – next Friday night. We moved it from the night of Halloween (31st) as we had significant requests to do so in order for kids to still have their own parties and trick or treating in their suburb.

Presales next Friday morning for:

$10 package - entry+sausage sizzle+spooky showbag

$7 package – entry + sausage sizzle

$5 entry – is also available at the door.

Tickets available – 8:00am - 8:45am on the morning of Friday, 24th October.

Where: Outside the Admin building and in the undercover Prep area OR at the door 15 minutes prior to disco time. (please be early to avoid queues).

We need lots of parents to help for:

- ticket selling Fri morning (8-8:45)
- at the door (4:15-4:45 and 6:15-6:45)
- set up in the afternoon (1:30-3pm)
- BBQ and tuckshop (4:30-6 and 6:30-8)
- glowstick stand (4:30-5:30 and 6:30-7:30) and
- cleanup (8-9)

If any parents are able to help please email Karen on kazzrod@optusnet.com.au with time available and mobile number.
This is the last Disco of the year and the last for our Year 6 and 7 students before high school – let's make it a ripper!!!! (pun intended).

Parents are asked to note the following:

- Prep students are invited to attend, providing their parents are in attendance.
- Parents who nominate to help out through official processes may bring along a younger child, providing the child is thoroughly supervised and cared for individually.
- Students should be escorted to the Hall by parents.
- All students must be collected within the Hall after their disco is completed. No student will be allowed to walk out to a car alone. Pick up must be prompt after the advertised closing time.
- Only students who are attending Arundel SS are allowed to attend.
- Older brothers and sisters are not to attend or be on the school premises.

Dress up in your favourite spooky gear.
Prizes for the best dressed.

COOMBABAH STATE HIGH SCHOOL
Coombabah SHS will be holding chess classes after school on Monday afternoons between 3:00 & 5:00pm. Please contact the school on 55523888 if you are interested.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

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1A NEWS

Last term in English we read cultural stories from around the world and were able to incorporate some of these into the Commonwealth Games journey. We enjoyed learning about different countries and their cultures and identifying the moral and purpose for which each story had been written. It was also a time to celebrate the nationalities represented in our own class. A small bear called “Daisy” was travelling to these countries and sent us an email and photos each week. The children eagerly awaited her emails and as we replied to her, we practiced our reading, writing, spelling and editing skills. We were pleased when Daisy arrived home safely during the last week of term and we could have a little party to celebrate with her.

In English this term, we are looking at a variety of procedural texts. We will learn about procedures by following instructions to make a sandwich, do a guided drawing, planting a seed etc. Finally we will write our own procedures for making a disgusting sandwich. This will be to help Mr Grinling from “The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch” keep the annoying seagulls from eating his lunch every day. Thank you. 1A.

HELPING HANDS (ASC) NEWS

Mad Scientist

Become a whacky scientist!

If you're looking for some fun science experiments for kids then you've come to the right place. This program is full of fascinating hands-on experiments that are a great way to enjoy the world of science. This fantastic program is available to all the children at Arundel. On this extraordinary 5 week science journey, children will have the opportunity to engage in messy, gooey, bouncy, exploding and interactive science fun with the Mad Scientist, including experiments such as elephant toothpaste, slime, egg drop and balloon powered cars! The program will look at chemistry, energy, biology, movement and the world around us. Over a 5 week program, you will be guided by our scientist to learn some fun and exciting experiments! For more information or to book onto this exciting 5 week program please contact Helping Hands Arundel on 0458 010 769 or email arundel@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Booking forms will also be available from the school office and Helping Hands Arundel service.

2014 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Our Shoebox Appeal closes tomorrow, Friday, 17th. If you would still like to participate please put the shoebox’s into categories for BOYS and GIRLS 2-4 Years; 5-9 Years, or 10-14 years, then write the gender and age the shoebox is intended for on the box. Please include in the box, something to play with, something for school, something for hygiene, something to wear and something to love (please only include new items & do not include any consumables or breakables). Please return the shoeboxes by Friday, 17th October to the school office.