Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

At the P&C meeting last week I shared with the attendees my plans to improve communication between the school and the home by using the electronic tools available to us. I am investigating the use of an SMS tool which will allow the school to send instant messages to the mobile phone of a parent from each family. This would be very valuable in times such as major events or emergency situations in the school. My colleagues in high schools already have such processes in place and if you have a child at Southport High or Coombabah High you would have experienced this on occasions.

Hopefully the cost of the tool will not be too far out of our reach and that we will be able to move our communication to 21st century technology very soon.

Tools such as SMS capability are particularly valuable in instances of forced evacuations at school caused by such occurrences as bomb hoaxes. At the moment I am restricted to a hard paper copy to advise parents which is certainly not the most efficient means of sharing any news.

On Friday we will hold the formal ceremony to present our school leaders with their badges of office for 2016. We will be joined by local politicians and school leaders and parents at this whole school assembly commencing at 9:15am.

Our goal of increasing our student attendance to 92.5% is on target for this year. Although it is only early days the signs are encouraging. At the end of last week our attendance for the year was at a healthy 95.5%. We are guided by that simply message – “Every Day Counts.” Please support us to achieve our goal, parents.

Last week parents received notice of the parent voluntary donation program. This seeks your donation of $90 for the first child enrolled with a maximum of $120 per family. We use the money collected to purchase resources to make sure our students have the tools they require to learn in the 21st century. This year I have had many parents ask about air conditioning. I am going to make a start but it is costly. If you believe cooler classrooms are what Arundel students and staff deserve, you could assist me by joining the voluntary contribution programme.

Have a nice weekend.
Michael Kelly
UP AND COMING EVENTS

Mondays
Year 4 Swimming continues

Tuesdays
Year 6 Swimming continues

Wednesdays
Year 2 Swimming continues

Tuesday, 23 February
Senior Band – Southport SHS Day of Excellence

Friday, 18 March
P&C AGM – 3:30pm

Wednesday, 23 March
Prep and Year 1 Easter Concert 2:00pm School Hall

Thursday, 24 March
Last day of Term 1

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
Friday, 19 February 2016 at 9:15am
Leader’s Badge Presentation

Please note new times for Assembly starting week 6 Friday, 4 March:
Prep to Year 2 9:00-9:45am
Year 3 to Year 4 9:45-10:15am
Year 5 to Year 6 2:15-3:00pm

REMINDER REGARDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION (Mrs Rawle)
The Voluntary Contribution Scheme is based on parents contributing the sum of $90 per student for their first child or $120 for two or more students per family. Funds accumulated through this scheme provide good value to the school and consequently to our students to enhance our capacity to resource the school above the standard provisions.

Payment can be made for this scheme on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the payment window in the Administration Block or internet payment can be made to the following school bank account - BSB: 064-430, Account Number - 10206101 stating your child's name and class along with the characters VFC, e.g. Adam Smith 4A VFC.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS (Mrs Thornton)
Please remind your children if they are interested to join our choirs:

Little Voices - second break Wednesday's Mrs Thornton's room (Year 1 and 2)
Senior Choir - first break Tuesday's in Mrs Gray's room (Year 3-6)

Senior Band students will be attending Southport State High School Day of Excellence next Tuesday. Please make sure your child has information needed if attending. Transport to and from venue is the responsibility of the parents.

Easter Concert for our new Preps and Year 1 students is in last week of school, Wednesday 23 March. Add this day to your calendar. More information to come next week.

NEWS FROM 3A - CELEBRATIONS
In History, Year 3 is learning about significant celebrations and commemorations. We have learnt about Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Day, Birthdays and Australia Day. We did a graph of our favourite celebration:

Australia Day - 4
Birthday - 20
Valentine’s Day - 1
Chinese New Year - 1

Birthdays are fun, you get lots of presents and a chocolate cake. Callum Valentine’s Day is special to me because you show the people close to you they are loved. Sahanya
I’m the only one who voted for Chinese New Year. It’s a 15 day celebration. Miyah

Next week, we will be learning about Diwali. It is India’s biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (or deepa).
**PREP AND YEAR 1 PARENT PHONOGRAM WORKSHOP (Mrs Dendrinos)**

Thursday, 25 February – 2:15 to 3:00pm - Administration Block
Return the participation form or RSVP to the school office on 5561 4888.

**TUESDAY CHESS CLUB (Mr Lang)**

Tuesday Chess Club is held every Tuesday at lunchtime (1st break) for Years 4, 5 and 6. If you are new to the game or just want to improve your skills then come along. It is being held in the old computer room (Mod 8). If you are interested you will need to bring along your lunch and stay for the entire lunch break. I hope to see you there.

**STUDENTS’ PERSONAL DETAILS**

It is critical that every student’s personal details at school are accurate and current. This applies to address, contact details of parents, illnesses/conditions, custody issues etc. In emergency situations, this data needs to be accurate. Parents are asked to ensure any changes to their child’s enrolment details are updated as soon as possible. This may be done by advice in writing or email, or by visiting the school office.

**DENTAL VAN**

The Gold Coast Health Oral Health (Dental) Services are offering free dental check-ups to children in all years. This service will be provided on-site by Mobile Dental Clinic 172A. Hours of operation for this clinic are 7:45am – 4:15pm, unattended Wednesdays. To arrange for an appointment for your child, please telephone the Oral Health Client Service Centre on 1300 300 850 from Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm excluding Public Holidays.

Child Dental Benefit Schedule Vouchers are accepted. When your child’s $1000 cap is reached, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses provided your child meets eligibility criteria.

*Eligibility – All Queensland resident children aged four years or older who have not completed year 10 of secondary school. Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp). Please note the Dental Van will be leaving the school soon.

**STUDENT ABSENCE LINE – 5561 4995**

If your child is absent from school could you please call our Student Absence Line by either calling the office on 5561 4888 and selecting “1” for our Student Absence Line or by calling 5561 4995 direct. This is a recorded message so please leave details of your child’s name, class and reason for absence.

**NEWS FROM THE P&C**

Come along and be inspired by a dynamic group of parents doing great things for your school. The Arundel P&C will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday 18 March at 3:30pm in the staff room. These meetings are informative and interactive - everyone is welcome to attend and contribute. The committee positions will be up for election so if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else for a position, please complete the form below and return to the school office in an envelope labelled P&C. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Grants Officer, Database Manager.

You may not want to be on the committee but you can come along anyway and contribute as much or as little as you are able.

**P&C Election Nomination Form:**

I, _______________________________ wish to nominate _______________________________

for the position of _______________________________

on the Arundel State School P&C Committee.

Signed: _______________________________

Dated: _______________________________

Mobile contact no: _______________________________
**TUCKSHOP**
Online ordering via Flexischools ([www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au)) is the best way to order lunch for your child/ren. Flexischools ordering is so convenient – you can place your orders anytime up to 3 weeks in advance or set recurring orders for the same day each week.

**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**
*Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am to 11:30am*

Helensvale State High Year 7 2017 General Enrolment and Academy Information Evening

Please come to our General Enrolment and Academy Programs Information Evening for Year 7, 2017. Available to you will be information on our general enrolment processes, important dates, and staff to answer your questions regarding our Academy (Excellence) Programs: The Arts, Sport, Japanese & EXCITE (Academics).

Helensvale State High Student Activity Centre – Monday, 22 February 2016 at 6:00pm
Phone: 55 738555
Email: 2184_admin@eq.edu.au