Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR

There has been much work undertaken in recent times in preparing students for entry to Prep for 2015. Led by Mrs Dendrinos, there have been a range of ongoing strategies put in place to support our incoming Prep students and their families. Some of these have included:

- Visits to local childcare centres to share information about enrolment processes and school programs.
- Conducting “walk arounds” for prep students and their parents to see and feel comfortable in a school setting.
- Three information sessions to share information with parents about our school the prep programs and how to prepare students for their first day.
- Screening of every child prior to their entry to prep. Screening provides general information about each student such that balanced classes can be formed and teachers have an understanding of their children and ensure they have appropriate expectations of them from Day 1.
- Every parent will be informed of their child’s class and teacher by mail before school finishes this year.
- Once the new year begins, there will be support available to students and parents to assist everyone to settle in to school routine.
- At regular intervals, there will be ongoing information sessions for parents about important topics eg supporting children to read, early maths development, assisting students with early sounds and letters to name a few.

Our aim is to have the transition into school progress as smoothly as possible. Often, we have done this so well that it is the parents in tears on the first day, where once it was the children.

Thanks to Mrs Dendrinos and her team for their wonderful work. Also I commend the many new parents for their commitment and support throughout this process.

READING

Discussions with teachers last week, focussed on reading, including Home Reading and Library usage. In some classes, every child is reading nightly and having his/reading record signed by a parent. In other classes, there is spasmodic attention to home reading. Our school days are crowded at the best of times. To benefit students’ improvement in reading, home reading for every child is essential. Home reading provides a sustained period when the child can be focussed and uninterrupted for a longer period than can be provided within the school day. Children can be asked general questions about the plot, characters etc by parents who are unable to sit with the child. Older students are quite independent but can talk about what they have read or ask questions about unclear happenings, thus engaging the parents for a few minutes only. Our school has a strong focus on reading and comprehension – aiming for the highest standard of understanding for each individual student. Students are strongly encouraged to ensure reading continues over the holidays, supported by parents. Reading is easier when the child can select a book according to their taste. The Reading Eggs Program is also accessible over the holidays.

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.

**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 or email.

In the first 2 weeks of next year, there is very careful scrutiny of our enrolments. This is because enrolments determine our staffing allocation and therefore our class arrangement.

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.

**STUDENT BEHAVIOUR TO/FROM SCHOOL**
There are many students who either walk or ride to/from school each day. A significant number of students travel daily by bus. The general behaviour of students whilst travelling to school or home from school is expected to be very high at all times.

Students are aware of this expectation. The school can take action against students whose behaviour is inappropriate or impacts on others.

Parents are asked to report any incidents to the school office. Intervening at the time is not recommended unless a student’s safety is directly involved.

Students who travel on a bus have had expectations explained regularly and clearly in recent weeks. The driver does need to focus on actually driving and not on students who are being silly. The bus company does have the right to terminate consent for any child to use a bus when coming to/from school – this has happened in the past.

**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.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL SHARING – Prep – Yr 2**
Monday, 24th November, 2014 - 2:10pm

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<th>Presenters</th>
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**UP AND COMING EVENTS**

- **Mondays**
  - Year 5 Swimming
- **Wednesdays**
  - Year 3 Swimming
- **Fridays**
  - Prep Swimming
- **Tuesday, 2nd December**
  - RE Christmas Concert – 9:00am
- **Thursday, 4th December**
  - Christmas Concerts – 11:30am & 6:30pm
- **Monday, 8th December**
  - Arundel’s Got Talent Final
- **Tuesday, 9th December**
  - Year 6/7 Awards Presentation – Hall
  - Year 6 Graduation – Sharks – 6:30pm
- **Wednesday, 10th December**
  - Year 7 Graduation – Sharks – 6:30pm
- **Friday, 12th December**
  - Last Day of School

**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 a birth certificate.
BOOK PACKS
Book Lists will be sent home shortly. Our school uses the company Kookaburra Educational Resources. The cut-off date for all orders is Thursday 18th December for delivery 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. All orders are firm sale.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
The Animal Welfare League of Qld takes care of approximately 10,000 stray and abandoned animals a year throughout Queensland. The AWLQ receives no state or federal government funding, relying predominately on the community for support. This term 7B have been doing Songs of Social Comment. One of the groups has been trying to collect donations for the AWLQ. The girls are collecting pet food, used blankets, sheets and towels (as long as there are no feathered pillows or doonas). Collections are starting on Friday, 21st until Friday, 28th November. Please bring any donations to 7B. Please lend a paw to help not only the girls, but the animals who desperately need it most! Thank you for your support.

LIBRARY NEWS
Christmas Book Fair
The Library’s Christmas Book Fair will be held from 24 November to 5 December and we would love to see all of you there. After the Fair is set up on Monday 25 at approximately 12pm, it will be open for browsing and buying from 8:30am until 3:20 each day. It will be packed up at around 12 noon on Friday, 5 December. This Book Fair is for the sale of books only; pencils, pens, erasers etc. are not included in this Book Fair. Eftpos facilities will be available. We are unable to accept cheques. Next week your child will visit the Book Fair during their library borrowing time and if they wish will complete a student wish list. This list is simply to give you a guide to the books that interest your child. If you are unable to attend the Book Fair, there is a credit card option on the back of the wish list. However, as this is an end of year Book Fair, reorders are not available. Once stock is sold out we are unable to replenish. For students who have a borrowing time late in the week, parents might like to visit the Book Fair with their child earlier in the week. All parents/caregivers are welcome to browse the Book Fair any time during the day. You may like to browse with your child before or after school or during their borrowing time. You may wish to browse without your child, if the purchases are presents or surprises. If you would like to further support the Library, there will be an opportunity for parents to donate a book from the Book Fair to the Library in your child’s name. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair.

Library Borrowing - Next week will the last week of borrowing for the year. Please return any overdue books to the Library.

3C NEWS
This term, along with the other Year 3 classes, 3C has been working on improving our writing with the new program, 7 Steps to Writing Success with our Learning Support teacher, Mrs Hollis. We have had lots of fun brainstorming ideas for Sizzling Starts and Tightening Tension. Here are some examples we have written in our lessons.

BOOM! The PE teacher fired the starter pistol to start the Fun Run, and scared off the kangaroo resting nearby. – Harry
Ahhh! I look in the mirror…. I see a monster! ME! I have giant teeth. – Kayla
Aaargh… I have the biggest teeth in the world! I’m going to end up like Bugs Bunny! What am I going to do? – Lauchlan
“Boom!” A science experiment has gone wrong! There is a fire! Trees fall on kids. They get seriously hurt and trapped. Everyone is screaming! “Help!” No one knows what to do without teachers. – Farris
“Bang!” Oh no! Jack fell out the window and landed on a deadly brown snake. Wish a teacher was here. – Anmol

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS
Our Senior Choir and Senior Band will be visiting two retirement homes this year, Leamington Nursing home and Arcare at Helensvale. It is the final year for some students that have been with us since we started touring. We will miss them all terribly. Our Christmas Concerts are coming!! Please put Thursday, 4th December in your diaries. The 11:30am show will involve Prep and Years 1 & 4, and the 6:30pm show will have our Years 2, 3, & 5 students. Our Drama Excellence students are presenting a play and Dance Excellence students will perform a couple of dances. Hope to see you there. We will send a letter home soon.
**P&C NEWS**

Shortly you will be receiving Booklists for next year. The P&C has sourced some excellent time savers for you with EZ covers and That’s Mine Labels. Both companies give a percentage of takings back to our P&C if you order online and select Arundel State School from the dropdown box. Both brochures will come out with your Booklists and they explain about the products and how to order. Remember to LIKE Friends of Arundel State School, the official Facebook P&C page for Arundel State School, and we will keep you up to date on uniform shop opening dates and times across the holidays and remind you when to drop the kids back for the start of another exciting school year.

**LITTLE LIFE SAVERS @ TALLEBUDGERA CREEK – HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

**Qld Surf Life Saving**

The Little Lifesavers Program is a great introduction for children aged 5 to 11 to surf lifesaving. Throughout the program, children will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of games, sports and educational activities to teach them how to stay safe at the beach.

Date: 12th – 16th January, 2015 (Monday- Friday)
Time: 8:00 - 10:00 each day
Cost: $95.00- includes long sleeved rash shirt, water bottle, wet bag and workbook. Please contact 07 5566 1008 or littellifesavers@lifesaving.com.au.