Dear Parents,

This week I have written a short newsletter with important information for all families and then from next week we can go back to our usual newsletter.

1. The **start** to our school year has been very smooth – happy children all looking very smart in their beautiful **Arundel uniform**. We had some tears from both students and parents but we are slowly settling down. All of our students have not returned as yet but we hope to have everyone back soon as our **enrolment return** to the education department next Thursday February 2, will determine how many teachers we can retain. We have 48 classes formed at this stage but may need to reshuffle if all students don’t return on time.

2. The **normal day** for our weekly **newsletter** will be **Thursday**. For the first couple of weeks we will send a hard copy home with each family (the youngest member attending school will bring this home) but you can advise us if you would like an electronic copy and then you will no longer receive the hard copy.

3. Our **assemblies** this year will continue to be held of a Friday. At assembly we will present awards, deliver important messages and have performances from the children. If your child’s class is performing your teacher will give you plenty of notice. If your child is to receive an award your teacher will also provide advice to allow you to attend. Assemblies are junior – 9.15am on Friday for the prep, year 1, year 2 and year 3 and then later in the day we will have the senior assembly for the years 4, 5 and 6 commencing at 2.15pm.

4. To report a student absence, please call our main office number (5561 4888) and select option 1 or call the absence line direct on 5561 4995. This year we must advise parents of the student absence process, a directive implemented by Education Queensland. The first roll of the day is marked when the students move into class and by 9.15am teachers must have completed the roll marking. If your child is an **unexplained absence** you will receive a message on your mobile to advise your child is not at school. You are required to reply to this message providing a reason for the absence. For nearly everyone this will not be news as you would already know that your child is not at school. However, if there is an unusual circumstance and your child is reported absent and you knew he/she should be at school you will receive a message and you can contact the school immediately. We’ve had a few hiccups with the system but in time it should be fine-tuned. Please be patient.

5. This year all of our children are participating in a **fifteen minute daily writing** session. This starts at 8.55am and concludes at 9.10am. We have done research on this strategy from other schools and the research shows that the students' writing improves if we are persistent and do it each day. If your child is late for school each day he/she will miss out on part or all of this session. This is a very good reason to have children here, **on time**, every day.

6. Tomorrow is **Australia Day** and a **public holiday**. The school will be closed including **Before and After School Care**. However, school is open for normal business on Friday. I urge you to ensure students are here.
7. **Prep** students are able to be picked up from class a little earlier for the first four weeks of term. At 2.30pm parents can collect and take these little students home.

8. We are just moving past the **middle of summer** so days will be hot. Arundel SS is in an extremely hot spot with little breeze to provide relief during the day. Hats, sunscreen and water bottles are essential. Over the past two years we have embarked on a huge program of **air-conditioning** and now, close to half the classrooms are air-conditioned. This has made an unbelievable difference to comfort in the classroom. Your P&C and I are determined to have every class in a comfortable air conditioned room before the not too distant future.

9. Please continue to exercise caution and follow all directions when **collecting students** after school or **dropping** them off of a morning. Please don’t leave your car parked in the drop off zone at the front of the school. This causes much frustration and seriously slows down the drop off.

10. This year we have launched our new **behaviour management** policy. This is called **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)**. Already the students would know about our positive rewards program. They will probably be talking to you about “eagles” which is the positive reward received for following our three school rules – be responsible, be safe, be a learner. The PBL committee have informed the children that when they reach 100 eagles they will have morning tea with Mr Kelly. The kids are flying and I expect some to achieve 100 sooner than we had ever expected. I’m planning a huge morning tea later in the term.

Have a nice Australia Day,

Michael Kelly  
Principal