Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome back to all of our current families, new families to Arundel and all staff members to the new school year — interestingly, a year that is very neatly divided into terms of ten weeks duration.

2015 will be a little different to any other in primary schools throughout Queensland with year seven no longer the senior cohort in the school. This year the year seven students have moved onto high school thus providing some consistency with other state systems. Of course this means our year six students take on the leadership roles in our school including important positions such as school captain and vice-captain. A process is now underway to elect students into these positions plus student council.

My name is Michael Kelly, I am the Acting Principal at Arundel replacing Mr Quinn, who has taken a position at a school in Brisbane. I have been a principal at a number of schools in Queensland and more recently served as principal at Elanora Primary School, a large primary school on the southern part of the Gold Coast. You should see me in the classrooms and in the playground so please introduce yourself and say hello. This week I’ve visited most classrooms and managed to say hello to all the children. Some of them have even remembered my name but it may take them a little time.

Our start to the year at Arundel has been relatively smooth with few upset students (or parents) and teachers have already focussed on the learning agenda in front of them. Our numbers on day one were a little short of our predictions but they are steadily increasing each day. We expect to have around 1050 students when all arrive back at school. It is timely for me to mention to parents the importance of having students at school every single day – I urge you to reconsider any planned vacations outside of school holiday periods to ensure all students are at school every day. This week my teachers will begin on their first units of work in all subject areas – the students who have not started school as yet already have some catching up to do.

Last week our staff spent three days undertaking professional development during which we covered a range of topics that cement our skills and knowledge and broaden our experience of teaching and learning. One initiative at Arundel this year in the junior school is the phonogram program which will commence in Prep, Year One and Year Two. I’m sure the kids are already going home and talking to you about this program. This is an excellent program designed to introduce letter sounds which form the basis for reading. Our deputy in the junior school, Mrs Dendrinos, is leading a strong team in implementing this program. Mrs Dendrinos has planned parent information sessions to provide parents with an insight into the phonogram program. Please try to attend one of those sessions. We plan to extend the phonogram program into year three a little later. We are using a good part of our Great Results Guarantee (GRG) funding to support the implementation of this program.

I must commend parents on preparing their children for school in their full school uniform. The Arundel school uniform is a smart looking uniform and the children look absolutely fantastic. Congratulations parents!

I should remind parents of the need to label items such as hats and jumpers. I noticed a number of the children purchasing jumpers on Wednesday morning. I’m sure by mid-day these had been discarded and in some cases ended up in lost property. This can be a costly exercise. We have some lost property boxes in the admin block which are usually full so if you have lost something take a look there first.
The issue of parking before and after school at the drop off and pick up times present a regular challenge to everyone especially in the first couple of days when many parents like to walk into school with their Prep students or new attendees. The drop off area at the front of the school is an excellent concept if used correctly. Parents who park in this area and leave their car will cause confusion and ultimately frustration to those using the spaces correctly. There is also a real chance that transgressors will gain the attention of our local police officers who have a very visible presence at our school especially at pick up time.

Your cooperation in ensuring the drop off zone is used correctly is much appreciated.

This coming Saturday the state election will be held in Queensland and there is a polling booth in the hall at our school. Our P&C has decided, at very short notice, to hold a BBQ on Saturday to raise funds for the school. If you are voting at Arundel on Saturday your support of this activity would also be much appreciated.

This week and next week I’ll send home a hard copy of the newsletter to each family so watch out for these. Over the next couple of weeks we’ll try to update our lists of parents who prefer an electronic copy and those that prefer the hard copy.

I’ll also send home a note to each family to give details of the Voluntary Contribution Scheme – you should receive a copy of this next week.

Have a nice weekend,
Mike Kelly
A/Principal

ADMIN AND SPECIALIST STAFF LIST 2015
Mrs Patrina Dendrinos Prep and Year 1
Mrs Cheryee Dick Year 3, 4 and 5
Mr Des McConnell Years 2 and 6
Mr Nick Kennon HOSES
Mrs Theresa Jepson Head of Curriculum

Specialist Teachers:
Music: Belinda Thornton
Drama: Charmian Adamson
Library: Tania McKay
PE: Sharron Mitchell-Cowan and Eric Alexander
LOTE: Kiyomi Takahashi
SEP: Tara McFarlane, Pricilla Burger, Soussi Jakstas, Penny Anderson, Lyn Fruean and Robbie Pim
ESL: Bernadette Macle
Learning Support: Jane Mitchell-Watson and Barbara Hollis
Strings: Petros Stylianou
Instrumental: Andrew Stubbs

P&C EXECUTIVE
President – Amanda Clark
Vice President – Tanya Leckie
Vice President – Rebecca Moutin
Treasurer – Trish Smith
Assistant Treasurer – Kristy Clark
Secretary – Rose Norgrove
Grants Officer – Karen Bell

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2015
Easter – April 6 – April 17 (2 weeks)
Midyear – June 29 – July 10 (2 weeks)
Spring – September 21 – October 2 (2 weeks)
Summer – December 14 – January 22 (2016)

WHOLE SCHOOL SHARING – Prep – Year 7
Monday, 2 February 2015 - 2:10pm
UP AND COMING EVENTS -

TERM 1 – SWIMMING

Swimming will commence in Week 5 for Years 2, 4, and 6. Letters and Permission forms will be sent home during week 2.

BIKE ED

Year 4 will be participating in the Bike Safety Program to be held during week 5 this term. Letters and permission forms will be sent home during week 2.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club

The library offers students the opportunity to purchase books through Scholastic Book Club. Brochures will go home via student’s classroom teacher. Issue 1 will be handed out this week. Completed order forms are to come to the library by the due date. This date will be placed on the school’s website. A notice will also be placed in/near the student’s classroom and at the library. Payment can be made via credit card online, by phone or a cheque or money order made out to Scholastic Australia. We are unable to accept cash. Issue 1 is due to the library by Tuesday 10 February.

Library Borrowing

To borrow, students need a library bag and their library number. Students may borrow before school, after school (Mon-Thurs), in their allocated lunchtime or their borrowing time. They are not permitted to borrow if they have an overdue book. The borrowing time is one week with 2 renewals for middle and senior students. Students may use a school computer to log into Orbit with their library number to check what they have on loan and renew their books.

Prep, Year 1 and 2 may borrow one book. Year 3 and 4 may borrow 2 books. Year 5 and 6 may borrow 3 books. Home Readers – Students who are at level 14 to 26+ may borrow up to 4 home readers from the library. Students require a Home Reader folder to keep these in.

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.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent-teacher meetings are scheduled for Week 3. For these meetings, parents of students in each class are invited to attend a meeting held out-of-school hours. Teachers will share with parents their classroom processes and their program and special activities for the term. Invitations will be issued soon.

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE – 5561 4995

If your child is absent from school could you please call our Student Absence Line direct on 5561 4995. This is a recorded message so please leave details of your child’s name, class and reason for absence.

BUS PASSES

Bus passes have now arrived at the school office. If you have ordered a bus pass for your child, please collect it at your earliest convenience.

CONSTRUCTION CLUB

Construction Club will be operating again this year. Once more we are looking for construction materials such as lego, mechano, duplo etc. Any donations will be gratefully received. Please send all donations to Mrs Fletcher in 6C.
**BOOK PACKS**

Booklists are available from the school office.

**UNIFORM SHOP**
Senior Shirts have arrived. We also have extra sizes to sell but limited stock so be quick - $30.00.

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

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**
To save time you can place an order on line through Flexischools - [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au). Please remember to update your child’s class for 2015.