Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

A warm welcome is extended to all members of our school community, for the new school year.

To our new students, particularly the 7 classes of Prep students, I expect that you will soon be settled, comfortable and happy in your new environment. While our focus is genuinely on our students, it is vital that the parents of new students also recognise that we want them to quickly become settled and familiar with our school. Parents play a significant role in our school and our students’ learning and general participation in school life.

We must acknowledge the work of several people for their efforts in preparing for the beginning of the new year:

- Our groundsmen and cleaners have worked hard to ensure our facility is ready for use.
- Our admin staff for their assistance to many parents, processing enrolments and class lists.
- Our P&C representatives for manning the busy uniform shop last week and again this week.
- Our families for their preparation of students for a positive beginning to the year. Students are well presented in their uniforms and with books ready for use.

Over the holidays, the shade sail over the Prep playground was replaced after being destroyed in storms. In the hall, an upgrade of the sound and lighting system is underway. Large overhead projectors have been installed such that students performing on stage can be viewed on two large screens by the audience. New curtains will be installed across the stage in the next few weeks. The 3 Pupil Free Days were well used by teachers to undertaken mandatory training in WH&S, Code of Conduct, Student Protection etc and curriculum topics such as Teaching Writing, Reading, Assessment & achievement data, our school Teacher Coaching Model and a Review of Discipline processes as well as time for year level teaching teams to plan collaboratively. These days contributed significantly towards setting the positive direction for the school for the year.

**FINAL YEAR AT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

2014 will be the final year at primary school for both our Year 6’s and our Year 7’s. Year 7’s will progress to Year 8 at secondary school as per normal, however, our Year 6’s will progress to Year 7 which, for the first time, will be fully catered for at a secondary school.

It is our intention to ensure both year levels are able to celebrate and recognise their final year of primary school, at the end of the year. Also, students from both year levels will have the opportunity to experience leadership roles throughout the year.
STAFFING/CLASSES
All of our schools are staffed according to enrolment. Enrolments as at Day 8 (Thursday 6th Feb) are used to determine each school’s teaching and teacher aide allocations. Should there be a significant difference between our projection and our Day 8 enrolment, the class structure will have to be changed, such that our class arrangement is within our staffing allocation. This process applies to all Qld schools. Should changes be necessary, our class arrangements will be based on what is best for students – ensuring our classes are positive learning groups, as close as possible to recommended class sizes, with carefully chosen teachers. Should there be a need for any changes, parents will be notified as soon as possible.

UNIFORMS
Well done to students (and parents) for the presentation of students in this first week of school. Students look smart in their uniforms. “Leavers shirts” for Year 6 and 7 students were ordered in October last year, but due to reasons known to the supplier, they have not yet arrived. These shirts will be available as soon as possible.

OUR IMPROVEMENT AGENDA FOR 2014
A very brief summary of our Improvement Agenda for the year is as follows:

Reading – focussed teaching of reading, especially for comprehension.
Writing – Daily Writing, targeted teaching of writing features suitable to each year level. Introduce a key resource book for teachers, to improve teaching.
Spelling – Implement the “Words Their Way” program, enriched by class “context” words.
Grammar & Punctuation – Clarify year level expectations, support improved instruction, transfer of learning into practice.
Using Achievement Data to support learning.
Empowering Students as Learners – building students’ capability to set goals, monitor own progress and achievement.
Refining School Discipline processes – acting on recommendations from an audit last year. Establishing consistent processes across the school, to be known and well understood by all.

CONTACTING TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATION
There will be instances when parents have questions they would like addressed. This is normal within a school environment. It is therefore a dual responsibility between parents and staff to communicate effectively to ensure understanding on important questions.
Generally, the first point of call for parents is their child’s class teacher or a teacher in charge of a particular activity (eg a music teacher). Quick matters may be discussed before/after school, but if a longer discussion is sought, please arrange an appointment through the school office.
Deputy Principals are available to meet with parents on matters which are unable to be addressed by class teachers or which parents deem to be private. The Deputy Principals who administer each section of the school are:-
- Prep and Year 1 Mrs Patrina Dendrinos
- Year 3, 4 & 5 Mrs Cheryee Dick
- Years 2, 6 & 7 Mr Des McConnell
Appointments can be made through the school office.
Mr Quinn, the Principal, is available to meet with parents to discuss any matter.

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.
NEWSLETTER – HARD COPY OR EMAIL?
Our newsletter plays a critical role in sharing information about activities and programs within our school. The newsletter is issued each Thursday. It is available in hard copy, where it is issued to the youngest student in the family, or available by email. For this first newsletter only, the youngest child in each family has received a hard copy. Those families who are also on our current email list will also receive an electronic copy.

In moving forward, the support of parents is sought in the following ways:
If you are on our current email list and wish to continue to receive the newsletter by email, you do not need to do anything.
If you are on the current email list and wish to deregister, please send an email to news_unsubscribe@arundelss.eq.edu.au (note underscore).
If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and you are not on our current email list please send an email to news_subscribe@arundelss.eq.edu.au and include your email details.

STUDENTS’ PERSONAL DETAILS
It is critical that every student’s personal details at school are accurate and current. This applies to address, contacts 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.

Mick Quinn, Principal

MONEY PAYMENT WINDOW
Please note the money payment window will be open every morning next week beginning Monday, 3 February 2014 from 8:15am till 9:15am for one week only. Then normal hours will resume for the following weeks: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:15am to 9:15am.

PARKWOOD ROTARY NEWS
The Parkwood Rotary Club has recently conducted the 2013 GC100 Charity Bike Ride.
This 100km event raised more than $14000, with the main beneficiaries being two charities – Rosie’s and ROMAC.
Rosie’s supports homeless people in the community, with a street van providing tea, coffee, milo and a friendly ear, as well as support for people going through the court system.
ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children), with the support of many eminent Australian surgeons, has assisted over 300 children from 20 countries in need of urgent of medical treatment.
Well done Rotary for your care of others less fortunate.
Planning is underway for the 2014 event in September.
For more info contact Bruce (0414 701 505) or Paul (0401 610 787).

Whole School Sharing (Year 1-Year 7)
Monday, 3 February 2014 – 2:10pm in the school hall.

TERM DATES FOR 2014
Term 1 – Tues 28th Jan to Fri 4th April (10 weeks)
Term 2 – Tues 22nd Apr to Fri 27th June (10 weeks)
Term 3 – Mon 14th July to Fri 19th Sept (10 weeks)
Term 4 – Tues 7th Oct to Fri 12th Dec (10 weeks)
**UP AND COMING EVENTS**

- **Monday, 10 February**  
  Year 4 Swimming Commences
- **Wednesday, 12 February**  
  Year 2 Swimming Commences
- **Friday, 14 February**  
  Year 1 Swimming Commences

**SWIMMING**

Swimming classes will commence in week 3 for Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 on:

- Year 1  
  Friday, 14 February
- Year 2  
  Wednesday, 12 February
- Year 4  
  Monday, 10 February

$50.00 is outstanding value for 8 half hour lessons that includes bus travel to the Guardian Angels School Pool by qualified PE and swimming instructors. Payments need to be made by the due date Friday 7th February.

Please note it is compulsory for students to wear a sun shirt (rashie) and a swimming cap. Swimming caps are available from the uniform shop for $10.00 and also from the pool. Any donations of rashies and unused caps would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them into the office.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Book Club**

The library offers students the opportunity to order 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 that will be placed on the school’s website and a notice in the classroom and library. Payment can only be via credit card 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 11 February.

**Library Borrowing begins next week...**

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 senior students. Students may log in to Olly with their library number to check what they have on loan, renew their books and reserve books.

Prep, Year 1 and 2 may borrow one book. Year 3 and 4 may borrow 2 books. Year 5 to 7 may borrow 3 books. Home Readers – Students who are at level 14 – 26+ may borrow up to 4 home readers from the library.

**STUDENT ABSENCE LINE – 5561 4995**

If you 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.

---

Please cut this out and place on your fridge or program the number into your mobile phone.

---

**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am to 11:30am