Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome back to our new school year!

What a week it has been! We’ve experienced extremely hot days, high humidity, a thunderstorm on Monday, gridlocked streets on Tuesday afternoon and even a friendly python showed up at the admin block on Monday to keep everyone on their toes.

The 2016 school year has commenced very smoothly with students joining their new classes with few sad faces. Our enrolments have shot up since last year when we finished the year with 1050 students. We now have 1130 students enrolled with 46 teachers in the mainstream. As well we have six staff in our Special Education Program (SEP) catering for the 70 students who are eligible for support.

We have number of new staff to the school in 2016. Welcome to:

Tony Miller – Technology Teacher in the junior school
Jacob Evans – ICT Technician
Mary-Lou Plant _ Guidance officer
Tamara Lassau – Enhancement Teacher – Years 3 and 5
Elouise Dempsey – Prep Teacher
Tarna Chapman – Teacher Prep and Year 1
Kate Suzor – Teacher Year 1
Lauren Ingram – Teacher Year 2
Shannon Macleod – Teacher Year 2
Zoe Lowe – Teacher Year 3

You may have read in the press that a number of schools have received hoax bomb threats. The procedure in all schools is to get the children to safety first of all and then wait for the authorities to advise when we can move back into classrooms. At all times in our evacuations whether it be fire or bomb threats, it is the safety of the students that is first and foremost. We do not send immediate messages home to parents. In fact during evacuation procedures, the school is locked down and no one is allowed to enter. It is pointless coming to the school as you cannot enter to collect children. If you did enter the school during evacuation procedures you would be jeopardising your own safety and the safety of the students and staff. As you know we hold drills each term to ensure our students know their evacuation drill. If there was an occasion when there was a “real” evacuation I would endeavour to advise parents by a printed note that afternoon if there was time. I would ask our P&C to include the details on the P&C Facebook page.

Much has been happening with our P&C. It seems that even the holidays are not a time for the P&C executive to stop and have a break. You will recall that our former tuckshop convenor, Paula, tendered her resignation from that position at the end of the year. The P&C didn’t have much time but did advertise the position and appointed Kristy Clarke to the position. Kristy would like to test the new position to see if she can fit this in around her hectic schedule of being a mother to three young children. As a precaution the P&C had again advertised this position. I sent details home last Friday.

The P&C has had to make a change to the meeting schedule for this year. Previously the monthly meetings were held of a Monday afternoon but this day and time is unsuitable to some of our executive. Therefore the meetings have now been moved to a Friday afternoon to start at 3:30pm in the staffroom in the admin building. The first meeting for this year is Friday February 12. If you haven’t been to a P&C meeting please consider joining us. The meetings move along very briskly and are generally over before 5:00pm. Children are able to play outside.
Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will be held throughout next week from Monday to Thursday. By holding the meetings from Monday through to Thursday we have tried to avoid too many clashes and thus provide the opportunity for parents to attend their child’s session. Please take advantage of these, won’t you?

Prep Monday, 8 February 3:00-3:45pm
Year 1 Wednesday, 10 February 3:10-4:00pm
Year 2 Thursday, 11 February 3:10-4:00pm
Year 3 Wednesday, 10 February 4:00-4:45pm
Year 4 Tuesday, 9 February 3:10-4:00pm
Year 5 Monday, 8 February 4:00-4:45pm
Year 6 Tuesday, 9 February 4:00-4:45pm

Volunteer Register

Our P&C sends home a template asking for parents to indicate whether they can assist with volunteer activities at the school. This is included as an insert to today’s newsletter. Please read through the note and fill in and return if you can help out in any way.

Student Success

One of our year six students had an exciting end to her holiday. Darina Kamenoff was a member of the Queensland 10 years old tennis team which won the Australian titles held at the Tennis centre in Melbourne coinciding with the Australian Open. Darina and teammates won overall against players from all other states. During the championships Darina had the opportunity to meet many of the senior stars and enjoyed their company at lunch each day. What a great experience for Darina!

Another of our year six students, Billy Dowling, has won the Gold Coast District Under 13 Golf Championship. Billy plays at Southport on a handicap of 10 and has recently been named junior player of the year at Southport. Congratulations Billy. I’m certain he would easily beat me if we ever had a game.

Today and next week I am sending home the newsletter in hard copy to every student. During the next two weeks could you please advise our office if you would only like to have an electronic copy.

Have a nice weekend.

Michael Kelly

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Monday, 8 February Year 4 Swimming Commences
Tuesday, 9 February Year 6 Swimming Commences
Wednesday, 10 February Year 2 Swimming Commences
Friday, 12 February P&C Meeting 3:30pm

ASSEMBLIES - Friday, 5 February 2016

9:15-9:45am Prep to Year 2 (Presenters 2C)
9:45-10:15am Year 3 and Year 4 (Presenters 4A Sharing Item 4F)
10:15-10:45am Year 5 and Year 6 (Presenters – School Captains, Sharing Item 5A)

TERM 1 Swimming (Ms Mitchell-Cowan)

Swimming will take place from Week 3 to Week 8 in term 4 for the following groups:

Year 2 – Wednesdays Year 4 – Mondays Year 6 – Tuesdays

Swimming is still only $45.00 and that includes small swimming groups, qualified instructors, bus transport. Parents and Caregivers that need financial assistance please contact the school.

LIBRARY BORROWING (from Mrs McKay)

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 period is as follows: Prep to Year 2 – 1 week, Year 3 to 6 – 2 weeks. Home Readers – 1 week. 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 28+ may borrow up to 4 home readers from the library. Students require a Home Reader folder to keep these in.
Students may log into the Orbit, the student section of our library system Oliver with their library number to check what they have on loan and renew their books.

The link for Oliver is on the home page of the school’s website under Quicklinks.
https://arundells.eq.edu.au

BOOK CLUB (from Mrs McKay)
The library offers students the opportunity to purchase books through Scholastic Book Club, with two issues per term. Brochures go home each term for each student’s classroom teacher. All students now receive the same brochure which includes all books available. Issue 1 will be sent soon. Ordering and payment is via LOOP only at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP. If you require assistance to purchase, please come to the library before school and we will help you order online. Ordering is also possible on an iPhone or iPad via the Scholastic LOOP app. This is the only form of payment we accept. We do not put through manual orders, therefore it is not necessary to return a form to school. If the books are a surprise and you would like to collect them, please contact the library and let us know.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS (from Mrs Thornton)
Instrumental Lessons- All lessons will begin next week 8th February.
All students are to bring their instruments to the first lessons. Timetables will be given to classroom teachers by the end of this week. Also enrolment forms will be handed out this week when the teachers touch base with the students. Please return your enrolment form asap so your child can be guaranteed a place in the program. If children do not have an instrument sorted and enrolment complete in the first couple of weeks, they may not be able to continue in the program.

Band rehearsal will begin in week 3 (next week). Wednesday mornings 8:00am in the Music room. String Ensemble will begin next Friday (Mr Stylianou will confirm time with students). Any new student to the school (who have previously learnt an instrument) must see Instrumental teachers or Mrs Thornton at the Music room ASAP.

Boys Dance Group- This will begin next Wednesday 10th February
It will be held in the hall at first break, boys are to eat and then come to hall. This is for the boys chosen last year (list on window in Mrs Thornton’s room). Any new student to the school must see Mrs Adamson or Mrs Thornton at the Music room ASAP.

Little Voices- This is for year 1 and year 2 students who would like to join our junior choir. This will be held on Wednesday 2nd break in Mrs Thornton’s music room. This year Miss Castellanos will be running this group.

Senior Choir- This is for Year 3,4,5,6 students. If they have been in the choir previously or new to the school, all are welcome. This will be held on Tuesday 1st break in Mrs Thornton’s room. Miss Gray and Mrs McMillan will be running this group.

Both choirs will start next week (week 3, beginning 8th February). Please encourage children to come along and see if it is for them.

Drama and Dance Excellence- These classes have begun this week. They are held on Thursday 1st break with Mrs Thornton and Mrs Adamson. The students have already auditioned for this program and been notified at the end of last year. Any new student to the school must see Mrs Adamson or Mrs Thornton at the Music room ASAP.

NEWS FROM THE P&C
Welcome back to all our existing families and a big welcome to all the new families joining the Arundel State School community this year. We have a lot planned already for this year including a disco each term, a fun run, a spellathon and a maybe a movie night on the oval!

The P&C is comprised of Mums, Dads, carers and teachers from the school who volunteer their time to run services such as the Tuckshop and Uniform shop and also to run fund raising activities throughout the year to improve facilities at your school. These activities often require extra volunteers to help out so we have a parent database in pace so we can advise when and where help is needed. Everyone should receive a flyer about that this week.

We can also use the email database to improve communication, raise the understanding of the P&C activities, improve the capability of parents and carers to engage in P&C activities and provide an easy way for the P&C to seek assistance when needed. If you think you may be able to help out even for just an hour at one of our stalls or discs or if you have some great ideas to share then please complete the information below and return to the office by Friday 12th February. We invite all interested parents, grandparents and carers to attend P&C meetings held in the staffroom on a Friday each month at 3:30pm. The dates will be advertised ahead of time. The first meeting of the year will be on February 12th. All welcome.

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.

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

Brendan Cowen 0404 459 504
Kim Cowen 0406 629 312
Locally owned and Family Operated
Pest Control Company
General Pest Control Treatment Internal External $99.00
Termite Inspections in accordance
With Aus Standards $150.00

Southport/Labrador Cricket Club
Your local, family club
In2Cricket – 17’s & Seniors
0414462206
don.gumm@hapi.com.au

Advertise in 2016
Any business wishing to advertise in the Arundel State School Newsletter in 2016 please email pandc@arundells.eq.edu.au

Bargain<br>Weekly Rents<br>Heavy<br>Truck & Tilt Tray<br>Bargain<br>Weekly Rents<br>Heavy<br>Truck & Tilt Tray

Advertising in 2016
Any business wishing to advertise in the Arundel State School Newsletter in 2016 please email pandc@arundells.eq.edu.au

Reach 1000 homes every week!
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. Please note the Dental Van will be leaving the school soon.

ARE YOU THE PARENT OR CAREGIVER OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY? (Matt Dwyer-Guidance Officer)
Stepping Stones Triple P is a specially tailored program for parents of children with a disability and autism aged 2 to 12 years. It is part of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, one of the world’s most effective parenting programs.

Stepping Stones gives parents the skills to raise happy, confident children and build stronger family relationships. It also helps parents manage problem behaviour and developmental issues common in children with disabilities.

The following Stepping Stones Triple P program has been scheduled through the Robina Disability Service Centre:

Group Stepping Stones
9th February – 22 March 2016, 10:30am – 1:00pm

More workshops to come in 2016; please contact Kim Atkinson on 5656 5800 or kim.atkinson@communities.qld.gov.au or Sarah Garrett on 5656 5800 or sarah.garrett@communities.qld.gov.au or for further information or to register go to www.triplep-steppingstones.net.