Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

Last week, I attended a principals’ conference in Brisbane. The keynote speaker was an American professor of Chinese origin, Dr Zong Zhao.

He spoke at length about the importance of an education but went further to emphasise the place of formal testing programs that are in place at an international and national level. His view is that programs such as Naplan are important from the perspective of our system, our schools and our students but that these testing programs have only a narrow focus.

He says many school systems are like “sausage machines” pushing out students who are academically very competent but lacking other qualities that will be important for a positive life and continued employment.

These qualities are in two categories. Firstly students need to be exposed to a wide array of interests, pursuits and experiences to ensure their view of the world is broader than simply academic areas. Secondly, he says that students should be creative, flexible and investigative, able to respond to change, new experiences and situations.

Therefore, he advocates that schools be encouraged to focus on “whole child development” along with numeracy and literacy. Our children’s futures are more secure if they are taught/encouraged to become flexible & creative rather than purely academic. This is particularly true from an international perspective.

Our school has a strong academic focus, but this is complemented by a varied curriculum, sports and arts programs, excursions and camps and many other experiences which broaden our students’ learning. As students progress to secondary, there is every opportunity provided to pursue individual interests and strengths as opposed to a common purely academic curriculum. Our young people will then be well placed for a positive future.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Minister of Education made an announcement last week to advise that the Instrumental Music Program would be extended to include Year 4 students. This will be the first time that the IM Program includes Year 4 students, in an official capacity. Previously students had to be in Year 5 to be eligible to enter the program.

This change comes in response to the transition of Year 7 students to high school. Currently, our Year 7 students show considerable leadership in the bands, having a full three years of instruction. From 2015, Year 7 will be at high school. In future, our Year 6 students will have had 3 full years of tuition, enabling their full development to be strong, skilled band leaders.

This is a considerable decision which will ensure the standard of our primary school bands remains high as well as boosting the level of participation of students across primary and secondary, in the instrumental program.

It then follows that in readiness for 2015, students from both of our current Year 3 and 4 will be invited to nominate.

This is an exceptionally positive opportunity for both our Year 4 and 5 students. Information will be provided to parents regarding opportunities to join the 2015 program in the coming weeks.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Monday, 11th August – Specialist Groups
Sporting Teams, Junior and Senior Choirs, Instrumental Groups, House Captains and Vice Captains, Student Councillors and School Representatives. Dance and Drama Excellence, Chess.

Thursday, 14th August – Prep, Year 1 and Year 5

Friday, 15th August – Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 6 & Year 7.

All sibling photos will be by appointment. Specific sibling group envelopes are available from the office.

Please return the completed envelopes to your class teacher on the day of the photographs. Do not send money to the office as the school will not be responsible for any payments held on behalf of MSP Photography.

Please remember to wear full school uniform or sporting/band uniform as listed above. Special group envelopes (sporting and musical) will be available after the photo day.
BOOKWEEK SHOWS
Students will have the opportunity to attend a Book Week musical production by Perform Musicals titled “Worlds Apart” on Tuesday 12 or Wednesday 13 August in the school hall. This production will feature a selection of shortlisted books from The Children’s Book Council of Australia Annual Book Awards, as well as comedy, songs and dancing. The cost will be $6.00 per student. Money and Permission forms are due by Friday, 8th August (TOMORROW).
The above presentations are scheduled for 12th and 13th August. As this is our only “schoolwide” cash collection, parents are encouraged to ensure payment is made as soon as possible. A few years ago, we had many parents leave it until the last day, resulting in a queue over 60 metres long at the payment window.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS
The annual School Opinion Survey has been extended to this week. For the first time, all families are invited to participate in the survey. Each family has been provided with information to access an online survey in the next week. We encourage parents to contribute towards this survey. The data is fully confidential and provides information to confirm the positive things about our school and to provide direction on how we can improve. As at Tuesday, 5th August, just over 130 families had completed this survey. For our school data to be valid, we require many more parents to complete the survey. If you have not yet completed the survey, you have until midnight on Friday, 8th August, before it closes. Your support with this survey is sought.

DISCO
A Disco will be held on Friday, 8th August in the Hall.
4:30pm – 6:00pm - Prep to Year 3 students
6:30pm – 8:00pm - Years 4 to 7 students
Year 3 students may choose to attend either the Junior Disco or the Senior Disco (but not both).
There will be a sausage sizzle and tuckshop operating on the night. Water and cordial will be available at no cost. Glowsticks and other “glow products” will be on sale. Cost: $5 per student. The P&C is also offering a $7 package which includes entry, free cordial and water and a sausage in bread, OR a $10 package which includes entry, free cordial & water, sausage in bread and a show bag.
These packages are available as presale only – ie purchased on the Friday morning.
Payment is to be made at the door or tickets may be purchased on the morning of Friday, 8th August, from 8:00am to 8:45am, outside the administration building.
Parents are asked to note the following:
• Prep students are invited to attend, providing their parents are in attendance.
• Parents who nominate to help out through official processes, may bring along a younger child, providing the child is thoroughly supervised and cared for individually.
• Students should be escorted to the Hall by parents.
• All students must be collected within the Hall after their disco is completed. No student will be allowed to walk out to a car alone. Pick up must be prompt after the advertised closing time.
• Only students who are attending Arundel SS are allowed to attend.
• Older brothers and sisters are not to attend or be on the school premises.

NO SHARING on 11th August due to School Photos.

UP AND COMING EVENTS
Friday, 8th August
11th, 14th & 15th August
12th & 13th August
Thursday, 21 August
Friday, 22 August
Friday, 29th August

Liberty Volunteer Wanted
Role: primarily to stamp and cover books with plastic and contact plus shelve books.
Skills: attention to detail and neatness are essential. Training will be provided. If you are interested please call in person at the Library and see Susan to organise a trial day.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joshua of Year 3 who has qualified for the Under 11’s Rep Team for Hockey and he is only 8 years old. Well done Joshua!

COOMERA CUBS BASEBALL CLUB
Sign On Day – Saturday, 9th August for new and existing players. 10am – 2pm at Coomera Baseball Club, 22 Riversdale Road, Oxenford. Please phone Nick 0400 000 046 for any enquiries.
DENTAL VAN
Currently Year 1 & Years 4 -7 students have received an offer for parents to arrange an appointment for a dental check-up.

August is Dental Health Awareness Month
Dental Health Month aims to raise public awareness as around ¼ of Australians have untreated dental decay and only 39% of Australian adults visit the dentist for a yearly check up. As most dental diseases are completely preventable, we need to focus on early intervention and prevention to keep enjoying good oral health. Let’s keep our teeth for life, and help our children do the same! Read more at [www.dentalhealthweek.com.au](http://www.dentalhealthweek.com.au)

HELPING HANDS ARUNDEL
As some of our families already know, we have a new staff member. His name is Josh. He has experience in working with children and has an interest in educating children with special needs.

IMPORTANT: We have quite a few families that use our service for casual bookings, we need as much notice as possible to ensure we have enough staff. We are still having some families that are not notifying us if their child is absent from ASC. It is imperative that you notify us if your child will be absent from ASC. We currently have vacancies for Before School Care and After School Care. If you are needing care for your child or you are interested in helping them develop their social interactions with others then give us a call on 0458010769. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

NEWS FROM THE P&C
An easy way for you to help raise funds for your school's P&C is to simply shop at the IGA at Crestwood Plaza on Olsen Ave using an IGA card. Each time you shop you swipe the card and points are given to our school. We have 100 IGA cards that have already been activated available for collection at the school office. All you have to do is register the card online and nominate Arundel State School as the recipient of points. The points translate into funds donated to the school and the card also gives you access to special member discounts.

Please collect a card and start shopping at our local IGA.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS
The Gold Coast Eisteddfod begins next Monday, 11th August. Good luck to all our talented children, they have been rehearsing really well and are very excited. We have 16 entries this year. There will be letters out to the students shortly. Please return slips asap as they are required to go to Eisteddfod.

We are giving out costumes and uniforms to many students. PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE RETURNED THE DAY AFTER THEY HAVE PERFORMED.

The following is the schedule for the Gold Coast Eisteddfod,

Gold Coast Arts Centre- Bundall

### Junior Choir
- Monday 11/8/14
- 10.30am

### Senior Choir
- Tuesday 12/8/14
- 6.30pm

### Senior Band
- Tuesday 19/8/14
- 8.30am

### String Ensemble
- Monday 25/8/14
- 6:00pm

### Prep Speech Choir
- Thursday 28/8/14
- 10:00am

### Y1 Speech Choir
- Thursday 28/8/14
- 12:00noon

### Y2 Speech Choir (A)
- Thursday 28/8/14
- 1:30pm

### Y2 Speech Choir (B)
- Thursday 28/8/14
- 3:00pm

### Y4 Dance Excellence
- Monday 1/9/14
- 1:00pm

### Senior Dance Excellence
- Monday 1/9/14
- 3:30pm & 5:30pm

HELENSVALE LITTLE ATHLETICS TRACK & FIELD CLUB
An exciting new season is nearly upon us again for your children as well as yourselves. ‘FAMILY, FUN and FITNESS’ is the motto of Little Athletics Australia. Helensvale Little Athletics are offering a 28 week season to help teach, nurture and improve your children's Athletics disciplines. Our Centre is located at the Helensvale High School Oval, Discovery Drive Helensvale. Please call Neil on Mobile: 0458 616611. Our Sign On Registration Days are:
- 9th August, 2014 – at the Helensvale Plaza, 8am –3pm
- 17th August, 2014 – Open Day at Helensvale Little Athletics Club.

Our Open Day is for your children & Open athletes to try some of our events also. 8am –2pm.

However, you can register at any time during the season. Our club is offering a 2 week trial for any new athlete who might be a little unsure. The cost for the 2 trials is $30, which if you register then will be deducted from the registration price.
- Trial week 1 –Friday, 22nd August 2014 – 5:30 pm.
- Trial week 2 –Friday, 29th August 2014 – 5:30 pm.