

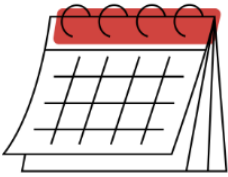


Newsletter

Dates to Remember:

5 th July	Last Day of Term 2
22 nd July (Monday)	Pupil Free Day
23 rd July (Tuesday)	First Day of Term 3
13 th Aug	5/6 Girls Bball
14 th Aug	Aranda Science Fair
20 th Aug	Belconnen Athletics Carnival
21 st Aug	5/6 Boys Bball
13 th Sep	3/4 Tennis
17 th Sep	ACT Athletics
18 th Sep	Y2 Birrigai
26 th Sep	Grandparents and Friend's Day

2024 Aranda Calendar



Click this link <https://bit.ly/31hH976>
on any device to view the calendar
in your browser.

Parent Portal:

If you already have a Parent Portal account, use this [Parent Portal access](#) link to start using the great features. You can't access Parent Portal directly through the ACT Digital Account website, you need to use the link above.

When you are logged into Parent Portal, we recommend saving the browser as a favourite or to the homepage on your mobile phone for quick access in the future. The website can only be viewed using a web browser on your computer, mobile phone or tablet. An app is not available at this time.

Executive Report

Dear Aranda Community,

Term 2 has been a whirlwind of excitement from beginning to end. Some standout moments include the Athletics Carnival, the Just 50 Words writing competition, representative sports in Netball and AFL, the G-Force excursion, and our parent-teacher interviews. At Aranda Primary School, there is no such thing as an 'ordinary day' - each day brings something new and different.

Student-Centred School Improvement Framework

This term, we participated in a trial of the Education Directorate's new Student-Centred School Improvement Framework (SCIF). The framework provides a model for schools to evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching and learning programs. For our trial review, we chose to focus on the Wellbeing domain. Conducted using the SCIF, this review provided valuable insights into our school's strengths and areas for growth. It included an evidence-based self-evaluation, learning walkthroughs, and discussions with students, staff, and community members.

The panel was guided by three key elements in its evidence collection process within the wellbeing domain. The following evidence is drawn from the final report.

Element 1: Relationships

- The review team saw and heard students describe the Aranda Primary School Values and how they translate to classroom behaviours.
- The review team observed and experienced respectful, trusting relationships between staff and students. This was confirmed by the parents who attended the school review feedback session.
- The Student Representative Council (SRC), staff and parents described the opportunities available to students to build positive connections in the school and wider community.

Element 2: Belonging

- Students described the Social-Emotional Learning program (SEL) to the review team as an opportunity to learn about well-being, feelings, and health.
- The review team saw settled, engaged classrooms with clear routines and high expectations of students.
- Parents interviewed at the time of the review identified 'Bush Kids' as a strong and much loved wellbeing program.

Element 3: Systems of Support

- The review team heard and saw evidence of a strong transition process between preschool and kindergarten, inclusive of the buddy program.
- Staff described to the review team a strong collaborative culture underpinned by clear direction and a school improvement focus.
- Parents who attended the review feedback session expressed a desire to hear more about the health and wellbeing program to support consistency across home and school.

The team also identified areas for improvement, particularly in data collection, to measure the impact of our wellbeing initiatives. Recommendations also included transitioning the SEL program to a universal classroom instruction model and developing a communication strategy to enhance parental engagement.



Important Messages

Uniform Shop

The shop will open three times a term, with our first sessions scheduled for 8.15 - 9.00 am on the Fridays of Weeks 1, 5, and 10 of Term 2. Payments will remain cashless, and we'll continue offering second-hand items for a gold coin donation as availability allows.

Current, up-to-date information

Updated information for the education sector and other public sectors can be found on the Education Directorate's website (<https://www.education.act.gov.au>) and ACT Health (<https://www.health.act.gov.au>)

Seesaw

If you are unable to access Seesaw, or do not receive communications from the school to connect your child, please contact the Front Office with your updated email address.

Canteen

The Canteen operates from Wednesday to Friday. The Canteen can be contacted via email on arandacanteen@gmail.com or phone on 0459 599 114.

Medication at School

All student medication must be signed in by a parent/carer at the Front Office on arrival at school. Medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. No medication is to be left in school bags during the day.

Newsletter Publication Deadline

Items for inclusion in the fortnightly newsletter must be emailed to info@arandaps.act.edu.au by 3.30pm every week on a Tuesday.

Anaphylaxis

Aranda Primary School is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL avoiding eggs and all nuts. Our policy is available on the website.

The review offers essential insights that will guide the development of the School's next Strategic Plan. With the current plan concluding at the end of this year, we will use the next six months to formulate our new strategy, which will be communicated to you all as it evolves.

For more details on the review findings and recommendations, please refer to the full report on our school website under 'School Board' available at the end of Week 10.

James Harrison & Phil Gray

Netball

On June 20 and 27, Aranda Primary School participated in the Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 netball Gala days. All teams displayed wonderful sportsmanship and fantastic skills. They all had a superb day, many experiencing netball for the first time. Each team played six games and happily shared the different positions on the court. We look forward to the Afterschool competition happening in Term 4.

A big thank you to Janine Collins and Mel Hill for coaching the teams over the past weeks.



Just 50 Words Writing Competition

On Friday, June 28, Aranda Primary School hosted its annual writing competition. This special event celebrated the creative writing talents of our students from preschool through to Year 6. Both the junior and senior assemblies featured captivating stories, expertly critiqued by our long-time judge, Mr. Patrick Wenzholz, from the English department at Canberra High School. These creative tales, crafted with passion, creativity, and enthusiasm, included surprising plot twists that captivated the audience. We couldn't be prouder of the exceptional writing talents displayed by our students. Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone for being a part of one of our favourite events.



Reminder – Monday 22 July 2024 is a Pupil Free Day

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers that there are 2 remaining student-free days for ACT public schools in 2024. These are the first day of each school term:

Term 3 – Monday 22 July 2024

Term 4 – Monday 14 October 2024

Student-free days are for staff development, enabling teachers and schools to plan in a student-free environment. The increase in student-free planning days from 2024 is part of our Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement, which prioritises better teacher workloads for educational leadership, teaching and learning.

Kind regards,

James Harrison

Executive Teacher

News from Preschool

Buddies and Walk on Country

We have been exploring our Walk on Country unit with our big buddies from Year 3 this term. Once a fortnight we have looked at different traditional indigenous games as well as significant dates on the calendar including Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, which will fall during our winter school holidays. The buddy program began in Term 1 and is always one of the biggest highlights of our program. It aims to build confidence and social skills in our younger children, as well as leadership in the Year 3 students. Buddies builds cross-age relationships for this year and for the future as the preschool students transition into primary school.





Our community

This term, one of our programs focused on "Our Community" which aimed to foster a sense of belonging as outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework's 'Belonging' theme. This program emphasised the importance of children feeling connected to their community and understanding their place within it. We were lucky enough to meet different community helpers who visited the preschool and gave us lots of important information about their role in our community. The children were enthralled when Kenny Koala, the ACT Fire and Rescue Service, and Mel from RSPCA all came to preschool at various times this term. We were also lucky enough to have a Preschool parent, Karina, talk to the children about her role as a dentist and what we can do to have good oral hygiene. Thank you Karena! Other fun activities the children enjoyed were: engaging in role-play and community helper dress-ups; using Google Earth to interpret our local Cook and Aranda community and then making maps; and learning about the various roles and responsibilities that make up their community. These experiences helped our children to build relationships, recognise diversity, and appreciate the contributions of others, laying the foundation for a strong sense of identity and belonging.



Gross Motor

Gross motor skills are those that enable us to move efficiently, negotiate our environment, balance, run, jump, play games with balls and more. Good gross motor skills and body awareness are important for good posture, movement around the school, participation in games and sports and general fitness, health and wellbeing. This term preschool continued their Gross Motor lessons in the gym at 'big school', the Junior playground as well as using our own equipment at preschool.



What did we love learning about or doing this term?

- I liked playing with my friends - Zach
- I learnt about community helpers and the police (Constable Kenny) - Avni
- I liked learning about fire engines - Finn
- I enjoyed all of the art we have done this term - Lachlan
- I have liked playing with all of my friends - Quinn
- I liked learning new letters - Joey
- I loved painting! - Charlotte



What do we want to learn about next term?

- I want to do Science experiments. I love Science - Annabel
- I want to learn how to make things better - Alexander
- I want to learn about the number zero - Ari
- I want to learn about bugs and cheetahs - Teddy
- I want to learn about going camping - Zali
- I want to learn more about the Indigenous people - Dallas
- I want to play at big school - Luna
- I want to know more about dinosaurs – Elliot

G-Force News

The G-Force has been very busy this semester, here are some of the events they took part in :

Clean-Up Australia Day:

On the first of March 2024, the school participated in Clean-Up Australia Day. It has been running for over 30 years. This year, our school collected 28 bags of rubbish which means 8 bags of recycling and 20 bags of landfill rubbish, all from the playground. Let's hope next time we have less rubbish.

Written by Ada

Earth Hour:

On Friday 22 March, the students of Aranda Primary shut off their devices and lights and took part in Earth Hour. *What is Earth Hour?* you might ask. Earth Hour is a global movement where people raise awareness for our planet and its diverse ecosystems. The students of Aranda Primary did this pretty well, they shut off their devices and lights to raise awareness for our planet. From writing to PE to art, we did a variety of activities in the hour, and it was pretty successful.

Written by Yile

Gardening Club:

Next term is just around the corner and what better time for your kids to join the school's gardening club. It is an engaging opportunity for your kids to have fun and to learn valuable life skills on how to plant and grow vegetables. We have a vibrant community of awesome kids that have the passion to learn how to take care of the garden. We are supplying the canteen with food to make delicious food for the kids, it is like having a production site inside our school! The gardening club is on Thursday's lunch every week! Don't miss it!

Written by Yile

Lids for Kids

On 2/7/24 the G-force went to the Lids4kids headquarters.

Now let's get into what happened on this exciting Tuesday.

The place looked like a warehouse but it was bright and colourful inside. During the intro talk, they explained about how they grew to be the awesome recycling place they are now. We all became instantly mesmerised. Then the team told us some sad news. Every single animal on this planet (Including us!) has some microplastics inside their body.

We then moved on to some activities.

These activities were:

- Colour sorting! This was when we got a selection of lids to sort. We got some colour boxes to put the desired colour into.
- Polymer sorting! (Plastic sorting) This was when we got a selection of lids, almost every lid had a number on it, out of 2,4 and 5. Our job was to put it in the selected tub!
- Workshop tour. This was when we got to see all the different machines doing their jobs, two of them being used to shred the lids. One even melted the lids into slats to create colourful rainbow benches.



- Create a carabiner! (holds 25 kgs of weight!) Here we got to see how they make different cool things out of recycled plastic. We even created our own carabiner! Someone had to push the crushed plastic through a hole, someone had to turn a lever that pushes the plastic through a hot pipe and out the other end into a mould.

The great thing about Lid4Kids is that you can come here on the weekend! The location is: 141 Canberra ave, Fishwick!

Lastly, I'm going to renew what we learned:

At Lids4Kids, you can bring in anything smaller than a credit card if it's metal or plastic!
You can visit on the weekend, from 10 am to 2 pm, and volunteer to help.
You can join just by helping the environment and picking up and WASHING Lids.

Written by Robyn





This is to certify

Aranda Primary School

The purchase of your school's digital sign has enabled Digital School Signs, on behalf of the school, to purchase and plant native trees in a legally protected forest through Greenfleet to offset the carbon emissions for the lifetime of the digital sign, reducing the effects on our environment.

Greenfleet is a leading environmental not-for-profit organisation protecting the climate by restoring native forests in NSW, VIC & QLD.

This contribution is helping to address critical deforestation, absorb carbon emissions from the atmosphere, improve land and water quality, and restore habitat for native wildlife, including many endangered species.

Greenfleet forests are legally protected for up to 100 years.

Thank you for helping us grow climate hope.

Darren Rogers

Darren Rogers (Managing Director)

Thank you