



The Arndell Advocate

February 5th 2010

The Newsletter of Arndell Anglican College

From The Headmaster

Mr Gareth Leechman

My School

Why did I choose Arndell Anglican College for my child? An interesting question and one that holds a lot of currency in the new age of public accountability forced upon us by the Federal Government's myschool website.



For many of you, you will have chosen Arndell for a variety of reasons, some of which will be; educational programmes, facilities, teacher quality, welfare structure, cultural opportunities, affordability, Christian formation, academic results, etc. Schools and Colleges are interested in people and people are multifaceted. We have been created as emotional, mental, physical and spiritual beings and so I personally find it difficult to judge a school's performance on merely one aspect of the educational process, which to me is what the website seems to do.

Having said that I am not an opponent of accountability, I actually believe very strongly in it and it is something that we at Arndell have always been accustomed to. Each year the Board of Studies requires us to produce an annual report which contains detailed information to you our parental body on how our students are performing. It tells you how our students have performed academically, culturally, physically and spiritually over the previous twelve months as well as keeping you updated on our financial position. Independent schools face accountability each year as parents make decisions as to whether they enrol their child in our school.

This high level of accountability is good for schools as it requires them to assess the quality of what they offer. Arndell seeks to improve each year because at heart we want what's best for our students, we want to see them flourish and grow, and we want to see them move forward in their lives. Now will one set of NAPLAN results each two years provide me with a complete picture of how my child is developing? Obviously it won't – but it does let me know how their literacy and numeracy skills are going and that in itself is of some value.

So what was your answer to the question I set at the top of the page? I hope it was because Arndell would bring the best out of my child. That at Arndell I know my child will be known cared for and nurtured to be the best that they can be in whatever they choose to do.

By the way we didn't do too badly in our NAPLAN results, Arndell students either met the national benchmarks or exceeded them. Something we will seek to improve on!

In a few weeks we will be saying goodbye to two of our teachers' aides. Mrs Sue Tandy and Mrs Cami Leva will be leaving us later in the term. I am sure I speak for the entire Arndell community when I thank them for their contributions to the life of the College over many years, particularly in the Junior School, and wish them both all the best for the future.

From the College Chaplain:

Rev. Graeme Sedorenko



A LIVING HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIME

Greetings,

Last year there was a financial crisis which may or may not have affected you personally; however, it did rock the nation and even the world. There are crisis' that will continue for decades and when one is

over another will arise. In Australia alone we have had floods, draughts, and fires. In the rest of the world there are wars, terror, and natural catastrophes that continue to impact the globe. The issue of global warming is here to stay for the long term and the affects of this will continue to impact our pockets, lifestyle, and the conditions people live in regardless of how each of us feel about global warming.

The Apostle Paul is the author of the book of Romans; it is a letter to the Christians in Rome. He is a dynamic person with great insights into the nature and person of Christ and our human condition. He is convinced that there is an answer to the world's problems and a hope that cannot be shaken or shattered by any crisis or tragedy in the world. That is to say, nothing can interfere with God's final plan for his creation. Paul is convinced that the Gospel is God's power to save and correct all the wrongs experienced in this world. In the midst of persecution and trouble Paul is able to say: "No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him (Jesus) who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, ... nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Stay tuned to hear and learn about the Gospel and how through Jesus we can have a firm hope in the middle of the expected and unexpected.

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www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth/hope.jpg



From the Deputy Headmaster:

Mr James Webb



A most warm welcome to 2010 and to all students and parents both past and new. It is my hope that your year is rewarding and that we can all work together to embrace Mr Leechman's exciting vision for the future of the College.

The first Advocate is a celebration of past results and I join with the Headmaster and Mrs Gillen, Director of Studies in congratulating the Year 12 cohort of 2009 on a set of excellent ATAR marks. We look forward to tracking the progress of these students as they make their way into tertiary education, new and exciting jobs and, in some cases, travels around the world.

I have returned to my job as Deputy Headmaster and am looking forward to the task of working through welfare issues across the College.

In the next Advocate I will outline the Welfare System and how we can impact the lives of all children in the College through a real understanding of expectations and consequences for inappropriate actions. The key to success will be a very active approach to welfare encouraging all students to take responsibility and by doing so really engage in the whole learning process.

2010 will give me an opportunity to work through Careers at the College and with assistance from Mrs Turner we will try to fill the shoes of Mrs Stephens who took over from Mrs Goddard. If you wish to make an appointment with respect to Careers please contact the College and all arrangements will be made.

To assist in understanding the process this year!

Mrs Gillen will take responsibility for all matters related to the Curriculum – Classes, Courses, student placement etc. My role will be matters related to the welfare of your children – Homeroom, Houses, Uniform, Discipline etc. and of course Careers and Buses and generally the day to day running of the College. So for example if there is an issue on the bus or if something goes missing just give me a call.

On the matter of uniform. May I remind all parents that we have a Uniform Code and this must be adhered to. A number of variations are creeping into the College and in the course of this coming week parents will be contacted to rectify these concerns.

School Shoes, for example are Black Leather Lace-Up not jogger style. This code has been in existence since day one of the College.

As always if you have a concern or a question, do not hesitate to contact the staff member. Sound lines of communication will ensure an excellent working relationship.

From the Head of the Junior School:

Mr. Rick Harrison



Welcome to Term One 2010. A special welcome to all of those parents and students who are new to Arndell. I know that our time together will be most productive and I look forward to meeting many of you as the year progresses.

We have a few changes in the Junior School in staffing. You may be aware that Mrs Coles has taken long service leave for Term One and Mrs Hankel is taking her class in her absence. Mrs Misztal will be taking the majority of Term One as long service leave and Mrs Sobels-Craven will take over responsibility for her class during that time. I will be sharing 5 Red with Mrs O'Hare this year.

Every year at this time I mention the importance of clear and regular communication between the College and the home. If at any time, you have concerns regarding your child, then please do not hesitate to discuss them with your child's class teacher, the stage co-ordinator or with me. Your child's class teacher should always be the first port of call. Messages or comments by teachers and parents can be written in the College diary in the Primary classes, while Infants classes use the "Boomerang Book" system.

While on the subject of communication, Information Evening for the Junior School will be held next Wednesday, 10th February. This is an opportunity for parents to learn what is planned for the term and year in their child's class. There will be two alternative times for parents to meet with teachers: 6:00pm and 7:00pm. You should have already received a note regarding this important event. Please return the slip at the bottom of the note to your child's class teacher by Monday of next week. Mrs Stephens will conduct a brief session about the College's Anti Bullying policy just prior to (5:40pm) the first class information session

Textbooks have already been distributed to students in Prep to Year Six. If there have been any complications regarding textbooks, please let me know as soon as possible.

Events coming up include:

- Information Evening: 10th February
- Student Leaders Induction: 12th February
- 3-6 Swimming Carnival: 15th February
- Life Education Caravan arrives: 25th February
- Awards Assembly: 26th February

From the Director of Studies:

Mrs Lynn Gillen



2009 HCS Results

It is with great pleasure that I bring you this report on our HSC results for 2009. Generally speaking, our results were very strong, as can be seen by the comparison tables below and so our Year 12 of last year and their teachers are to be congratulated on their excellent performances.

Highlights

- Of the 34 subjects entered, 14 exceeded the State Average significantly for Band 5 (at least 80%) or higher .
- Overall 10 students gained at least one Band 6 (90% or higher) out of a cohort of 53 students, and the students also achieved 89 Band 5 (80 to 90%) results.
- For the Universities Entrance Score (ATAR), 50% of students achieved a rank of 70 or higher and most students have reported that they are able to do the University course they wished, or one in a similar field at another university.
- Michaela Calvert's major Art work was accepted into Art Express. This is a prestigious honour.
- Congratulations to: Ashleigh Burden ATAR of 95.15, Aiden Salm ATAR of 94.75, Esther Bouchier ATAR of 93.8, Russell Avery ATAR of 88.75, Nicolle Leary ATAR of 87.5 and Jasmine Newton ATAR of 86.25. These results indicate the quality of the students' work over two years of HSC study.
- The top performing subjects were: Community and Family Studies, Geography, Industrial Technology, Textiles, Hospitality, Society and Culture, Software Design and Development, French Beginners, Music Extension and Visual Art all had students achieving well above State average.
- All students should be congratulated on their successful achievement of the HSC, and we wish them every success in whatever they strive to do in the future.

Comparison (in a selection of subjects) of Arndell Results and the state average.

Subject	Percentage of students achieving Band 5 and 6 in State	Number of Arndell Students doing subject	Percentage of Arndell students achieving Band 5 and 6
Business Studies	38%	17	30%
Community and Family Studies	29%	9	45%
Earth and Environmental Studies	41%	5	60%
Extension 1 English	84%	7	100%
Geography	40%	14	57%
Industrial Technology	32%	6	50%
General Maths	25%	20	20%
Software Design and Development	29%	8	57%
Textiles and Design	45%	7	43%
Visual Art	54%	8	87.5%
Hospitality (VET)	27%	12	42%
Information Technology	16%	6	33%

- These results indicate that the on-going initiatives which were put in place some years ago to improve our HSC results are now bearing fruit. We anticipate that the Higher School Certificate results for 2010 and 2011 will maintain this upward trend as the quality and commitment of our Year 11 and 12 students continues to be very high.

Are you interested?

Lessons are available at the College for:

Piano Flute Violin/ Strings Brass Clarinet/ Saxophone Guitar Drums Singing

GROUP LESSONS

Speech and Drama Singing Piano

FEES PER SEMESTER (two terms)

Individual lessons \$500 Group lessons \$250



If you are interested please return the slip to Mr Wilson c/- College Admin. A Peripatetic teacher will make contact with you.



Return to Mr Wilson

Peripatetic Lessons

Name: _____

Instrument/s: _____

Class/ Year: _____

Parents Name: _____

Contact No.: _____

Arndell Anglican College

Directory:

Headmaster:	Mr Gareth Leechman
Deputy Headmaster:	Mr James Webb
Director of Studies:	Mrs Lynn Gillen
Head of Junior School:	Mr Rick Harrison
Chaplain	Rev. Graeme Sedorenko
After School Care:	0407 474 161 (3.30- 5.30pm).
Equestrian:	Mrs Laura Thorpe 0416 212 260 prestigeinteriors@exemail.com.au Mrs Anna MacDonald p.amac@bigpond.com
P & F President:	Mrs Neile Thompson 0414 845 488 pandf@arndell.nsw.edu.au
Uniform Shop:	Mrs Liz Moore 4572 3254 Tuesday/Thursday 8.30-10.30am/2.30-4.pm
Canteens:	Monday-Friday (Recess/Lunch)
Arndell Community Church:	Pastor Greg Peisley 4572 3633/0402 278 483 Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday

Dear Parents,



**The College Council of
Arndell Anglican College**
invites you to attend the
**Commissioning Service for
Arndell's Fourth Headmaster**

**Mr Gareth Leechman
MA MED MACE MACEL**

to be held on

Tuesday 16th February 2010

Commencing 2pm

in the

John Lambert Performing Arts Centre

Afternoon Tea will be served
at the conclusion of the Service

RSVP

Friday 12th February

Mrs Barbra Whelan – 4545 2472

Term Dates for 2010

Term 1

Thursday 28 January to Wednesday 31 March

Term 2

Monday 19 April to Friday 25 June

Term 3

Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

Term 4

Tuesday 12 October to Wednesday 8 December

Monday 6 December – Infants Presentation

Afternoon

Tuesday 7 December – Primary School Presentation

Even.

Wednesday 8 December – Senior School

Presentation Even.

ID Photos:

Arrangements have been made with the College Photographers for ID Photos to be taken for students from Year 7 through to Year 12 on Friday 26th February 2010. The students will receive a card identifying them as students who attend Arndell Anglican College and their date of birth. The cost of these photos will be \$8.00 and this will be charged to your account. If you do not wish your child to receive an ID Card or this amount charged to your account, please notify Mrs Whelan by Monday 22nd February 2010.

Senior School Learning Support: Mrs D Allen

To all new parents:

Welcome to a new school year! Mrs Allen is here Tuesdays to Fridays and Ms Sue Maddison on Tuesdays and Thursdays at present and we look after a large number of students with various disabilities and learning difficulties.

I am concerned about the lack of information on a large number of students who may have or have had learning difficulties at school in the past, particularly in reading or writing. I have no documentation or have not received any additional information **from parents** in many cases, where there is clearly some difficulty. We want to help them so please help us out...

If your child has ever seen a specialist for learning or attention difficulties, **or** concerns were raised about their learning and progress in class, please send a copy of their specialist or Yr 6 school report to the Learning Support Dept. marked to the attention of Mrs. D. Allen. Alternately, call the school office and make an appointment to talk to Mrs Allen during the week. Thank you!

Maths Homework Support Club: Miss M Dunbar

The Maths Dept will be running Homework Support outside of regular class times this year. The aim of the session is that students generally work on their own, and ask questions when and if they need help. They may focus on their regular homework, prepare for an upcoming test, or manage regular revision. Teachers will also provide access to additional resources if required.

The regular times available are:

- Monday lunchtime (week A only) – B12
- Wednesday lunchtime (week A only) – B12
- Wednesday 3.15-4.30pm – B17
- Thursday 3.15 – 4.30pm – B9

Of course, if none of these times are suitable, a student can speak to their class teacher, who is always willing to help.

Arndell Equestrian: Mrs Laura Thorpe, Mrs Anna MacDonald

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and are now ready for a busy year ahead. The equestrian team has a long history at Arndell. We hold our annual Arndell Equestrian Carnival, as well as for the first time this year, hope to hold training days and a social trail ride to meet and greet our members. There are also numerous opportunities throughout the year to represent the school at various events for all riders from beginners to the seasoned competitors. For anyone interested in joining the team and for all present members, you will need to fill out a new form with your details so that I can best keep everyone informed and so that we can tailor the training days to suit interests and level of riders.

Upcoming events:

- **Equestrian NSW Interschools Championships, SIEC - 5, 6 & 7 March 2010.** Entries close 16th Feb; however, due to the popularity of this event, I urge anyone interested to enter ASAP, as entries will be limited. This is especially a fabulous opportunity for all our event riders to represent the school, as unfortunately there are not many interschool eventing competitions held. Enter online at www.nominate.com.au.
- **PLC Dressage Day - 27th March 2010.** Details to follow.

ALL WELCOME !!!!

Next meeting - Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 9.am.

Any parents or staff that are interested in coming along you will be most welcome. Our meetings are held in the Staff common room at 9am and are very casual. Come along have a cuppa and a chat and hear all about what Arndell Equestrian can offer to your child and the benefits the entire school gain with our contribution. Looking forward to meeting everyone in the coming months. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



From the Head of Sports:

Arndell Sports Desk

Mrs Rosemary Cornick



Welcome back! There is not too much time before the 2010 Sports calendar gets into full swing!

The Senior school students have already had the opportunity to sign up for HZSA Inter School Sport. There has been a variety of sports available for them. Girls & Boys Futsal, Indoor Cricket, Volleyball and Senior Tennis and Junior & Senior boys outdoor Cricket continuing from 2009; the Yr 7 Gala days in AFL (boys) and AusTag (girls), HZSA Representative Boys & Girls Basketball championships. I would encourage parents to support and recommend team sports as a great way of meeting new friends and developing our College and community spirit. All teams need to have their commitment forms back to Mrs Cornick by Friday 5th February.

In the Junior School Arndell has withdrawn from CSSA and joined the HICES Primary Sports Association as our representative avenue to CIS. The HZSA will still be supported for carnivals, Gala days and the Yr5 & 6 Inter School Competitions. Parents are asked to check the Primary Sports Notice board situated between Stage 3 & Stage 2 for all dates.

Swimming Carnival preparation is well underway. The Senior carnival is on Friday 12th February and the Junior (yr 3- 6) Carnival is on Monday 15th February both at Richmond Swimming pool. Parents are reminded that these are compulsory events and all students are expected to attend, participate and support their House. The College Representative team is selected from these carnivals and students selected to swim for the College at HICES or HZSA (and beyond) will be expected to wear the College swimming costume. These can be purchased from the Uniform shop.

Carnival dates and Representative trial dates for 2010 have been posted on both Sports Notice boards outside Stage 3 (Primary) and outside the Gym (Secondary) and are on the College calendar, which can be accessed through the Parent Portal. Students who excel at a particular sport have the opportunity to represent Arndell through HICES/HZSA/AICES and are able to nominate for CIS sports that are not offered by HICES/HZSA/AICES. Nomination dates are also available from the website, however all nominations need to come through Mrs Cornick first.

The Sports webpage is currently being revised and all sport dates for 2010 will be up on the Sport webpage in Extra Curricular Activities by the end of week 2. Parents are recommended to keep up to date with what is going on through these avenues.

I look forward to seeing students develop to their full potential in the sporting arena in 2010.

Sports Desk News Flash

Important dates for February Term 1:

- Senior School Swimming carnival 12th Feb HZSA Swimming Carnival 8th March
- Junior School Swimming carnival 15th Feb HZSA Swimming carnival 8th March & HICES Swimming carnival 10th March
- All Schools Triathlon 24/25th Feb nominations close 10th Feb 12yr olds and above.
- AICES Opens Tennis 12th Feb nominations close 5th Feb
- HZSA 15s Girls Basketball trials 15th Feb at Hills Grammar
- HZSA 16 and Opens boys & girls Hockey Trials at Pennant Hills Park
- HZSA Open Girls Championship Basketball Feb 23rd
- HZSA Open Boys Championship Basketball Feb 24th
- HZSA Inter School Sport Competitions sign up Friday 29th Jan & Monday 1st Feb. Nomination forms and Commitment forms for all the above sports available from Mrs Cornick