



The Arndell Advocate

Friday 5th March 2010

The Newsletter of Arndell Anglican College

From The Headmaster

Mr Gareth Leechman



One particular aspect of educational reform that I am particularly interested in is that of **school improvement**. Any business, whether it is a non for profit organisation (like Arndell) or one that is designed to make a profit (like the Commonwealth Bank), must always be seeking to improve the quality of product or service that they provide if they are going to move forward. One of the measures that we use to assess whether we are improving is by having our HSC results analysed by a company called Academic Profiles.

Academic Profiles is a Sydney based company specialising in HSC and School Certificate data analysis (they currently work for over 44 schools across the state); the information they provide enables us to assess the success of our programming and teaching. It helps us to identify our strengths as well as our weaknesses and this in turn helps us to adjust accordingly. This week I was able to spend four very valuable hours with our consultant from Academic Profiles and the following very pleasing information was relayed:

1. The mean, 67.09 {60.73 2008} increased by 6.36 UniScore points and the median, 68.50 {59.43 2008} increased by 9.08 UniScore points.
2. There was a large shift from the tail of the distribution and a general upward shift across the entire distribution.
 - i. 2.1% of students achieved UniScores at or above 95 {0.0% 2008}
 - ii. 6.4% were at or above 90 {4.8% 2008}
 - iii. 21.3% were at or above 80 {19.4% 2008}
 - iv. 48.9% were at or above 70 {35.5% 2008}
 - v. 66.0% were at or above 60 {46.8% 2008}
3. The HSC class of 2009 achieved a higher average scaled mark per unit (a mark out of 50) than in the previous year and it is the highest result achieved in the past six years.

What does this mean? It means several things. Firstly, it is clear that our desire to improve the quality of our assessment, programming and teaching is occurring and is starting to bear fruit. Secondly, the culture of academic learning that we have desired to create amongst our students has started to become an accepted norm. Thirdly, our students are being presented with more choices at the end of the schooling here at Arndell. Not all students will want to go onto university, but a higher HSC result does reflect a student's skill development. The more skills they have the more employable they are in a variety of fields. Finally it also shows that we have the capacity to meet the needs of our comprehensive intake of students – all students have the opportunity to succeed it is up to them whether they wish to take it.

In the coming weeks our Heads of Department will have the opportunity to reflect on the data which has been analysed and adjust their assessment, programming and teaching accordingly. Though we are pleased to see continued improvement the desire to continue this improvement remains.

In my next Advocate article I will start to bring to your attention the changing nature of our curriculum as we look to embrace the new National Curriculum in 2011.

From the Deputy Headmaster:

Mr James Webb



The term is flying and so much is happening. There are times, however, that we need to stop and smell the roses. The Headmaster's commissioning service, the combined College and Church welcoming service, the swimming carnival, stream watch, inter-house competitions, choirs and bands, peer support, Oliver Twist (in full flow), space club, D of E, Hands Up, homework clubs in science and maths, year 7 camp (year 9 next week), Hills Zone Swimming on Monday, fundraisers, zone sport and the list goes on. Arndell provides an enormously rich and diverse set of opportunities for your children. Please encourage your child, if they are not involved in something, to become an active member of the College Community. We are so blessed to have staff who commit to so much.

Welfare:

A note on our system and in brief:

- Problems in the classroom are dealt with in the first instance by the teacher – it may be that you receive a call just to let you know a problem has occurred. (problem resolved – we hope) **IF NOT**
- Further discussions and actions may be necessary and the Head of Department is involved. Head of House and Homeroom Tutors are informed and information will be placed on the student's welfare portal. Director of Studies Informed. (problem resolved – we hope) **IF NOT**
- Parents are asked to come in to discuss the matter and a Level Folder is put in place – this enables us to monitor the student in all of their lessons and ascertain if other issues are occurring. (problem resolved – we hope) **IF NOT**
- Escalation of Level folder to level 2 or 3 – this necessitates the student reporting to me 4 times a day. Parents brought in again and hopefully a resolution can be achieved. **IF NOT**
- Headmaster, Deputy, Director of Studies, Head of House and Homeroom Tutor interviews the student with parents and places a final warning. If resolved all well and good – if not then the students place is in serious jeopardy.

As with any welfare system we are keen to ensure a good resolution however there will be times when a fresh start in a new school may be the only solution. As a teacher I see this as, in some ways, a failure. However we must always consider the needs of the rest of the students and their right to learn.

There in a nutshell is what we do with all of our students – there are many more in-between aspects and counselling occurs at all stages.

Turning Circle:

The Turning Circle is a Kiss and Drop area NOT a part of the car park. Please do not use this area to park, lock and leave your car, it creates terrible congestion and significant danger.

Have a great weekend

From the Head of the Junior School:

Mr. Rick Harrison



The first Awards Assembly for the year was held last week. Year 3 gave a wonderful exhibition of their gymnastics skills set to music. Our Student Leaders ran their first assembly and did a terrific job. The following students received Headmaster's Awards:

KR: Courtney Evans, Scott Sinclair;	K/1B: David Ommundson, Tayla Muller;
1R: James Selff, Monique Wilson;	2R: Mackenzie Thomas, Hayden Atkins;
2/3B: Kane Welsh, Georgia Vaughan;	3R: Scott Charlesworth, Emelia Evans;
4B: Ainsley Fraser, Nicky Garcia;	4R: Kate Hogan, Aaron MacDonald;
5B: Zara Rowe, Lachlan Terry;	5R: Emma Fitz-Gerald, Jake Saunders;
6B: Brewer Lynch, Tim Sandell;	6R: Tia Koski, Monique Anderson.

Congratulations to all.

All of the Junior School classes visited "Happy, Healthy Harold" in the Life Education caravan over the last two weeks. The Life Education programme is an important part of the personal development component of PDHPE. The children not only gain important knowledge but also enjoy the lessons.

It seems that there are many Junior School students spending the afternoon after school in the Senior Library. Parents should note that this is a situation that must not continue. If Junior School students cannot be collected by 3:30pm, they must go to after school care.

Enjoy your weekend,

Events coming up include:

- HZSA Swimming Carnival: 8th March
- "Brainstorm" Performance, "Stick and Stones": 9th March
- HICES Swimming Carnival: 10th March
- Book Fair: 11th March
- Awards Assembly: 19th March
- Parent/Teacher Interviews: 22nd – 23rd March
- Year 5 Camp: 24th – 26th March

From the Director of Studies:

Mrs Lynn Gillen

Recently, the Assessment Handbooks for Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were given to the students, except that the Year 7 Extension students did not receive one. They will be given their handbook early in Term 2.



These handbooks are an important resource which enable students to plan for their up-coming assessments. I have suggested to students that they write into their diaries when assessments will be due for the whole year, and to look for 'busy' times, so that they can plan how they are going to meet their obligations.

I would encourage parents, also, to read the Assessment Handbook, as it contains useful information as to the rules for accepting assessment tasks, which can differ from year group to year group. One rule that is common to all groups is the requirement that for absences on the date an assessment task is due, we either need a prior written note if the absence is known in advance or a Medical Certificate if the student is ill on the due date. A note from a parent is **not** sufficient. Years 7, 8 and 9 should present these notes or certificates to their teacher or the Head of Department, and Years 10, 11 and 12 must see me, as I have to approve any Misadventure form for students in Board of Studies credentialing years.

We are still looking for a couple of host families for our Japanese students who arrive on March 25th for a week's stay. If you are interested, please collect an application form from Student Services. For enquiries, please contact myself or Mrs McGowen.

From the College Chaplain:

Hope in what?

Greetings!

Why is the gospel of God so appealing?

The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of the message of Jesus (gospel) because *"...in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"*

Romans 1:17

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www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth/hope.jpg

The righteousness from God is revealed in the life death and resurrection of Jesus. This righteousness is seen in three ways:

1. In Christ we see the perfection of God. Christ lived a perfect life in obedience to every command, wish and desire of His Father in heaven. In other words, Jesus made no mistakes and his life was lived 'right' in every conceivable way.
2. Jesus death, even though he is innocent, is punishment for people who cannot live up to God's standard of perfection. Therefore God did not overlook the sins (imperfections) of people but rather rightly punishes sin by appointing His Son to take the guilt of others. This may sound odd but it is the only hope an imperfect person has of entering heaven. God will never overlook the slightest imperfection because that is to guilty break his righteous law and it must be punished. I am so thankful to Jesus for taking my punishment.
3. The righteous of God is now given to the guilty sinner (imperfect person) through faith. As the guilty trust in Jesus perfectly lived life and His crucifixion as the punishment they deserve for their imperfectly lived life, they are declared to be in a 'right' relate to God.



Now that is appealing! To be free to relate to God in a right way even though we make many mistakes because of Christ perfection and punishment is good news – no wonder Paul is not ashamed of Jesus – come to think of it neither am I ashamed of Jesus!

What about you?

From the Head of Sports:

Mrs Rosemary Cornick



CIS Golf Championships - Congratulations to CJ Thomas Yr 11 who will be competing as a member of the CIS Golf team in the All Schools Golf Championships.

Country Schools Cricket: Congratulations to Daniel Brown Yr 12 who has been selected for the CSC team to compete in the Lord Tavener's Cup.

Senior School Important dates: HZSA Swimming Monday 8th March; HZSA Boys & Girls Touch football Trials Tuesday March 9th at Hills Grammar; HZSA Girls Football Trials Monday 29th March at Rouse Hill Anglican College; HZSA Boys Football Trials Wednesday 31st March at Rouse Hill Anglican College

Junior School Important dates: HZSA Swimming Monday 8th March; HICES Swimming Wednesday 10th March; HICES Primary Boys Football Trials Friday 12th March; HICES Primary Netball March 23rd.

RUGBY UNION: Mr Muller (parent) is very keen to promote Rugby Union at Arndell. Having the expertise in and a passion for the sport he has offered to coach students in the Junior and Senior school. These skill and fitness sessions will happen after school on Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4.30pm starting as soon as possible. If your child is interested in being part of this squad and has not already signed up please see or ring Mrs Cornick for further details

A personal request to all students and parents: Letters sent home regarding any sporting event, requests to assist at gala or carnival days and nominations to trial for Representative sport **must** be returned by the due date written in the letter. Failure to comply creates unnecessary extra work for organisers, besides which the Sports Associations HICES, HZSA, AICES & CIS will **not** accept late nominations.

Sporting Commitments: Students who have signed a commitment form as a member of a College team do have a responsibility to their team to attend every game. Whilst there maybe circumstances when students cannot uphold this commitment, every effort must be made on their behalf to notify the Head of Sport & their coach at least 24 hours prior to their game so that alternative arrangements can be put in place.

The Sports webpage has been updated and all sport dates for 2010 are 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. HZSA now has its own website: www.hillszone.com.au parents are encouraged to access this webpage for all HZSA information, results and draws.

Book Club News

Issue 1 has been delivered and is available for pick up in the Jnr Library.
Issue 2 will be postponed until after the Book Fair being held in the Jnr Library on March 12 -17th.

As this is my 5th year as Coordinator (and I no longer have children in the Jnr school), I would like to "retire" from the position at the end of this school year. Therefore, I am asking if anyone is interested in running the Book Club. I will provide all the training you need. Traditionally, 2 people share the work. If you would like to become a Coordinator, please email me at buffie.tolson@arndell.nsw.edu.au
or
phone me at 4579 7858.
Happy reading!

CAN YOU HELP?

Miss Doman is seeking the following set pieces and prop items for the College production of 'Oliver Twist'. The sooner we are able to borrow the items, the easier it is for the cast to work with them. If you can help, please contact Miss Doman at the College.

SET PIECES:

- 1 wooden kitchen table – as rustic looking as possible, able to seat 8 people around it.
- 2 long wooden benches or church pews
- Small wooden tables, able to seat 2-3 people
- Wooden stools (seeking 6-8 that do not need to match in looks or height)
- 2 wing back chairs suitable for a gentleman's parlour
- Wooden tea trolley
- Rectangular rug

PROPS:

- Old metal tankards or wine goblets suitable for a tavern scene
- Old dark wine bottles (about 20 needed)
- Old pipes (for the 'smoking' pick pockets)
- Old black or brown wallets
- 4 hessian sacks
- Tea kettle (not electric)
- Old monogrammed handkerchiefs (cotton or silk)
- 2 crowbars

Arndell Equestrian:

Mrs Laura Thorpe, Mrs Anna MacDonald

Can you help??????

Arndell Equestrian is looking for volunteers to be a jump steward at the Interschool's Championship.

No horse experience needed, over 12 years of age. Parents, students, staff, friends all welcome
EFA Interschool's Eventing Committee has invited Arndell's Community to provide 25 volunteers to be a jump stewards; anyone can attend over the age of 12.

If we are able to meet this request the School will receive \$500.

This money will go towards fund raising to purchase equipment for the school.

When: Saturday 6th March **Where:** Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park

Time: Volunteers to meet at 7.30am at Riders

Retreat for briefing, day finishing at 2.30pm.

Requirements: bring along a comfortable chair, hat, sunscreen

- ❖ Food and drinks will be provided throughout the day by the EFA

If you are interested in volunteering for a great day of fun,
please contact Laura Thorpe or Anna McDonald ASAP with your contact details.
A list of names will be given to Judy Fasher the organiser and you will be contacted
Thursday 4th March to confirm your attendance on the day.

All volunteers are covered by EFA volunteer insurance

We greatly appreciate any assistance with this fantastic event and hope we can
meet the 25 volunteers needed.

It's a great fun day out, try and organise a car pool of friends to go together.

Anna McDonald 0410 443 122

Laura Thorpe 0416 212 260

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

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.

For Your Diary:

Fri. 12 March, 7pm – Snr. Library

Yrs 3-6 THRASS Information Evening

Wed. 17 March, 7.30pm – Snr. Library

P & F AGM

Fri. 19 March

HSC Mid Course Exams commence

Jnr School Disco – 5pm +

Mon.22 March

Jnr. Parent/Teacher Interviews

Tues. 23 March

Jnr. Parent/Teacher Interviews

Scholarships for 2011

- For academic entry into Years 7, 9 and 11
- For musical performance, into Years 7 and above

Scholarship information available from the
College Administration office

Applications close: Friday 2nd April 2010

Exam Date: Saturday 8th May 2010

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Reminder enrolments for 2011,
if you have a
sibling please check to see that
we have the
paperwork, if not contact the PA to the
Headmaster.

The

Junior School Book Fair

This is a special invitation to 'Chill out with a good book' at our Scholastic Book Fair coming to our school on Friday 12th March. Browse through a great selection of newly published children's books such as 'The Polar Bear Paddle', 'Pinkalicious', and 'Big Bad Bushranger'. You may purchase books for home and/or for donation to our school library collection. The Book Fair runs from Friday 12th March to Wednesday 17th March in the Junior School Library before school and after school. I look forward to seeing you then!

Mrs Elva Miller - JS Librarian

ART POSTER COMPETITION PREP-YEAR 6

To celebrate the opening of our new Junior School Library, we are having an Art Competition based on reading and learning. Your art can be painted, collaged, coloured or mixed media and should include a slogan about reading and books. The art works will be displayed in the new library and winners will have an invitation to a special event! Come to the library to receive your entry form and Art paper. Your entry needs to be handed to Mrs Miller by Wednesday 31st March.

Points from the P&F:

Mrs Neile Thompson



I had a very interesting meeting with Mr Leechman and Mr Lambert (Chairman School Council) yesterday morning. One of the things we discussed was how do we let our parents know that they are an important part of the school and that they can, and indeed should, be involved in the College community. Mr Lambert sent us away with a 'homework' assignment – To make a list of all the ways parents can help the school.

So I thought I would kill two birds with one stone and make my list my newsletter copy! Here are some ways you can get involved ...

- Attend the AGM coming up on Wednesday, March 17th at 7.30pm in the Snr Library
- Stand for a position - Vice President (we have 1 nomination!), Secretary or Treasurer (I don't mind if no-one stands for President because I'd like to stay on ☺)
- Join the General Committee - we need help with ...
 - o morning/afternoon teas
 - o Grandparents Day
 - o Easter Service Barbecue
 - o Christmas Barbecue
 - o Writing notes & flyers
 - o Photocopying
 - o Getting notes out to class rooms etc
 - o Putting together the Business Directory
 - o Putting together the Christmas Hamper
 - o Plus all sorts of other day to day bits and pieces – the more help the better!
- Help the Equestrian Committee – no horsey knowledge (or interest really) needed
- Help the Fabulous Fun Day Ladies
- We need people interested in the school grounds with ideas and green thumbs to join the Grounds Committee
- We need help with pavers and outdoor seating so our students don't have to sit on the dirt or concrete any more
- We need help with the 'fit out' of the new Uniform Shop
- We need a new Golf Day Committee – no golf knowledge (or interest) needed – I may even consider handing over Drink Cart Driving Duties to the right person!
- We need donations to start building this year's Biggest & Best Ever Christmas Gift Hamper
- We need donations for all our events as prizes etc
- We need donations to continue building and updating the resources in our 2 fabulous libraries
- Etc, etc, etc ...

That's the start of my list (I have to go and cook dinner now) but basically there are many, many ways you can help the school on many levels – big or small your contribution is very important and greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM. If you would like more information or to let us know what you'd like to do just email us on pandf@ardell.nsw.edu.au or call me on 0414 845 488.