



The Arndell Advocate

Friday 19th March 2010

The Newsletter of Arndell Anglican College

From The Headmaster

Mr Gareth Leechman



The Australian Curriculum

There has been much debate and discussion of the draft Australian Curriculum which was released a few weeks ago, for me the most exciting thing has not necessarily been the new curriculum itself but rather that people are actually talking about education. So much public money, resources and time is spent on education from both levels of government that it is fitting for our educational programs to be reviewed from time to time. In a country of some 22 million people, which has an increased level of employment mobility as a result of operating a national as well as a global economy, it is not surprising for us to try and create a national curriculum to suit the needs of a national economy.

I can speak from personal experience of the need to try and create a national curriculum. As the Headmaster of a school in Grafton (northern NSW) I would regularly be interviewing families who were moving from Queensland to Grafton for employment or business opportunities. One of their greatest dilemmas was not so much moving states but rather that they would be moving their children from an educational situation they understood into one that they did not. A simple example of this is; due to different starting and leaving ages in QLD as compared to NSW it would often take me quite a few minutes to explain to a prospective parent that I was not getting their child to repeat if they came to my school, that Year 8 in QLD was not the same as Year 8 in NSW. This was before I started to explain the curriculum differences between the two states!

So do we need a national curriculum? Most educators acknowledge the need to have a national curriculum, what we don't seem to be able to do is agree to its content, structure and how it is assessed. For us here in NSW we have a very well established curriculum structure, which on the whole has academic rigour, offers a great deal of subject variety and is supported by sound assessment practices. When curriculum change occurs (which is a regular occurrence) the NSW Board of Studies plans it out well and makes sure all teachers have enough time to adjust to the changes made.

The changes that the Federal government are proposing are quite significant. Though we are happy to embrace increased language and literacy teaching in the English syllabus we are most concerned about the largely disjointed nature of the English Syllabus. Maths seems to have an increased reliability on calculators in the early years, a most worrying trend. It will also not challenge our more able students in Years 9 and 10 as the harder maths that we currently enjoy has been removed. Science seems to be driven by too much content thus forcing our science teachers to teach without depth of understanding and the proposed History curriculum (though it is more interesting) could not be taught in the current time parameters.

As I stated at the start I am not opposed to an Australian Curriculum rather I think it would be a very good thing for us to be involved in, however, I would not be in favour of it if it resulted in a drop in the educational standards that we currently have. I am looking forward to seeing how the draft curriculum progresses, especially during an election year and a government that is keen to bring in an education revolution.

From the Head of the Junior School:

Mr. Rick Harrison

On Monday and Tuesday of next week the Junior School will be holding Parent/Teacher evenings. These evenings are a great opportunity for the exchange of information regarding your children, information that can only make their years at school happier and more productive. If you are unable to attend on the designated nights, please make other arrangements with your child's class teacher.



Once again this year the UNSW ICAS Assessments in Maths and English will be optional, but all students from 3 to 6 will be completing the Science Assessment. A note will be sent out at a later date to give parents the opportunity to have their children participate in the English and Maths assessments if they so desire.

The following students received Citizenship Awards during our last Awards Assembly:

KR: Chloe Jones, Thierry Mourga	K/1B: Will Skyring, Sophie Rudek
1R: Sophie Pellew, Jackson Lobb	2R: Matthew Holman, Andrea Hollis
2/3B: Larissa Read, Lachlan Moore	3R: Madison Croft, Brianna Ayres
4B: Lauren Smithers, William Fitzgerald	4R: Sara Selff, Finn Miller
5B: Lachlan Piper, Faith Evans	5R: Brooke Watkins, Lleyton Bird
6B: Raymond Xian, Melissa Herder	6R: Leighton Vella, Maddison Hawkins

Congratulations to all.

Events coming up include:

- Parent/Teacher Interviews: Monday, 22nd, Tuesday, 23rd March
- Year 5 Camp: Wednesday, 24th March – Friday, 26th March
- 3-6 Cross-Country Carnival: Monday, 29th March
- Easter Service: Monday, 29th March
- Last Day of Term 1 for students: Wednesday, 31st March
- First Day of Term 2: Monday, 19th April

From the Director of Studies:

Mrs Lynn Gillen

Year 7 and 8 Extension Classes

After reviewing the Year 7/8 Extension class that has been operating this term, we have decided to split this class and form two separate classes in Year 7 and Year 8. These classes will still carry on the extension work that they have been doing, but the timing and level will be set appropriately for each group. We will also be able to include more students in each class. These students will be chosen by teachers from their observations of student performance in their current class groups. The new classes will commence from the start of Term 2.



Change of Timetable.

All students are advised to check their timetables on the Student Portal, as there will be some changes because of the creation of the new Year 7 and 8 classes. The updates will be available by the Weekend before the first day back at school next term, Saturday 17th April and Sunday 18th April 2010.

Year 9 Assessment

Year 9 have a very full assessment program in the last three weeks of this term. I would like to thank those parents who have contacted me or our Heads of Department, to let us know of the issues that their son or daughter has had. I would like to encourage parents to contact us in these situations, as we are then able to help out in the most appropriate way, to enable our students to meet their obligations.

Thank you to the Geography teachers who gave all Year 9 an extension for their task until the first week of Term 2, and to the Christian Living Department who have moved their in-class test into Week 10 to allow students more time to prepare.

Year 12 Mid Course Exams

Year 12 Examinations commenced today (Friday 19th March, 2010) and will continue until Monday, 29th March. Good luck to each Year 12 student. We hope that all goes well.

From the College Chaplain:

Mr Graeme Sedorenko



Hope in what – part two?

Greetings

Last week I asked this question: “Why is the gospel of God so appealing?”

This week I would like to suggest why the gospel of God is not appealing to some people.

As soon as the Bible mentions the cross of Christ as the judgment of God, it straight away implies that something is very wrong. If the innocent Son of God suffers such a humiliating death on the behalf of his people then it implies his people are in serious trouble. And that is why not all see the gospel as appealing.



1896 x 672 - 29k - jpg -
www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth/hope.jpg

It is much easier for people to say: “but I am a good person” rather than to say “I am guilty of doing something against God.” The cross implies that people are guilty of not putting God first. When people live good lives, love people and care for those in great need, surely these do not need Christ to die on their behalf – is our cry! The Bible says they do need Christ. The reason is that all the good in the world cannot make up for the wrongs we do and the chief wrong is against God not our fellow man. As Romans 3:10-11 puts it: “*there is no one righteous (not living in the “right” [relationship] with God), not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.*” All are guilty of not putting God first.

Romans chapter 2 deals with a number of issues, two of them are: 1) The law of God. This law makes people aware of their wrong doing. So rather than helping people reach perfection it condemns them. 2) A person’s conscience. Where there is no law a person’s conscience can condemn them of their wrong actions. The point is no one is able to stand alone and be justified before God except Jesus Christ. That sometimes is not appealing because people like to think they are okay – even when we leave God out, but for God that is a serious crime and that crime puts Christ on the cross. Whatever we do as people we should not put our hope in ourselves because the law will condemn us and so will our conscience.

So what will we hope in?

The answer is the gospel of God. Christ who is our righteousness.

From the Head of Sports:

Mrs Rosemary Cornick



HZSA Outdoor Cricket: Congratulations!!!!!!

Junior Boys Cricket Team—Grand Final Winners HZSA Champions

Well done Coach Stephens. A resounding win over Gilroy College. Please see report below.

Primary HZSA & HICES Representative Swimming:

Congratulations to all our swimmers for their commitment not only to swimming but their College. HZSA Swimming Carnival on March 8th and the HICES carnival March 10th at Homebush was an outstanding display of talent & pure giving it a go! The Primary squad had outstanding successes at the HZSA Carnival finishing overall 2nd to William Clarke College:

Lucas Bigeni 8yrs HZSA Age Champion

Aaron MacDonald 10yrs HZSA Age Champion Runner Up

Georgia Thorpe 11yrs HZSA Age Champion Runner Up

The Primary Squad then backed up two days later for the HICES swimming carnival. Once again their performance was exceptional if not better than at HZSA. Entering the competition for the first time our team swam their very best knowing that our result and Representative selection depended on their times. Arndell should be very proud of our second place finish to Blue Mts Grammar in HICES Division 2. The following students were selected to compete for HICES at the CIS Swimming Championships on Friday March 26th. 10 & Under Girls relay team:

Lilly Ann Keating, Hannah Leechman, Grace McErlane & Chloe Patterson. Hannah Leechman 9yrs 50m Freestyle.

Apologies to Aaron MacDonald an error was made in the School carnival results with regards to the 100m Freestyle. Aaron came 1st and broke the school record with a time of 1.34.01. Congratulations Aaron.

HICES Boys Football: Congratulations to Hayden Lane & Heaton Rejtano who were both selected for the HICES team to play at the CIS championships on Friday April 23rd. Jack Byrnes played well and is listed as a shadow player.

CIS Primary Cricket: Declan Horne is to be congratulated on an outstanding effort at the CIS trials where he competed against students from GPS schools, just missing out on selection for wicketkeeper.

HZSA Secondary Representative Swimming:

The Senior Students competed with determination and though we did not gain the same final placing of the last few years finishing 8th overall, all swimmers are to be congratulated for their gutsy performance.

Kimberlee Currell is to be commended for her success 16yrs HZSA Age Champion.

The following students were selected to compete for HZSA at the AICES Swimming Championships on 22nd April: **Dieter Hoffman** 16yrs 50m Fly, 50m backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke. **Kimberlee Currell** 16yrs 50m Fly, 200m Free, 50m backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle. **Tia Sutton** 15yrs 100m freestyle.

Senior School Important dates:

- College Cross Country Friday March 26th.
- HZSA Girls Football Trials Monday 29th March at Rouse Hill Anglican College.
- HZSA 15s Netball trials Tuesday 30th March at WCC.
- HZSA Boys Football Trials Wednesday 31st March at Rouse Hill Anglican College.

Junior School Important dates:

- HICES Primary Netball March 23rd.
- College Cross Country Monday 29th March at the College

Letters to be handed out this week by class teachers.

HICES Netball Trials: The following girls have been selected to compete at the HICES Netball Trials on Tuesday 23rd March at THGS: Chloe Patterson, Lucy Bittendorfer, Lilly Ann Keating, Brooke Croft, Brooke Watkins, Rachel Vielhauer, Brooke Ellison, Grace McErlane, Kate Hogan, and Hannah Leechman.

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 Wednesday 10th March on the senior oval. 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.

BASKETBALL: Mr Kaczmarczyk (Yr 8 parent) is very keen to promote Basketball at Arndell. Having the expertise in and a passion for the sport he has offered to coach student's boys & girls in the Junior and Senior school. These skill and fitness sessions will happen after school on Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4.30pm starting 17th March on the senior basketball court. 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.

HZSA/HICES/ AICES/ CIS Trials: To be selected for Representative team students **MUST** attend the trials on the trial date. In the case of CIS if you nominate and do not trial students will still incur the fee. The Sports webpage has been updated and all sport dates for 2010 are on the Sport webpage in Extra Curricular Activities. 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.

Arndell High School Junior Cricket Team WINS Final (Report from Mr Stephens – Junior Cricket Team Coach)

Last Tuesday, Arndell boys played their grand final cricket match against Gilroy College at Bensons Lane in Richmond. After losing the toss, our boys fielded magnificently to restrict the talented Gilroy batsman to a score of 113 in the 25 over match. Our bowlers were impressive throughout the match with Dylan Charles taking 3 wickets, and Tom Zahn, Ben Thornton and



Mitchell Dean each taking 2. Jed Cruickshank was ill throughout the day but turned up to support his team after school and bowled and batted solidly, despite feeling unwell.

After a brilliant catch dismissed our top scoring batsman in the semi-final, John-Linden Carpinato, very early, the team settled in to produce a solid performance. The boy played magnificently to reach the Gilroy score with 8 over's to spare. Dylan Charles top scored with 52 runs and was forced to retire. He was well supported by Ben Kohnertz who scored 31 not out.

The boys are to be commended on their terrific sportsmanship towards other teams this season and the encouragement they displayed to the 'first time cricketers' in our squad. The victorious team consisted of: Aiden Pauna, Ben Kohnertz, Ben Thornton, Brock Thompson, Dylan Charles, Ian Hanson, Jed Cruickshank, J.L. Carpinato, Matthew Dibb, Mitchell Dean (captain), Tim McAlpine and Tom Zahn. It was my pleasure coaching such an enthusiastic and talented team of boys.

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

Managing Anger in Adolescents

a free workshop

Thursday 13 May

Richmond Neighbourhood Centre

Rage

A free 6 week course for boys in Years 7-10

Dealing with anger issues

Richmond Neighbourhood Centre

For more information

Please call College Counsellor Julie Nixon 45452461

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. 22 March:

HSC Mid Course Exams continue
Jnr. Parent/Teacher Interviews

Tues. 23 March:

Jnr. Parent/Teacher Interviews

Wed. 24 to Fri 26 March:

Yr 5 Camp to Hill End

Fri. 26 March:

Snr. School Cross Country – Cattai Nat. Park

Mon. 29 March:

Jnr. School Cross Country - Arndell College
College Easter Service

Wed. 31 March:

Term 1 Finishes

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.

Speech and Drama News: Carolyn and Anne McKenzie

Australian Speech Communication Assn. (ASCA) Awards Ceremony

A number of Arndell Anglican College students from both the Junior and Senior schools were honoured for their excellence in oral communication when they participated in the ASCA examinations in 2009. The ASCA Awards Ceremony was held at the Kings School, North Parramatta, on Saturday, March 6th.

The Auditorium was filled with teachers, family and friends of the worthy recipients.

Centre Medals were presented to the students who received the highest mark in their ASCA examination in 2009 in the Hawkesbury area, **Emma Sammut** was the recipient of this for her excellent result in the Senior 6 exam.

Studio Medals went to those who received the highest mark at Arndell in their ASCA examination. This award went to **Laura Clayton** (Junior Grade 3).

Studio Achievement Medals were also presented to those who showed a great improvement and potential in their public speaking skills. These awards went to **Amra Hamill, Zac Giarratano and Steven Selff**.



During the afternoon performances of the various grades entertained the audience. The guest speaker Anne Scott spoke about the importance and benefits of oral communication skills in education and in today's competitive world.

Congratulations must go to all participants in the ASCA programme for their dedication and high level of achievement in public speaking and communication.

From the Science Department: Bryan Allerton

Year 8 Science- Essential Secondary Science Assessment

In November 2009, 27 of our year 8 students sat a test called the ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment). This assessment is undertaken by all state schools and many non-government schools and assesses a student's performance against a variety of categories (which are?). The information provided from the assessment will be used by the Science Department to target areas of the curriculum needing extra attention and so will assist us improving student outcomes in future years.

The results from this assessment have recently been received and they are very encouraging with our students achieving scores 6% above the state average. Individual student results will be provided to students this week.

Extra Help Available for Students in Science

The Science Department is now running two extra homework help sessions for secondary science students. The session times are:

- Tuesday afternoon from 3.15 – 4.30
- Thursday Lunch

Both sessions will be held in room B5 and will be attended by one or more of our science teachers.

Students are encouraged to attend these sessions to undertake homework and have help at hand if needed. They are also encouraged to come with questions about aspects of their topics which they are struggling with.

Bryan Allerton

Science - Head of Department

Points from the P&F:

Mrs Neile Thompson

Many thanks to Mr Lambert & Mrs King (School Council), Messrs Leechman, Webb & Harrison and Mrs Gillen for attending the P&F AGM last night your support of the P&F and the parents' role within the Arndell Community is greatly appreciated – as is the open and honest information about current and future plans for the College that you are always happy to give us at our meetings ... I know I learn something new every time!



Many thanks also to all the parents who were able to attend, it is always difficult to drag yourself out at night (a glass of wine and good movie is much more appealing!) but it is good to catch up with other parents and find out what is happening at the College and how you can be involved.

The P&F Executive this year is still one person short so if you'd like to join the team please let me know ...

President Neile Thompson
Vice President Donna Pellew (also acting as Interim Secretary)
Secretary ???
Treasurer Allison de Vocht

Equestrian Carnival
Co-ordinator Laura Thorpe
Secretary Anna McDonald
Treasurer Robyn Thompson

Fun Day Co-ordinator
Sharon Fitzgerald
Rachel Aldacour

Golf Day Co-ordinator
Jonathon Carter
Gordon Reid

There are also other wonderful parents and staff assisting each of these groups so our thanks to everyone for your involvement and we're looking forward to a great 21st year!

I will be putting out a full P&F report soon but in the meantime we are looking for parents who can help us with lots of the small day to day jobs that keep our projects and communications running -helping with the catering for the Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas Services, lunch/afternoon tea for Grandparents' Day, Kindy Open Day etc ... by saying you're able to help you won't be committing yourself to 50 meetings a week and a never ending life of servitude you'll just be spreading the load and sharing the joy!!!

Contact us any time on pandf@arndell.nsw.edu.au or Neile - 0414 845 488 or Donna 0417 77 4545.

LIST OF WAYS TO HELP Add to list from last Newsletter

Mrs Donna Allen (Snr School Learning Support) is in desperate need of parent Reader/Scribes to help our some of our senior students (Yr 9 - 12) through their exams over the year. Having done this myself for several years I can honestly say it's a very rewarding task - I started with a student when she was in Yr 10 and was able to stay with her right through to her HSC. You don't need to have a child in high school, you don't need to have any special skills, for most of the students you just need to be able to read aloud (quietly) and for some, to be able to write legibly what you are asked to write ... and you have to not get depressed when you realise that you wouldn't be able to answer any of the physics & chemistry questions ... so glad it was them and not me!

If you're interested in more information please call Mrs Allen at the school or me as above.

Family Fun Day

Meeting 9am

Tuesday 30th March

Meet at the student services building, all welcome
Contact via email funday@arndell.nsw.edu.au or phone
Sharon Fitzgerald 044 849 3559
Rachael Aldacour 041 269 1210

Would you like to co ordinate a stall at the fun day, or could you donate some time sewing, knitting, donate plants or provide some craft bits and pieces. We are in need of lots of things for our school fundraiser; please let us know if you can help.

Year 10 Food Technology

Unit: Food for special occasions Date: 17.3.10

Students had to write a proposal for a birthday party /any key event, decorate and present a cake suitable for the theme chosen and the occasion!

The following are the exemplary display of the work presented by these students!

