



# ARNDPELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

*"News Flash"*

*Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010*



## *From the Headmaster:*

*Mr Gareth Leechman MA MEd MACE MACEL*

Well it's that time of the year – Reports! It is the time of the year that we as educators spend hours summarising a semester's worth of achievement, development and growth. It is a chance for us to inform our parents and our students of what they have achieved and how they might progress. It is the time of the year when students wait with expectation to see how they have gone, to see whether they have achieved the goals that they have set themselves or whether parents might be a little miffed at their performance. As the Headmaster I have the opportunity to view a vast array of reports and get a feeling for how the students in my College are performing and from my perspective the vast majority of students are approaching their life at Arndell appropriately. As a parent I am eagerly awaiting the written feedback to see how my three children are developing.

So what makes a good report? This is an interesting question and one that is approached differently at many schools. Having worked at four different schools I have been able to see four very different approaches to report writing. However I do believe that there are some fundamental basics that a report must contain if it is going to be of any real value. Here are three basics that I would be looking for in a quality report.

Firstly it must be honest. I need to know what my child has achieved as well as knowing what they are yet to achieve. There is no point 'sugar coating' a report, unless the report does both the positive and the critical, how does one progress? This is not to say a report needs to be aggressive or blunt in its approach or tone but a carefully and thoughtfully written report that clearly identifies both strengths and weaknesses is of immense value to someone who is interested in self improvement.

Secondly a report needs to be specific. When the report identifies those strengths and weaknesses it is of far greater use if the report specifically identifies the areas of success but also specifically identifies the weaknesses. For example in a Maths report it is useful if a teacher makes the comment that their student has mastered geometry and fractions but must work on their ability to understand algebra. It is not useful if the Maths report says that the student has a general understanding of Maths and could do better if they tried harder. This is far too general and is of no use as it requires further explanation. A slightly simple example but it highlights the point I wish to make.

Thirdly a report must comment on the whole child. Yes the vast majority of a report is spent dissecting the student's academic performance but I know that my child is not just an academic being they are emotional, physical and spiritual creations. They have interests and talents that go beyond the confines of the classroom and I want to know how these aspects are developing as well.

As I read the reports produced so far I can see that these basics are being covered in the reports that we are producing and so I would encourage all of our parents to read their child's report carefully and follow up areas of concern. This can be done at the many parent/teacher evenings occurring next term. These provide us all with a fabulous opportunity to explore more deeply what your child has or has not achieved to date.

Finally I look forward to seeing many of you at Oliver Twist. I have no doubts it will be a very good production and by the way my Intermediate Boys Rugby team had their first victory with a convincing 38 – 7 win over Arden.

## Calendar Dates for your Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>21 June</b>	<b>22 June</b>	<b>23 June</b>	<b>24 June</b>	<b>25 June</b>	<b>26 June</b>	<b>27 June</b>
<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 12 Textiles & Design	Young Women's Leadership Day Exc. – Sydney  <b>Snr. School Athletics Carnival</b> Blacktown Olympic Park	AICES: Open Netball – Hills Stadium  Snr. School ½ Day Athletics Carnival – at the College  Prefects Training Day  Job Club		Snr. School Assembly  Jnr. School Chapel  NSW Schools Rugby Union Championships – St Ives   <b>TERM 2 FINISHES.</b>	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>28 June</b>	<b>29 June</b>	<b>30 June</b>	<b>1 July</b>	<b>2 July</b>	<b>3 July</b>	<b>4 July</b>
Staff Development Day	Staff Development Day	Motiv8sports 3 day Multi Sports Camp – College Gym	Motiv8sports 3 day Multi Sports Camp – College Gym	Motiv8sports 3 day Multi Sports Camp – College Gym	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>5 July</b>	<b>6 July</b>	<b>7 July</b>	<b>8 July</b>	<b>9 July</b>	<b>10 July</b>	<b>11 July</b>
					K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>12 July</b>	<b>13 July</b>	<b>14 July</b>	<b>15 July</b>	<b>16 July</b>	<b>17 July</b>	<b>18 July</b>
	Community Church Day Camp	Community Church Day Camp	Community Church Day Camp	Community Church Day Camp	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>19 July</b>	<b>20 July</b>	<b>21 July</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>23 July</b>	<b>24 July</b>	<b>25 July</b>
 <b>TERM 4 RECOMMENCES</b>  Yr 9R/W AFL NSW Program	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 11 PDHPE	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 9 Textiles Yr 12 PDHPE  Yr 10 into Yr 11 2011 Info Evening – JLPA Centre	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr10 Textiles (Part B)  Yr 9B AFL NSW Program	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 12 Textiles & Design  NSW All School's & PSSA Cross Country  Yr 12 Ext. English Exc – Sydney	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre