



# The Arndell Advocate

Friday September 10, 2010

The Newsletter of Arndell Anglican College

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## *From The Headmaster*

*Mr Gareth Leechman*



***"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal'. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."***

This is but a small excerpt from the now famous ten minute public speech by Martin Luther King Jr. in which he called for racial equality and an end to discrimination. King's delivery of the speech on August 28, 1963, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, was a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement. Delivered to over 200,000 civil rights supporters the speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century by a 1999 poll of scholars of public address. With the election of President Barack Obama in 2008 King's dream had largely become a reality.

Dreams are important for without dreams nothing of any real significance can happen. This theme of dreams was something that we reflected upon in our most recent meeting of College Council. Like any school or college of quality we reflect on what has been achieved as well as think about what we would like to achieve in the future – in effect we dream. Some dreams are mundane whilst some are very very grand. So what is we dreamed? What is it that the College Council would like to see achieved here at Arndell in the next 5, 10, 15, 20+ years?

Firstly, that we become a college known for its quality of teaching and learning. This is the very backbone of our service and we want our students to develop and learn skills which will prepare them well for life beyond Arndell. We want all of our teachers, regardless of the subject or the year that they teach, to take responsibility for the achievements of the students under their care. We want our staff to reflect on their performance and look continually at ways they can improve and we want to support them in this endeavour by making sure they have access to and time to attend quality professional development.

Secondly, we want to become a college known for its successful integration of ICT facilities. Across the college we have some 500 computers, 85% of our classrooms have access to interactive whiteboards and this year we have commenced our laptop program to our Year 11 and 12 students. We have a well resourced website which even allows parents and students to access their files via the portal connection. This year we have commenced using our video conferencing facility thus allowing our students to access quality educators from around the Sydney region and beyond.

Thirdly, we want to expand. We have a property out at North Richmond which in time we may want to use as a site for a feeder school, or it may become an integral part of our agriculture program. We are considering expanding our subject offerings by looking at agriculture, photography and studies of religion. This week we have advertised for two more Junior School staff and yes this means that we will definitely be removing one of our composite classes if not both for next year. We want to see the college grow back to the numbers that we enjoyed

a few years ago and we have every indication that we will grow next year something we have not achieved for several years.

But there are also some big dreams, dreams such as The Great Hall of Arndell where the whole college would be able to sit in a covered space! How does this happen, well not in the near future, but wouldn't it be great if we could purchase more property and build more buildings and playing fields to add to the wonderful resources our low fee school enjoys.

If Martin Luther King Jr. didn't dream we may never have seen the first African American President. If the founding parents here at Arndell didn't dream then we may never have had Arndell. We will never stop dreaming for if we do the college will stop evolving and this is something we can't allow to happen. I hope that you (and your friends) will join us in our dreams so that we can turn them into realities.

## *From the Acting Head of Junior School:*

*Mr James Webb*



What a busy life we have in the Junior School. I have been truly blessed to be a part of this exciting adventure over the past eight weeks. Moving from classroom to classroom seeing the excitement in the children's faces as they learn new concepts or manage to stay inside the lines when they colour in or their first foray into a team sport where co-operation is crucial to success. All of these wonderful experiences are occurring daily in the lives of your children and I thank the teachers on your behalf for bringing their world alive.

**THRASS** is going along in leaps and bounds and provides for us all a new learning experience. I spent a great evening with the THRASS team at the College and a group of parents. Learning new jargon, often daunting, but at the same time developing a more sensible approach to reading and forming words. All was met with great enthusiasm. I thank Mary Zahn, Sarah Jones, Rene O'Hare, Jo Harrison and Christine Finn for an evening of fun, giving parents the ability to understand what their children are talking about.

**Junior School Assemblies** on a Monday morning are a place where we can celebrate the great things that your children do. I urge you to drop in a join us in congratulating the children for their achievements.

### **Car Parking:**

The basket ball car park is opened in the afternoon from 2.50pm. As of next term it will be locked until that time. The space is often used as a thoroughfare to the library or to other classrooms and having cars on the court before that time puts your children at risk of being seriously injured.

### **Kiss and Drop**

There is a growing tendency for parents to drop off their children, park the car and then have a chat with other parents. Please, please, please in the interests of sanity, as it is very busy in the morning and in the afternoon, observe the designated signs. Kiss and Drop simply means that – say goodbye and drive away. If you wish to stay longer, which we welcome, please park your car in the car park. There is plenty of space in the car park at the bottom of the Junior Oval.

### **Equestrian Carnival**

On the radar and all systems go! Can you help? Cook a snag, assist in the rings or simply be there to make some coffee for the workers. It is a great day and a showcase for the College. If you can help please drop your name off at student services or see Laura Thorpe.

Thanks for all you do.

# Arndell Anglican College Directory:

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

## Term Dates for 2010

### 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.

## Term Dates for 2011

### Term 1

Monday 31 Jan. – Prep, K, Yrs 7, 11 & Yr 12 Prefects only.

Tuesday 1 Feb – All remaining students

Friday 8 Apr – term 2 Finishes

### Term 2

Tuesday 26 Apr to Friday 24 June

### Term 3

Tuesday 19 Jul to Fri 23 Sept.

### Term 4

Tuesday 11 Oct to Thursday 8 Dec.

- Tuesday 6 Dec – Infants Presentation Afternoon
- Wed 7 Dec – Primary School Presentation Evening
- Thurs 8 Dec – Senior School Presentation Evening

## Contact Numbers in case of Emergencies

Parents,

To assist us in case of emergencies at the College (e.g. when students miss their bus or medical emergencies) or changes of addresses/phone numbers, we are asking parents to **notify in writing** to the Admin office these changes so that the College records are kept up to date

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Fairs.**


**HUGE SPRING-CLEAN  
CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE**  
*Thousands of great titles to choose from!*  
PRICED FROM AS LOW AS \$1.00!

**THREE DAYS ONLY!**  
Wed 15, Thurs 16 &  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> September  
9.00am – 5.30pm

Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse  
Gate 3, Building 2  
76-80 Railway Crescent  
Lisarow

Don't miss out!

For more information Ph: 1800 024 840 or  
email [bookfairs@scholastic.com.au](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.com.au)



## Musical Munchkins Playgroup

Tuesday 9.30-11.30am

\$2.00 per child \$5.00 per family

Arndell Anglican College (Old Prep Room)

Contact: Naomi Ireland

4580 9602/0419 213 254



## Arndell Sports Desk:

from Mrs R Cornick



**HICES Primary Athletics Team:** Congratulations to the following students who were selected on their performance at the HICES carnival to represent Arndell and HICES at the CIS Athletics Championships on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Full results are posted on our Arndell Webpage under Sporting News and Results.

Lucas Bigeni, Zack Webb, Maddison Miller, Cooper Elven, Joshua Muller and Hannah Leechman.

**AICES Secondary Athletics Carnival:** Congratulations to the following students who were selected on their performance at the AICES carnival to represent Arndell and AICES at the CIS Athletics Championships on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Full results are posted on our AICES Webpage.

Jacob Roberts, Andrew Bennet, CJ Thomas, Luke Croft, John Grayson.

### Dates for Term 3:

- **CIS Secondary Athletics Carnival – 14<sup>th</sup> September – Homebush**
- **CIS 15s Cricket Trials – 16<sup>th</sup> September – Nominations due 9<sup>th</sup> September**
- **CIS Primary Athletics Carnival – 21<sup>st</sup> September – Homebush**
- **AICES 15s Tennis Nominations due – 24<sup>th</sup> September – competition 15<sup>th</sup> October.**
- **NSW All Schools Athletics – 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October – Homebush – Individual entry 12yrs +.**

**A respectful 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 indicated on 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. In the case of CIS if you nominate and do not trial or withdraw students will still incur the fee.

**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 is being 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](http://www.hillszone.com.au) parents are encouraged to access this webpage for all HZSA information, results and draws. There is NO website for HICES.

## Year 12 Buddies:

from Mrs Rene O'Hare



From the beginning of term 3 the Junior School classes from Prep to Year 6 'adopted' Year 12 students to pray for (and spoil) for the remainder of their school career. The students embraced this endeavour with gusto with some classes spoiling their buddies with chocolates while others had morning tea or lunch with theirs, but all of them were prayed for in Devotion times.



The Year 12 students were introduced to the Junior School at one of our Monday morning assemblies and Nicola Solomou and James Bickerstaff thanked the Junior School Students for their prayers and support and encouraged them to keep working hard. We have a number of Year 12 students who started their School careers in Kindy at Arndell which made their presence at our Assembly even more special.

Our prayer for the Year 12 students is that they successful in their future endeavors and that the awesome God who created them and gave



will continue to study; that they will be they will acknowledge and get to know them the ability to do so.



## *Points From the P&F*

What a night it was! August 21<sup>st</sup> may have been a let down for politicians but we had a great time!

Everyone arrived looking quite splendid, there was champagne and canapés, beautiful music, sparkling twinkle lights, good food from the Hawkesbury Race Club (ok, except for the blueberry tart ☺), wonderful memories and anecdotes from our past Headmasters Mr Laffin and Dr Goddard, an inspiring speech from the inimitable Mr James Webb who led us through the life and times of Arndell College ... funny, thoughtful and moving ... the P&F presented the first of 9 Honour Boards to Mr Leechman – the full set will grace the walls of the auditorium giving inspiration to our students (when they're supposed to be paying attention in Assembly!) – and then we danced the night away!

The highlight of the evening though had to be when Mr Leechman announced the auction of a pair of Mr Webb's socks – beautifully framed and signed by the owner!!! Unfortunately Mr Webb didn't get that memo so he knew absolutely nothing about it ... I don't think he'll be signing anything Mrs Webb gives him in the future ... and he'll be keeping an eye on his washing!!!

Bidding was furious between Rohan Smith – who wanted the socks as a trophy for his office wall – Connie Stephens who thought they would make a fine addition to the Snr Library and Mrs Brenda King, who just wanted to win! Mrs King then very generously donated the socks to the College on the proviso that they are hung, proudly and prominently, in the Auditorium.

The look on Mr Webb's face ... PRICELESS!!!!

Many thanks to our sponsors: Meredith Langley - The Beauty Room, Richmond; Steve & Lee Finnane - Kurrajong Trails and Cottages; Christine Calabria - The Artisans' Retreat; Donna Pellew - Unique Floral Creations; The Vault Restaurant – Windsor.

We're already thinking about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Foundation Dinner so keep an eye out for the date and put it in your diary straight away.

And now it's time for me to take a bow and exit , stage left ... as Mr Leechman noted in last week's Newsflash, I have made the decision (somewhat reluctantly) to step down as President. My own business needs more of my attention than I have been giving it so I have had to let go of my main 'distraction'. I would like to thank all the fantastic parents and staff I've had the privilege to work with on Fun Days, Equestrian Carnivals, Golf Days, Christmas Hamper, Trivia Nights and many other occasions over the years and encourage everyone to continue supporting the P&F and its important role in the Arndell College Community.

It has been a particularly satisfying year for me personally as I've seen the end result of several years of planning and 'negotiating' for projects such as the uniform shop move (with sink!), the new sign at the senior school entrance, the new marquees and, at last, a central storage area for all things P&F! Yay!

My most special thanks though must go to Barbra Whelan who, since joining the College about 7 years ago has made this job so much easier - and to Donna Pellew who has been my Vice President twice and President in between times ... bit of a tag team thing happening ... and who is taking over again for the rest of the year – without her I would have given up long ago. Please treat her gently and give her all the help and support you can.

# Arndell Equestrian



*Laura Thorpe & Anna MacDonald*

Organisation is well under way for the annual **Arndell Equestrian Carnival, to be held on Saturday, 25th September at Clarendon Showground** – a great showcase for the College, and great day for our students competing.

The Equestrian Committee is a great team of willing workers and are now meeting every Monday at school to finalise preparations for the event. However, more help is always appreciated so if you'd like to lend a hand on the day or help the organisation beforehand just let us know at [equestrian@arndell.nsw.edu.au](mailto:equestrian@arndell.nsw.edu.au) – the more the merrier!

### **More Helpers are Needed on the Day:**

Teachers, staff and students are all welcome to help. We are only asking for ONE hour of your time on the day between the hours of 10am-3pm. Please contact Laura if you are available to time keep or sell guessing competition tickets during those hours. Thank you to those parents and staff who have already offered their assistance to help out on the day. Much appreciated.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Camden High School Equestrian Carnival 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010, includes showjumping
- Tara Anglican School for Girls Dressage Day 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010
- Oxley College Equestrian Day 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010
- Arndell Equestrian Carnival 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010

# Arndell Anglican College Annual Golf Day

16<sup>th</sup> September 2010

WINDSOR County Golf Club

7.30am Breakfast

8.30am Shotgun Start – 4 Person Ambrose

cost \$65

(Includes Game, Breakfast & lunch)

## Sponsorship

\$250

One all inclusive entry to the golf day  
Sponsorship of a hole (signage supplied  
by Sponsor.)

Promotion of Sponsor on Arndell

Website for remainder of 2010

Distribution of Promotion Material on  
day (material supplied by sponsor)

\$375

Two all inclusive entries to the golf day + Golf Cart  
Sponsorship of a hole (signage supplied  
by Sponsor.)

Promotion of Sponsor on Arndell

Website for remainder of 2010

Distribution of Promotion Material on  
day (material supplied by sponsor)

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## Arndell Anglican College Annual Golf Day 2010 Booking Form

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship

Yes

No

Payment Enclosed

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Arndell P&F Association

For more information Call Jonathon Carter on 0425 205 688, [jenn4jon@bigpond.com](mailto:jenn4jon@bigpond.com);  
or Gordon Reid on 0407 273 751

### *Thinking THRASS:*

*from Mrs Zahn*

On Wednesday evening a little group of interested parents attended the THRASS Information Evening in the Junior Learning Centre. The evening began with nibbles and conversations followed by thinking THRASS.

Parents were informed that THRASS is an acronym for 'Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Skills'.

At Arndell we have your children's Literacy skills at heart and have decided to embrace the THRASS teaching tool to improve our students' skills. Parents were reminded that THRASS is not a program, but a teaching tool. Explicit teaching in classrooms is still of utmost importance and our teachers all include and implement this valuable tool in their programs and rooms. We have seen improvements in Reading, Writing, Handwriting and Spelling.

The parents, under the guidance of Mrs Jones, played some THRASS games and showed that they were already very capable participants...their children must be fantastic teachers!

Mrs Jones also reminded the parents that the letters of the alphabet do not make sounds unless they are in a word.

Mrs O'Hare spoke about the way she implements the chart in teaching Grammar and Mrs Zahn gave more ideas to help students at home and gave information about the future direction THRASS will take once students are all familiar with the 44 phonemes, the 120 THRASS words and their co-ordinates on the charts.

Thank you to all the parents who showed interest and to Mrs. Zahn who is the driving force behind our THRASS efforts.