

The Arndell Advocate

Monday 14 March 2010 The Newsletter of Arndell Anglican College

From The Headmaster

Mr Gareth Leechman

My School 2.0

Over the past week we have seen the launch of the latest 'my school 2.0' website which is meant to supersede the older version and is now meant to provide to the public more detailed information about each school in Australia. By making available to the public contextual information about each school, publishing NAPLAN performance data and



revealing the financial data of each school the Federal government is hoping to better inform parent education choice and hold each school accountable for their performance through a transparent process.

My feelings on the website and NAPLAN have not changed since last year – in short there are serious limitations in the NAPLAN tests themselves and the website in my opinion provides too simplistic an analysis of the performance of a school and its impact on a child's education. Having said this, a child's literacy and numeracy capacity is of vital importance to a child's ability to engage with the curriculum and that is why we have integrated these skills across our curriculum delivery in the Junior and Senior Schools. That is why I believe our students are well placed to handle the upcoming NAPLAN tests without needing to be specifically taught to the test.

However I also stand by the statements that I made last year regarding accountability and transparency – this is something that we at Arndell have always had to deal with. We provide an annual report which highlights in detail our performance in state based tests, it highlights areas of school improvement and provides a detailed account of our financial position. I also maintain that each year the community tells me how they value the education offered at Arndell by the number of students who enrol at the college. This year alone has seen an enrolment growth of 4%, this is a pretty good indicator that the college is seen as offering a good education for a reasonable price. Just this week I have interviewed six prospective students who wish to start at the college now and the number of interviews for Year 7 2012 is almost at record numbers, we may open a fourth class for 2012!

This argument has been well summed up in a press release by the Chief Executive for the Australian Heads of Independent Schools Association Mr Allan Shaw – "If Independent Schools aren't delivering value, if they're not doing the best by their students or meeting their parent's expectations, then they will not thrive. This is a far more stringent form of accountability than a comparison of numbers on the My School site ". In the same press release Mr Shaw also makes an excellent summary of what we are trying to achieve here at Arndell – "The best schooling outcomes occur when schools and parents align their focus on the development of students, when the quality of teaching is high and school leaders have the autonomy to deliver strong educational leadership. When school communities are student-centred, public comparisons of school data become a second order priority.'

The most divisive issue so far has been in relation to the release of the financial data for each school, whether they be government, catholic systemic or independent. A variety of positions have already been hotly debated and a great deal of unnecessary angst has been created in a variety of school communities. From our perspective at Arndell the facts are that:

- 1. Federal funding accounts for 38.5% of income in 2009
- 2. State funding accounts for 23.1 % of income in 2009
- 3. Parents contribution accounts for 38.5% of income in 2009

This data has been produced from the 'My School 2.0' website and I have used the data from this website as this is the official position of the Federal government. The reality is that we receive almost 60% of our income from the Federal and State governments combined – the rest is paid by you our parents in after tax income. The reality is that you are saving the government money by contributing in this way and hence you are also providing the government with the opportunity to increase funding to public schools where there is great need. Added to this is the fact that the government does not have to take on the lion's share of my capital expenditure, that is, the buildings and resources that we currently enjoy. Yes the Independent school sector spends more per capita on each student, but they do so as a result of each parent willing to contribute to the cost of educating their child in after tax income.

Currently there is a federal review (called the Gonski Review) on how schools are funded with the express purpose of recommending a model which provides an equitable distribution of funds to the education sector. It will be interesting to see the results of this review because if there is to be significant changes to how we are currently funded it may have the impact of driving up our fees thus taking away from many of our parents their capacity to choose Arndell as the place they would like to educate their child.

I will look with interest to see how the community responds to the My School 2.0 website and the subsequent discussion on private school funding.

Head of Junior School: Rev'd Keith Peterson

Trying to stop change is a bit like trying to stop the seasons – 'eternal summer, it seems, only really exists on that Beach Boys soundtrack!? And why would we really want it otherwise, when the inspiration towards innovation and change has brought us so many benefits?

And yet, 'change for change sake' can feel out of control and randomly out of meaning? It seems that change works best when we can believe in it best; when it comes not just with unproven pressures, but with proven benefits.



Not so long ago the Junior School set a course for carefully pre-meditated change when the decision was taken to introduce the THRASS Spelling Program right across the Junior School, from Prep to Year 6. It was both an innovative and educationally intelligent initiative, wonderfully led by Mrs Mary Zahn and ably supported by the whole Junior School Staff and designed with one single, defining aim – to extend the potential for achievement to all of our students by introducing a key to progress in spelling equably open to all of our children.

I have been involved in literacy education for many years, but the THRASS training I attended in Bankstown at the end of the summer holiday was a paradigm shift for me – it somersaulted some of my previous ideas about 'this is how spelling works' around and I found myself beginning to look at how language works from a completely different place.

And from a much better, co-ordinated place – because it is an integrated one, and an accessible one to grow and to learn from. It is also a wonderfully informed one; when I was in Junior School we never spoke of 'phonemes' and 'graphemes' and our international phonemic reference chart stopped at Liverpool!

But it is not so for our children, with their learned ability to 'THRASS out' words and to join sounds to letters, and to make words which in turn become windows into their own reading and writing.

THRASS is indicative of the right kind of change – and sets the precedent towards educational innovation and excellence in practice which we are utterly committed to pursuing at Arndell College Junior School.

Every blessing!

A brief introduction to Biblical Studies at Arndell

Why 'Biblical Studies'? One of the great things about Arndell is that it has an open enrolment policy. Thus our students come from a range of backgrounds and hold diverse beliefs so we will not assume that they are Christians in the classroom. In that sense the term 'Christian Living' seems inappropriate as many, perhaps most, of our students would not call themselves Christians let alone be overly concerned with living like one. We also do not want to confuse students and have them think that their lifestyle or moral choices are what makes them a Christian and buys them a ticket to heaven. Nor do we want students to take on a persona and 'try on' a Christian lifestyle in the hope that they will be tricked into liking it and stumbling into a Christian faith. One of the key roles of Biblical Studies is to enable all the students to make an informed choice and a genuine response to the claims in the biblical text. To aid these students they are more than welcome to voice their stance for or against Christianity (in an appropriate fashion) and are encouraged to ask many questions of their Biblical Studies teachers.

Biblical Studies is taught as an academic course with assessments and reports and all students are expected to engage thoroughly with the course as this is part of their conditions of enrolment so that the school can fulfil the charter under which it was set up and live up to its motto: Learning Through Christ. Engaging thoroughly includes purchasing required textbooks and bringing a Bible to class as well as making a serious attempt at all assessment tasks and class work. We will tolerate opposition and disagreement but not wilful ignorance. Your children are in our care and it would be irresponsible of us to neglect teaching them about something of eternal significance. That said we cannot make anyone become a Christian, that work is up to the Holy Spirit, and so we merely present rather than enforce Christianity here at Arndell.

More detail about what your child is being taught and the aims of this course will be available on the school website very soon. If you have any questions or concerns about the course, or more general questions about the Bible and Christianity, please feel free to contact me. Ph: 4545 2406 Email: sam.jackson@arndell.nsw.edu.au

From the Learning Support Dept.

Special Provisions in HSC and School Certificate

Applications are underway for special provisions in external tests: HSC and School Certificate. They are usually not available for NAPLAN. If your child has a learning, visual or hearing difficulty, or a medical issue, please contact Donna Allen on 4545 2401 to see if they might be eligible for Special Provisions.

In addition to this, parent readers and writers will be needed for the School Certificate and the preceding school exams for the Year 10 group. If you can offer a day of your time, please email Mrs. Allen on donna.allen@arndell.nsw.edu.au. We have a small, dedicated group of helpers that needs to grow so we can cover all students' needs.

Peer tutors

Year 7 students will train on Thursdays at lunchtimes for a few weeks starting 10th March. Please encourage your children to participate. Students of any year group (that are new to peer tutoring and/or untrained) join the Yr 7 group please.

Year 8-11 students can do a refresher course on Tuesday of next week in DLC and this is mandatory. Any student relinquishing this role must hand Mrs. Allen a written note to be taken off the system.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about whether your child has special needs, please call Mrs. Allen to discuss or make an appointment on 4545 2401 or email donna.allen@arndell.nsw.edu.au. All previous testing documents and/or educational reports need to be provided (as per our enrolment policy) so we can best help our students to succeed.

Arndell Anglican College Directory

Headmaster:Mr Gareth LeechmanHead of Senior School:Mr James WebbHead of Junior School:Rev Keith PetersonDirector of Studies:Mrs Lynn Gillen

After School Care: 0407 474 161 (3.30- 5.30pm)

P & F President: Mrs Donna Pellew

0417 774 545

Equestrian: Mrs Laura Thorpe: 0416 212 260

equestrian@arndell.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Anna MacDonald: 0410 443 122

equestrian@arndell.nsw.edu.au

Funday Mrs Joanne Selff : 0421 648 771

Mrs Rachael Aldacour: 0412 691 210

rachaldacour@bigpond.com

Uniform Shop: Mrs Liz Moore: 4572 3254

Tuesday/Thursday

8.20-10.30am/2.30-4.pm

Canteen: Monday-Friday

(Recess/Lunch)

Arndell Community Pastor Greg Peisley

Church: 4572 3633/0402 278 483

Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday

Important 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

Wednesday 27 Apr to Friday 24 June

Term 3

Tuesday 19 Jul to Fri 23 Sept.

• Years 7-11 Camps (Wed. 21 to Fri. 23 Sept.)

Term 4

Tuesday 11 Oct to Thursday 8 Dec.

- Yr 10 Work Experience (Monday 21 Nov. To Fri. 2 Dec.)
- Tuesday 6 Dec Infants Presentation Afternoon
- Wednesday 7 Dec Primary Presentation Evening
- Thursday 8 Dec Senior School Presentation Evening

Adolescent School-Based Vaccination Program 2011

Information for Vaccinations for Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis Chickenpox and HPV for Year 7 and 10 students have been handed out to students this week.

Parents, could you please fill these in and return them back to Administration before April 8th 2011. Vaccinations will take place on 7th June here at the College.

If the form is not returned back to the College, then vaccinations would need to be done by your own Medical Doctor.

Scholarships for 2012

Arndell is offering Academic, All Rounder and Music Scholarships for 2012 entry into Years 7, 9 and 11

Scholarship information is available from the College Administration office

Applications close: Friday 8 April 2011 **Exam Date:** Saturday 14 May 2011

Reminder - Enrolments for 2012

The Headmaster is conducting interviews for Year 7 2012, if you have a sibling for entry into Year 7 for 2012 and you have not been contacted for an interview, please contact the PA to the Headmaster.

Water Day at Arndell

On Wednesday 23 Feb, Stage 1 at Arndell Anglican College held a Water Fun Day. All the students from Prep to Year 2 participated in a variety of activities that involved playing with water. The activities included a water relay, throwing sponges filled with water at a target and painting chalk drawings with brushes and water. But the most popular game was throwing water bombs to each other. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by both parents and students









HZSA Year 5 Gala Day

On Wednesday 2nd of March, Year 5 participated in a T-Ball and League Tag gala day. The day was conducted at Kellyville Park and it included a skills session with NSW Rugby League. The students completed the skills session and then were able to play some games and use their new skills. A non-competitive T-Ball competition was also held on the day with teams playing 4 to 5 games against different schools including Pacific Hills, William Clarke College, Tangara and Rouse Hill Anglican College. The students had a brilliant day and were very successful in both sports. Both Mr Catt and Mrs Jones would like to thank Year 5 for their excellent behavior and sportsmanship which truly made us proud! Well Done Guys! We'd also like to thank Bronsen Tunbridge, Michael Coyle, Ben Rodgers, Connor Moore, Alex Earl and John Linden Carpinato from the Secondary School for their eager participation and organisation of their teams!

Arndell Wins the Senior Boys Cricket: by Adam Roberts

Arndell beats William Clark to take out the Hills Zone trophy with a convincing win by 10 wickets. Photo courtesy of Robert Charles.

The senior boy's cricket team of Arndell Anglican College started the 2010-2011 season as underdogs and went on to become premiers. We entered the season playing without a full team and the first game was narrowly lost, with Arndell using a team of only 6 players.

The Arndell senior boys cricket team, managed by Mr Young and led by Taylor Charles (Captain) was made up of senior and intermediate students; Sebastian Goldrick, Harry Stever, Trent Watkins, Adam Roberts, Tom Moyes, Dylan Charles, Aidan Burke, Matt Watson, Jake Carpenter, C J Thomas and Nick Tagg.



The team went on to win the minor premiership, finishing on top of the table. As a team, we bowled tightly, fielded well and had a strong batting line up. As the season progressed, the quality of play lifted and the first game of the season was the only loss. A forfeit round towards the end of the season nearly ended our chances of becoming minor premiers; however the team went on to victory by winning the remaining two games.

The grand final against William Clarke was played with our first full strength team of eleven. The team stepped up and played brilliantly, bowling William Clarke out for 75 runs, with wickets falling to Nick Tagg, Seb Goldrick, Dylan Charles, Adam Roberts, Harry Stever and Jake Carpenter.

The run chase, headed by Captain Taylor Charles and brother Dylan, was successful and both batsmen received a not out score. We won by 10 wickets, scoring the runs with ease.

The 2010-2011 senior boys cricket team is the first team for the college to win the Hills Zone cricket competition.

News from the P&F. Mrs Donna Pellew - President

The Parents and friends Association welcomes all the new and existing parents back to school. We are looking forward to a new and exciting year ahead with some changes to the way we do some things with the P&F but keeping all our favourite events.

We all know school life can be busy and hectic not just for the students but us parents too. With this in mind the P&F have booked all our meeting and fundraising events early this year. All the dates can found in the student diary, on the school website and on the P&F notice board.

I encourage all parents to attend as many if not all meeting and events as possible. Meetings are a wonderful opportunity to get to know the teachers and staff and to discover what the year holds for the students and the school. Fundraising events such as Family Fun Day, Golf Day and Trivia Night are terrific way to meet other parents and to have a great time.

Our first meeting of the year is the P&F AGM to be held on Tuesday 15^{th} March at 7.30pm in the Junior School Library. Mark in your diary, keep this date free and we look forward to seeing you there.



From the Head of Sports: Mrs Rosemary Cornick

Arndell Sports Desk

Senior School Sport:

CIS Open Girls Tennis Championships: Congratulations to Olivia Buccini (Yr 11) who finished 3rd overall. Unfortunately only the top 2 gained selection into the CIS team.

HZSA Open Hockey Team: Congratulations to Rosalee Petersen Yr 11 who gained selection to compete at the AICES Opens Hockey Trials on Monday 9th May at Newcastle.

CIS Golf Championships: Congratulations to both Matthew Robertson Yr 11 & CJ Thomas Yr 12 who have both gained selection in the CIS golf team to compete at All Schools Championships on



Lachlan Humphrey and Dieter Hoffman competed in the Individual event

Zac Woodley, Zac Elven & Jack Wiese competed in the Junior team event

Tim McAlpine, Ben Monds, Tom Zahn competed in the Intermediate team event.

HZSA Inter School Sport

Commiserations to the Junior Boys Cricket team who lost their Semi Final against William Clarke College.

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Cricket team who were awarded the HZSA Premiership after a convincing win over William Clarke College in the Final.

HZSA Swimming Championships: Friday March 4th Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush. Another successful day for our swimmers who were motivated to swim their very best after watching an number of Aussie hopefuls including Geoff Huegill and Eamon Sullivan training prior to the carnival. Julian Swann scored an autographed swim cap which he donated back to the college. This will be framed and hung in the Gym. Thank you to Miss Southwell was carnival announcer and Mr Webb representing Mr Leechman as HZSA President and all the parents and families who came to support our team.

The team performances:

Championship Shield: Arndell 4th Arden 3rd, Marian College 2nd William Clarke 1st.

Girls Championship Shield: Arndell 6th Boys Championship Shield Arndell 8th

HZSA Girls Age Champions Katie MacDonald 15yrs Girls

Arndell Anglican College, 118 Wolseley Rd., Oakville 2765 (PO Box 4063 Pitt Town 2756)
P: 02 4572 3633 F: 02 4572 3849 E: enquiries@arndell.nsw.edu.au Website: www.arndell.nsw.edu.au



Kimberlee Currell 17vrs Girls

Dieter Hoffman Runner Up 17yrs Boys

Isabella Garland placing 4th in the 18 Girls and Tia Sutton placing 3rd in the 16 Girls Individual rankings.

15 -16 Girls Relay team: Tia Sutton, Brooke Saunders, Natalie Otten and Katie MacDonald finished 2nd

Full Results and the HZSA Squad to compete at the AICES championships on March 23rd will be posted on the Sports Notice Board when available this week.

Important dates for Senior School Representative Sport nominations:

Open Rugby 7s Championships: Thursday 31st March at Hills Grammar. Interested students are to see Mrs Cornick.

HZSA Girls Football Trials Monday 28th March at Rouse Hill Anglican College

HZSA Boys Football Trials Wednesday 30th March at Rouse Hill Anglican College

Junior School Sport:

Yr 5 HZSA Gala Dav: See report from Mrs Jones & Mr Catt.

HICES Swimming Championships: Tuesday March 8th.Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush. What a terrific day we had. The team looked splendid in their costumes and new caps. Arndell took a squad of 34 students who swam their very best. Their commitment was awesome! Arndell finished 5th overall in Division 1 having been moved up after last year's performance. All our swimmers did very well, though the girls proved to have the stronger results with our Senior A relay team finishing 1st and making selection into the HICES team, the Senior B team coming 3rd and the Junior Girls team finishing in 2nd. There is a bundle of ribbons to be presented to both boys and girls at Monday's assembly. Thank you to Mr Catt for helping as a timekeeper and all the parents and grandparents who came along to support which added to the atmosphere. Students will be notified when the final results are received as to their selection into the HICES Swimming Squad to compete at CIS on March 22nd.

HZSA Primary Rugby 7s Competition March 17th at Hills Grammar. Arndell will also be competing in the Regional Finals at the end of March.

Important dates for Junior School Representative Sport nominations:

HICES Primary Netball Trials. March 16^{th} at Hills Grammar. Mrs Chan is trialling and selecting a Primary team to compete in this selection trial.

HICES Primary Girls & Boys Football (soccer) March 17th. The following boys have been selected to trial for a position in the HICES team Jake Bigeni & William Fitzgerald.

NSWAFL - Paul Kelly Cup May 3rd. Mr Walker is trialling and coaching a team for this competition. More information will follow. Any senior students wishing to assist please see Mr Walker. Any junior students from yr 5 & 6 who wish to have a go and play in the team see Mr Walker.

NSWAFL is running an Afterschool Skills Session for students aged 5-12 starting March 4th every Friday for 6 weeks on the Junior Oval at a cost of \$35. If your child is interested in joining please turn up on Friday and speak to the AFL coaches.

The Sports webpage is currently being revised and all sport dates for 2011will be up on the Sport webpage in Extra Curricular Activities shortly. Sport information for HZSA, AICES & NSWCIS can be downloaded from the relevant sites:

www.hillszonesport.com.au; www.aices.com.au and www.nswais.com.au

Unfortunately HICES does not have a website at the moment and is looking for interested parties to assist. Mrs Cornick

Family Funday Meeting

8.45am Tuesday 29th March - Board Room in Admin Building.

We are holding a Family Funday meeting and we would love some new team members to join our small friendly group.

If you are unable to make this meeting any offers of help, donations or suggestions would be more than welcome.

Contact - Joanne Selff - 0421 648771

- Rachael Aldacour - 0412691210

Please contact us on email - mailto:funday@arndell.nsw.edu.au

Banking at Arndell Junior School

The Junior School takes part in an education program run by the Commonwealth Bank which is designed to encourage saving among students and to start and support their initial learning in financial literacy. Any student enrolling in the scheme becomes part of the 'Dollarmites Club' and will receive an introductory pack.

In the next week the Junior School will be sending home application forms for banking. If your child already has a bank, please feel free to send the form back to School. If you wish to support your child in setting up their own account, then please follow the instructions in the given pack.

The Banking Day for Arndell Junior School is **Thursday**.

If you have any further questions about the Commonwealth Bank Financial Literacy initiative, please kindly contact Miss Sarah Todd at School Administration.

Rev Keith Peterson - Head of Junior School

Equestrian News Anna MacDonald - Team Manager

The NSW Interschool Championships were held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre on the $3^{\rm rd}$ - $6^{\rm th}$ March. Arndell was represented by a strong team of 18 riders competing in all disciplines, across all 4 days. This event saw over 500 riders from 52 schools across NSW competing and I am proud to announce that Arndell finished $5^{\rm th}$ overall out of 52 schools. This is an amazing effort and I would like to thank all the riders and especially the parents who spend endless hours preparing both rider and mount making competition possible. Congratulations to all who attended, I hope you had a wonderful and memorable experience. Results are as follows:

 $\textbf{Combined Training 60 cm Jnr}: \textbf{Maddison Knox } 2^{nd}$

Merri Lee 19th

Combined Training 60 cm Int: Katie MacDonald 5th Eventing Newcomers Int: Gabby Saunders 9th Eventing Intro Int: Jaimee Robertson 7th Eventing Intro Senior: Danielle Knox 7th Eventing Pre-novice: Anneka Saunders 11th

Taylor Robertson 13th

Vaulting: Orlagh Fitzgerald 3rd - Individual Novice Compulsories

3rd - Pas de Deux Novice

 $2^{\mbox{\scriptsize nd}}$ - Team Compulsories and Freestyle

Showman 3 phase Jnr: Genevieve Ramsey 19th Showman 3 phase Int: Amelia Ramsey 14th Showman 3 phase Senior: Nicki Ramm 18th

Emmie Rose Shore 26th

Showman 45 cm Jnr: Ebony Ramm 6^{th}

Merri Lee 26th

Showman 45 cm Int: Jessica Pye 18th

Showman 60 cm Senior: Stephanie Cormack 3rd

Dressage: Ashley Clarke- Preliminary Intermediate 2nd-74% 1D

 $12^{\text{th}\text{-}}\,64\%\;1C$

Merri Lee - Preliminary Junior 62.7%

Cassi Brett - Overall (junior, intermediate and senior) Reserve Dressage

Champion

There are more Dressage results to come

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tara Dressage/Gymkhana on the 27th March. Entries have now closed Oxley College Equestrian Carnival on the 1st May, entries via www.nominate.com.au
Excursion to the Sydney CDI Thursday 28th April, details to follow







Arndell Community Church Contact: Greg Peisley 4572 3262

Bible Study:

Want to know what your children are learning?
Are you looking for answers to questions about God & Jesus?
Fridays 9.30am
Arndell Staff Common Room

Musical Munchkins Playgroup:

\$2.00 per child \$5.00 per family at Arndell Anglican College

For Your Information:

Two courses to help you understand the Bible from Moore College and brought to you by . . .

Pitt Town Anglican Community Church

Theology Certificate

When: Thursdays 7.30pm – 9pm Where: Pitt Town Subject: John (gospel & letters) Contact: Terry Herder – 4580 8050/4572 3262

Email: therder@bigpond.com

Preliminary Theological Course

When: Thursdays 7.30 pm – 9pm
Where: St James Church Hall
110 Bathurst St. Pitt Town
Subject: New Testament
Contact: John Cowne – 4572 3262
Email: jcowne@exemail.com.au