



ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

"News Flash"

Monday 13 February 2012



On behalf of the Headmaster: Mr Gareth Leechman

Quality Teaching

Last Monday night on the ABC Four Corners they did an excellent expose on education and what makes a difference to the educational outcomes of students. The expose is timely as we are about to discover the findings of the federal governments review of school funding which was chaired by David Gonski. The obvious agenda was whether financial resources of a school were making a difference to the educational outcomes experienced by its students. The interesting findings were that the most significant differences in educational outcomes were experienced by schools who focused on quality teaching practices – not the amount of government funding they received.

Three schools were reported on: Toronto High School (Newcastle), Knox Grammar School and a newly created cluster school in Melbourne. All three schools had Principals with a significant amount of autonomy over budgets, school structure and staff appointments. All three school Principals believed that quality teachers made a difference and they each had appointed members staff to oversee the development of teacher quality in their schools. As a result of creating a teaching culture where the teaching staff regularly reflects on their teaching practice, which focuses them on seeking ways of engaging their students, all three schools had recorded significant improvements in the educational outcomes of their students.

The focus of these three schools is the focus that Arndell has set itself over the past two years – that is teachers do make a difference. The appointment of Mr Jim Milford to the role of Director of Teaching and Learning P – 12 is a strong indication from the leadership of this school that we want our teachers to excel, we want them to constantly improve the quality of their teaching practice as we fervently believe they do make a difference in the educational outcomes experienced by our students. Will we lift our standards overnight? No we won't, but over the next few years we are expecting to see steady and real improvements in the quality of what we offer in the classroom and this in turn will be reflected in the results achieved by our students.

The conscious improvement that we have sought to make is also reflected in the enrolment growth that we are currently enjoying. Over the past two years we have experienced 10% growth in our student population. This is self evident as I look at the car park 'crush' each morning and afternoon. On this issue may I remind all parents and carers to be careful and considerate as you drop off and pick up your children each day. Over the past week I have had to deal with a couple of parents who were parking their cars in the bus bay – this is especially dangerous as blocking access to the bus bay does create a situation where cars are then banked onto Wolseley Road and it prevents the buses gaining access to the college. It is totally inconsiderate for parents to leave a car parked in a way that will obstruct the traffic flow; please can we all be a little patient as we look to some new strategies to cope with the afternoon peak hour.

Important Dates: **Tuesday 21 February P & F Meeting 7.30pm in the Stubbs Junior Library**
 Tuesday 6 March – Blazer fitting Day (see details in next week's Advocate)
 Saturday 10th March Trivia Night 7.30pm in the College Gym

Calendar Dates

Monday 13 Feb	Tuesday 14 Feb	Wednesday 15 Feb	Thursday 16 Feb	Friday 17 Feb	Saturday 18 Feb	Sunday 19 Feb
Swimming Carnival Snr. School Richmond Swimming Pool	Assembly – High School – JLPA Centre Yrs 7/8 Cyber Safety – JLPA	Jnr. School Information Evening Jnr. School Classrooms Yr 7 Meet the Tutors JLPA Centre	Yrs 9/10 Cyber Safety – JLPA Chapel – High School- JLPA Centre	Chapel – Infants Jnr. School Library Yr 10 North Head/Powerhouse Museum Ex. Induction Service – Yr 6 JLPA Centre AICES Open Boys Tennis Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym	K. Toms Dance Class Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town
Monday 20 Feb	Tuesday 21 Feb	Wednesday 22 Feb	Thursday 23 Feb	Friday 24 Feb	Saturday 25 Feb	Sunday 26 Feb
Yr 7 & new students – ID Photos Sydney Metro Cricket Trials Oakhill College	Assembly – High School – JLPA Centre Yr 11 Geography Ex. – Penrith Lakes Ed. Centre HSZA B'ball Girl's C'ships – Hills B'ball Stadium P & F Meeting – Stubbs Jnr Library 7.30pm	HSZA B'ball Boy's C'ships – Hills B'ball Stadium Yr 11 Agri. Prac Ex. THRASS Info. Evening – Stubbs Jnr Library	Chapel – High School- JLPA Centre	Jnr School Awards Assembly – JLPA Centre Yr 11 Ancient History Ex – Nicholson Museum Sydney Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym	K. Toms Dance Class Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre ACER Scholarship Testing	10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town
Monday 27 Feb	Tuesday 28 Feb	Wednesday 29 Feb	Thursday 1 Mar	Friday 2 Mar	Saturday 3 Mar	Sunday 4 Mar
Yr 6 Camp – Port Hacking	Yr 6 Camp – Port Hacking Yr 11 Ecology Ex – Longneck Lagoon Assembly – High School – JLPA Centre	Yr 6 Camp – Port Hacking	Yr 5 Camp - Hill End Chapel – High School- JLPA Centre Yr 12 Business Studies Ex – IMAX, Sydney HICES Primary Swimming Carnival	Yr 5 Camp - Hill End Chapel – Infants Jnr. School Library HZSA Schools Knock our Tennis Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym	K. Toms Dance Class Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town