



NEWSFLASH

Monday 18 June 2012

On behalf of the Headmaster
Mr Gareth Leechman



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 would like to congratulate all of the students and teaching staff who were involved in the Showtime evening last Friday night. It was high energy and clearly displayed the vast array of talent that our students have in the various ensembles and dance groups we have in the senior school. Well done to all it was a very pleasurable evening indeed.

CALENDAR DATES 2012

Môn – 18 Jun	Tues – 19 Jun	Wed – 20 Jun	Thurs – 21 Jun	Fri – 22 Jun	Sat – 23 Jun	Sun 24 Jun
Week 9 SASC Choral Festival Yr 5 Space Exc. Circus School Inc. Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym Circus School	Snr. School Assembly RTA Cricket Rd Show AICES Rugby Information 2012 Tang So Do- 4pm in the Gym.	Yr 11 Exc – Jewish Museum HSZA Yr 5 Sports Afternoon Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym.	Snr. School Chapel Western Sydney Careers Expo – 8.45am – 3pm Sydney Olympic Park AICEs Netball C'ships Yr 7 Vaccinations (2 nd dose HPV and dTPA).	Chapel:/Infants -JLPA Centre Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym AICES Rugby Information 2012 Reports distributed for Yrs 7 – 10. Term 2 Finishes 	PAWS Dance Group JLPA Centre 7am – 11pm	10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town Tang So Do CookKidz – JLPA Centre 9am – 7pm
Mon – 25 Jun	Tues – 26 Jun	Wed – 27 Jun	Thurs – 28 Jun	Fri - 29 Jun	Sat – 30 Jun	Sun – 1 Jul
College Holidays Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym Motiv8 – in the Gym	Motiv8 – in the Gym	Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym	French Exc - commences	French Exc. continues Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym	French Exc. continues Kylie Toms Dance Class JLPA Centre	French Exc. continues 10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town
Môn – 2 Jul	Tues – 3 Jul	Wed – 4 Jul	Thurs – 5 Jul	Fri – 6 Jul	Sat – 7 Jul	Sun – 8 Jul
College Holidays French Exc. continues Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym .	French Exc. continues	French Exc. continues Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym	French Exc. continues	French Exc. continues Body Addiction – am/pm In the Gym Soccer for Arndell Dads 8-9pm Arndell Gym	French Exc. continues Kylie Toms Dance Class JLPA Centre	French Exc. continues 10.15: Pitt Town Family Church Service at Pitt Town