From the Head of the Junior School: Rev. Keith Peterson

At the Junior School we have a professional passion to make sure that we make every effort to research and to implement best current educational practice. This means that we are continually thinking for real as to what strategies for teaching and learning will best fit our children – will best enable each of them to make the fullest individual progress.

In 2012 we introduced the “Best Start” Literacy program to Kindergarten. This is a key initiative for Arndell Anglican College Junior School and an initiative which we have looked to very positively support in every way – with teacher training, resourcing, and the allocation of staffing morning by morning across many small focus groups in the Kindergarten Classrooms.

We do profoundly believe that the on-going acquisition and development of a full range of literacy skills and strategies is the key learning skill for all children.

That’s why we have introduced ‘Best Start’ to Stage 1 of the Junior School - the practice and process of which, as we continue to develop the strategy into Year One in 2013 - Miss Dimity May (Junior School Coordinator for Best Start) very helpfully and practically further describes below.

Best Start

At Arndell Anglican College Junior School we believe that all students are different, all students have different knowledge and understanding about topics, different interests and different ways of learning. Over the last year, Kindergarten and Year 1 have been implementing Best Start. Best Start is a tool for effectively tracking and catering for all students learning differences. By using Best Start we can ensure that students are being challenged by their learning at an individual level, appropriate for them.

At the beginning of Kindergarten, all students are tested on 8 areas of literacy and 3 areas of numeracy using the Kindergarten Assessment. This assessment is made up of a variety of questions requiring students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of different literacy and numeracy skills.
Once students are assessed, they are placed on both the Literacy and Numeracy Continuums based on what they can currently do in each area. The continuums are divided into the 8 areas of literacy and 3 areas of numeracy. Each area is split into clusters. The clusters are made up of indicators taken directly from the Board of Studies syllabus in a progressive way.

Throughout the year students are moved along the clusters based on what their teacher has observed them achieving. This information will continue to be collated for the student, all the way up to Year 6.

In Early Stage 1, we have found Best Start effective for informing strategic programing in literacy groups. This year, Kindergarten have been particularly fortunate to receive a substantial amount of support in period 1 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. During this time, Kindergarten run 8 literacy groups targeting student’s individual abilities focusing on different areas of the Literacy continuum so all students are working at their own pace.
Round 2 Debating: Mr Lavelle - Head of English

The second round of HICES Debating took place at Penrith Anglican College, yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, 26th March). Once again, two teams from Years 7 and 8 set out to do justice to the reputation of Arndell Anglican College and as in the first round came back with a narrow loss and a brilliant win.

Both teams were arguing the affirmative case for the topic “That the driving age should be lifted to 18”. The “A” team of Jessica Steenbeeke, Harrison Chambers, David Sproule and Sarah Wilton (4th) were considered unlucky by some to lose a tightly contested affair with Rouse Hill “B”. The team had prepared well and performed most creditably in their first debating speeches. The Arndell “B” team of David Lavelle, Elly Hibberd, Rosie Rodgers and Callaghan Kelly (4th) pulled off an emphatic victory over the Penrith Anglican “A” team to remain unbeaten in the competition thus far. Each speaker in turn dominated their opposition. Rosie’s performance as third speaker was akin to watching a panzer division rolling through the opposition arguments with authority and power. A huge thank you to Jasmine Shur and Oliver Hopping who did a fine job as chairpersons and to Bethany McNamara for her support, too.

Thank you to all team members for giving up their lunch hours for training sessions. The behavior and positive approach of the students was exemplary as ambassadors for the College.

And so to round 3 on the 22nd May at William Carey College with the “A” team taking the negative against Penrith Anglican College “B” and the “A” team the affirmative case against “St. Paul’s “B”on the topic “That organ donation should be compulsory”.

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**Crusaders School Holiday Day Camp**

Join the Fun this April School Holidays

Dates: Monday 15th – Thursday 18th April 2013

School Years: K-5 Time 8am – 3pm

For further information contact Crusaders on 9874 8933 or [www.crudayscamps.com.au](http://www.crudayscamps.com.au)
Duke of Edinburgh’s Award: Miss Debra Anderson

Our Bronze students completed their qualifying expedition on the 14th and 15th of March. On the first day, they hiked from Hornsby Railway Station to Crosslands Reserve via Galston Gorge. This was a long day of 14km with a variety of terrain. During the evening, many culinary camping delights were served up with Alex Earle, Jake Hilder and Declan Jeffery attempting to create Beef Stroganoff without the spice sachet (thanks to Declan’s forgetfulness…) The second day students were up bright and early to complete the last 6km up the mountain to Mt Kuring-gai Railway Station. We had quite a bit of rain during the morning so it made for a muddy, slippery walk where students were plagued by leeches. Although, Mr Finn grabbed the record for finding the most leeches on his legs and trousers at the end of the hike!

Well done to: Jessica Aldacour, Bianca Hardaker, Madeline Eglin, Mia Quinn, Taylah Gabriel, Ben Rodgers, Jake Hilder, Alex Earle, Thomas Refalo, Zachary Elven, Declan Jeffery, Lachlan McGowen and Joshua Janes-Roberts.

Those students who wish to start the Silver award must ensure their skill; volunteering and physical activity sections for their Bronze Award are complete by the start of Term 2.
From the Parent and Friends Association: Jo Self - President

Trivia Night – Saturday 23 March 2013 – Theme: 80’s Night

The first fundraising event for the P&F was held on Saturday night with an amazing 170 people in attendance. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the purchase of new seating for Arndell students. There was very stiff competition for 1st place with only 1/2 point separating 1st, 2nd and Third. Team Thunderdome took out overall Best dressed table and won the Trivia Competition. The School Community came together dressed in their 1980's attire, welcomed new families to the School, answered some tricky trivia questions, raised money and had lots of fun. I would like to thank and congratulate Denise Quinn-Monaghan and the team including, Selene Ellison, Maxine Dunsford, Janet Leechman, Louise Ommundson, Jenny Hilder, Collette Pasfield and Mindi Chisholm. We are very lucky to have such wonderful parents at our School. Thank you to all who attended the event and supported the P&F in its cause.
Family Fun Day on Again – 25 May: Alannah Norman - P&F Family Fun Day Coordinator

Make sure you put Saturday 25 May in your diary for a great family event which is held at the college from 12noon – 5pm. Great rides, stalls and entertainment have already been lined up for this popular event which is a highlight of the school social calendar for the year.

Invitation to get involved:

You can help make this event a success and have fun meeting great people – the more the merrier! Here are a couple of things you might like to get involved with:

- **Sew Wot Mums stall** – this extremely popular stall sells home-made items and needs some people who can help sew or knit up some ‘tried and true’ patterns. Contact Stall Coordinator Vanessa Terheegde at vanessa_terheegde@hotmail.com. The first ‘Sit and Sew’ day will be held on Saturday 6 April at 1pm – everyone who is keen to get involved (even if you are not a sewer / knitter) is welcome!

- **Plant Growers Needed** – our Plant Stall needs some stock! If you can access some plants to donate please contact Alannah Norman on alannahnorman@gmail.com. We also need a Plant Stall Coordinator.

- **Volunteers for the Day** – If you can spare an hour or two on 25 May it would be great. Register your availability on funday@arndell.nsw.edu.au or call Alannah on 0404 033 994

Upcoming Fun Day Activities:

The Junior School will be lucky enough to have a Mufti Day on Tuesday 9th April! A note will be coming around with more information. A donation will be requested in the form of items for our Chocolate Wheel prize baskets and the Games Stall.

The P & F will be hosting a BBQ at the Junior School Cross Country on Thursday 4th April to raise funds to help with putting on the Fun Day. Any volunteers who would like to help cook would be welcome.
Every second Friday students and staff from the Senior School have volunteered their time at the Hawkesbury Community Kitchen. Miss Megan Southwell forged a working partnership between the Hawkesbury Community Kitchen and Arndell Anglican College in 2011. The Hawkesbury Community Kitchen is a Christian based aid agency providing a food service (soup kitchen) Monday - Friday from 6pm to 7pm. Duties include preparing and serving meals, cleaning up, washing dishes, mopping the floor and an array of other tasks. **Putting up your hand to help others in need is an extremely rewarding experience.** I have had students volunteer to assist on more than one occasion, which is a testament to the personal rewards experienced.

“We found the Hawkesbury Community Kitchen to be a highly rewarding and enriching experience. It was amazing to be able to serve and interact with the local community. Serving meals there enabled us to gain many new skills. Our team worked extremely well together and we go to know each other better. We had loads of fun while cooking the meals, setting and packing up and serving. We were able to reflect on the things we have access to in life and use this to serve those in our community who lack some of these basic necessities in life. We can't wait to do it again.” - Pearlin Paul and Danni deKeizer (Year 11)

I would like to thank the staff and students for volunteering their time. I look forward to their continued support in maintaining the current relationship and making a difference in our local community.

Lilly-Ann Keating (Year 8) – Friday 15th March 2013

Mrs Sandra Daly and Laura Holman (Year 7) – Friday 15th March 2013
Can you donate a couple of hours to make one or two cushions, wheat pillows, or lavender eye pillows?

We have some donated material (more would be great) which is ready to be crafted into lovely items for the Sew Wot Mums stall. We would love to have a good supply ready for the end of the holidays, so your help is needed now.

We also need knitters who can make some scarves & beanies which are always one of the biggest sellers at the Fun Day. If you can knit or crochet we would love to hear from you.

We have sewing & knitting patterns available if needed. If you can donate your time we could certainly use your help.

If you aren't a sewer or a knitter but enjoy craft, if you can help in any way we would be very grateful.

If you can help please call Vanessa Terheegde on 0419 437 291 or Email: vanessa_terheegde@hotmail.com
Arndell Anglican College Directory

Headmaster: Mr Gareth Leechman
Deputy Headmaster/Head of Senior School: Mr James Webb
Head of Junior School: Rev’d Keith Peterson
Director of Curriculum and Policy: Mrs Karen Merrick
Director of Teaching and Learning: Mr Jim Milford
Director of Staff and Student Welfare: Mrs Lynn Gillen
College Counsellor: Mrs Julie Nixon – 4545 2461
Uniform Shop: Mrs Liz Moore – 4572 3254
Tuesday/Thursdays from 8.2am – 11am/2.30pm – 4pm
After School Care: Camp Australia – 1300 105 343 (for bookings)
www.campaustralia.com.au
After School Care from 2.30pm - 0401 904 531 (at Arndell only)
P & F President: Mrs Jo Selff
pandf@arndell.nsw.edu.au
Equestrian: equestrian@arndell.nsw.edu.au
Funday Co-ordinator: Mrs Alannah Norman – 0404 033 994
Funday@arndell.nsw.edu.au
Canteens: Monday – Friday - 4545 2486
(Recess / Lunch)

Term Dates 2013

Term 1
Tuesday 29 January Term 1 for Prep 2D, KG, Yrs 7, 11 and 12
Wednesday 30 January All remaining students
Friday 29 March Good Friday - holiday
Monday 1 April Easter Monday – holiday
Friday 12 April Term 1 Finishes

Term 2
Monday 29 April Term 2 Commences for all students
Monday 10 June Queen’s Birthday Weekend
Friday 21 June Term 2 Finishes

Term 3
Monday 15 July Staff Development Day
Tuesday 16 July Term 3 Commences for all students
Friday 20 September Term 3 Finishes

Term 4
Tuesday 8 October Term 4 commences for all students
Tuesday 8 December Infants Presentation Afternoon
Wednesday 4 December Primary School Presentation Evening
Thursday 5 December Students last day for 203
Friday 6 December Senior School Presentation Evening
Staff Development Day