



NEWSFLASH

Monday 25 March 2013

On behalf of the Headmaster Mr Gareth Leechman



Learning at Arndell

Over the past four years we have worked hard to improve the learning culture here at Arndell Anglican College. It is our desire to see each child flourish in this school and the comprehensive nature of our enrolment base can make this a challenging exercise. However, over the past few months I have been able to experience first-hand how we have had a positive impact on so many of our students.

On Wednesday afternoons Mr Brad Murphy (our Senior Physics teacher) has been running an after school project called "Space to Grow" – this project enables our senior science students the opportunity to explore outer space in action, look at how it is formed and being formed. This is a wonderful opportunity and one that was recognized by a Science visitor we recently had in the school. In his words, "...I did not do this in my astrophysics university degree until third year!" He commented at what an opportunity it is for students to have access to two 2m diameter research grade telescopes at this point in their education. What a wonderful opportunity for our students, I hope that this is something that they will appreciate.

Last Tuesday night I was fortunate enough to attend the NSW History Teacher's Association 2012 HSC History awards night. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with a talented group of students who had either placed first in the state in, either Ancient, Modern or Extension History. We also celebrated those students who had ranked in the NSW HTA Extension History prize, which recognizes those students who excelled in the individual research project which makes up a significant component of the assessment for the Extension course. The essay is a self-directed piece of research which culminates in a 3,000 word essay on a particular topic of their choice and creation. I am pleased to announce that our Dux for 2012 Miss Rosanna Peterson was awarded third place in this competition, for her essay on the historical perceptions of Margaret Thatcher. Rosanna clearly held her own against students from leading Independent and Selective high schools from around the state – this is not only a testament to her capability but the quality of teaching she received under Dr Jackson her Extension history teacher.

Finally, the latest NAPLAN data has been released on the My School website and after a close analysis of the data it is clear to see that for students who have stayed at the college over the past few years they have all experienced a valued added component to their education. In virtually all areas of assessment students who have been here since NAPLAN started some five years ago have all experienced some form of improvement in these particular areas. I have no doubt that many of the programs that we have put into place will continue this path of improvement and we can expect better results in time.

As we move into this Easter season I would like to wish all of our community a restful four day break, but more importantly may we all take the time to remember what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ did for us some 2000 years ago. By dying on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and that we could once again be in relationship with our creator God.

Gareth Leechman

CALENDAR DATES 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25 Mar.	26 Mar.	27 Mar.	28 Mar.	29 Mar.	30 Mar.	31 Mar
Yr. 7 AF:/League Gala Day Lunchtime rehearsals for 'Back to the 80's'	Snr. School Assembly Yr. 9 & 12 – Exc. Royal Easter Show AICES Swimming C'ships HICES Debating 124 Magic Parenting Course Karate 3.30-5.30pm College Gym	HZ Rugby 7's Gala Day HZ Yr.5 Gala Day Prep – Easter Hat Parade	Snr. School Chapel Yr.7 Exc – Museum of Ancient Culture & Nicholson Jnr. School Hat Parade Jnr. School Easter Service - .1.30pm	Good Friday Soccer for Arndell Dads 8 -9pm Arndell Gym	Easter Saturday	10.15 Pitt Town Family Church Service
Yr. 12 Exams	Yr. 12 Exams	Yr. 12 Exams	Yr. 12 Exams			
1 Apr.	2 Apr.	3 Apr.	4 Apr.	5 Apr.	6 Apr.	7 Apr.
Easter Monday	Snr. School Assembly Karate 3.30-5.30pm College Gym	All School's Baseball C'ships	Snr. School Chapel Jnr. School –Cross Country	Snr. School – Cross Country Jnr. School Chapel Soccer for Arndell Dads 8 -9pm Arndell Gym Afternoon rehearsals for 'Back to the 80's'	'Back to the 80's' rehearsals	10.15 Pitt Town Family Church Service
8 Apr.	9 Apr.	10 Apr.	11 Apr.	12 Apr.	13 Apr.	14 Apr.
Yr. 12 Fieldtrip Yr. 11 Ex – Aust. Museum Lunchtime rehearsals for 'Back to the 80's'	Snr. School Assembly AICES School's Tennis Comp. Intra School House Sports Cup (Boys comp) Karate 3.30-5.30pm College Gym	HICES Netball AICES School B'ball C'ships Intra School House Sports Cup (Boys comp) Jnr. School Parent-Teacher Interviews	Snr. School Chapel Yr. 9 Commerce Retail study Intra School House Sports Cup (Boys comp) Jnr. School Parent-Teacher Interviews	Jnr. School Chapel Soccer for Arndell Dads 8 -9pm Arndell Gym Intra School House Sports Cup (Boys comp) Afternoon rehearsals for 'Back to the 80's' Term 1 Finishes		10.15 Pitt Town Family Church Service