



ARRENDELL
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ARRENDELL NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 9 2016

Dear ARRENDELL Parents and Students

Year-End Break and Holiday Reading

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is almost here and on behalf of the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy summer break. The year's end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Throughout the year, our tutors and students have worked together to achieve the best possible academic outcomes in a happy and caring environment.

It is well documented that the holiday season is known to cause a pronounced dip-or slide-in children's reading, writing and mathematical skills. With an abundance of distractions and a shake-up of routine, getting your child to read, write or to work on mathematical activities over the festive season can be a great challenge as a parent.

But with a bit of thought and preparation, the holidays can actually be the perfect time to enjoy fun and meaningful family activities based around books and reading. I have collated some great holiday ideas to keep the magic of reading alive. I have also added some great 'reads'. I hope you find one or two useful. (Refer to the reading activity list below).

Term 1 2017 Class Sessions

We are currently in the process of preparing the class session times for 2017 and are hoping to have a provisional time table sent out to you late January.

If you haven't already informed us of your preferred times, please contact us via email (office@arrendell.com.au), phone (0431 739 400), in person when you are next in the office or by returning the re-enrolment form attached.

Upcoming Events

Term 4 at ARRENDELL Education concludes Friday 15th December.

Term Dates 2017

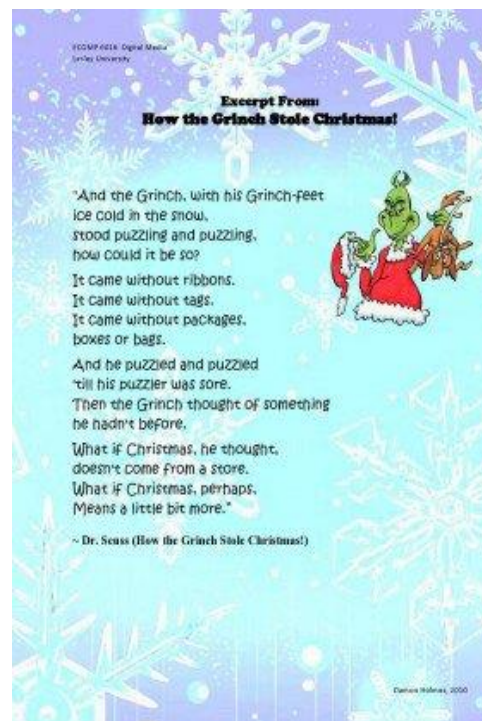
Term 1: Monday 30th January to Friday 7th April

Term 2: Monday 24th April to Friday 30th June

Term 3: Monday 17th July to Friday 22nd September

Term 4: Monday 9th October to Friday 15th December

Christmas Day: 25th December



Preparation for 2017 Selective High School Exams

The Selective High School exam is extremely competitive with one in five applicants gaining entry.

Over 30 of our current Year 5 students are sitting the Selective High School Entrance exam (Merewether) on Thursday 9th March, 2017. Therefore, Term 1 tutoring sessions for Merewether students is compressed into 6 weeks instead of the usual 10 weeks. For the first 6 weeks of the term, the students will attend their normal week day session but in addition they will also participate in 4 Friday/Saturday sessions: February 10-11, February 17-18, February 24-25 and February 3-4. I will send out times at the commencement of Term 1 for families to preference.

The English sessions focus on developing and extending student writing and comprehension skills, as well as developing the strategies for General Aptitude tests. Students will undertake several practice tests in all areas. In the one hour Math session, we review all content areas they are likely to need in the exam. They will also be involved in completing Selective High School practice tests and past Selective High School tests.

Book Borrowing

The incredible range of literature available in our library continues to encourage our young students to borrow extensively. However, as the year draws to a close, I have asked for all books to be returned in order to complete a full inventory of our library collection.

Office closure over the year-end

The office will be closed from Wednesday 21st December 2017 until Monday 23rd January, 2017. However, we are still contactable by email during the break- office@arendell.com.au and we will contact you once we return on Monday 23rd January.

At ARRENDELL Education we are committed to helping every child achieve their very best. Our goal is to provide a caring and supportive educational environment that encourages your children's efforts and celebrates their success.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in their educational journey in 2017.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Kind Regards,

Jenny Lott

Program Coordinator

Keeping reading alive through the holidays

Jenny Lott, Program Coordinator

1. Pair books with day trips – The night before you visit a museum, landmark, or special exhibition, find books and websites to read with your child to help plan your trip together.

2. Create a holiday reading list – Take a trip to the library and put together a list of books your child would like to read during the holidays. Display the list somewhere you'll see every day, like on the refrigerator, and reward your child with something small each time they check off a new title.

3. Make 'DEAR' time fun time – DEAR stands for 'Drop Everything and Read', where everybody in the house must drop what they're doing and read a book. Make it spontaneous and exciting, similar to announcing a special treat!

4. Read to relatives – Encourage your child to show off their new reading skills to grandparents or relatives by reading them a story. Most children love being the focus of attention, and grandparents are usually more than happy to encourage their progress.

5. Follow a recipe – Cooking together is so much fun over the holidays and provides a great opportunity for your child to read out the ingredients and steps. Afterwards, help them write a menu for guests and family members, using as many descriptive words as they can.

6. Create a family book tree – Cut out the shape of a tree from a large sheet of construction paper and invite the whole family to decorate it, adding the words 'My Family Book Tree'. Hang up your tree near your usual reading area, and as each person reads a book they can write down the title and add a new leaf.

7. Re-enact stories and perform them for relatives – Choose a well-loved story with fun and interesting characters and re-enact it from beginning to end. Prepare some props and perform your story as a family for relatives when they come to visit.

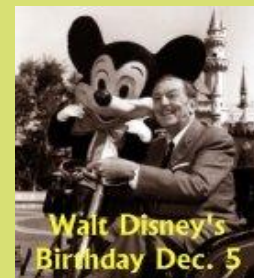


Read! Read! Read!

As Walt Disney once said,

'There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.'

He also said, 'All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.'



Walter Elias Disney was born on December 5, 1901 in Chicago, Illinois. In the late 1940s, Disney first drew sketches of his idea for an amusement park where he envisioned his employees spending time with their children. His original idea or dream expanded in concept and eventually became Disneyland which opened in 1955.

So, to all students of ARRENDELL Education, *never stop dreaming because you don't know what you can achieve until you try!*

8. Start a reading circle with some friends – Host a weekly reading circle at your house and invite your child's friends and family to join in. They can take turns choosing which books to read together each week.

9. Play fun literacy games on long car trips – If you're planning a long road trip during the holidays, games like ['I Spy' and simple category games](#) can be great for building essential literacy skills. Don't forget to also stock up on good books for the road!

10. Mix things up with joke books and comic books – Encouraging your child to read a variety of texts is great for setting them up to become lifelong readers. Choose books you know they'll love and don't be afraid to experiment with joke books, riddles and [comic books](#), which all offer their own unique benefits to young readers.

Holiday reading ideas from kids, for kids

by Fiona Brewer

The best source of intelligence on the best young reads for this break: school kids themselves. So here is what a few have suggested:

Natasha (10) – **The Ivory Rose**, by Belinda Murrell. A girl time travels back in history and is asked to try to help a sick girl get better again. She's read it a few times and keeps going back to it. Currently Natasha is reading *The Green Grotto* from a series called *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

Archer (10) – **The Silver Dream**, Neil Gaiman, Mallory Reaves and Michael Reaves. A squad in a cyber base needs to save the world, or something .. Archer is still reading so he's not sure about the rest of the story. But he loves it. And Leo, Archer's brother suggests *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Christian (a Dad) – after hearing the *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* suggestion, recommends anything by Roald Dahl, especially **Tales of My Uncle Oswald**, which is ribald in a polite way, he says. Plus his four year old daughter Matilda is reading **Good Night, Good Night Construction Site** to her younger brother two year old Louis. It includes gentle rhyme and challenging words plus an enormous excavator going to sleep with a teddy bear.

Estelle (9) – **Ruby Redfort Catch Your Death**, from the Ruby Redfort series by Lauren Child. A 13 year old spy who is good at cracking codes has to try to save a wolf which is being hunted down. Estelle has read all four in the series. And after a sleepover last night, her best friend, Macy, recommends **Freak Street: Meet the Wizardsons** by Knife and Packer. An average family that travels by turbo-broom stirs up trouble in the caldron.

Sam (9) – **Wild Boy**, by Rob Lloyd Jones. A two book series that Sam says has really descriptive language and that he really loved, though he had to read it with the light on because he got a bit frightened by some things. He rates it as a five out of five. It's about a wild boy covered in fur, who's an orphan, accused of murder. In the first book, Sam says Wild Boy is coping with his situation and also finds out who really committed the murder. The second book features the black terror, a black ink that causes people to die. Wild Boy is hired to try to solve who is spreading the black terror.

Henry (11) – **The Golden Compass**, by Philip Pullman. A little girl has an uncle who's an explorer. She wants to go exploring with him but he won't let her because he says it's too dangerous. So, she gets

up to mischief and goes on journeys of her own and finds some pretty special polar bears. Henry likes adventure books and also likes The Maze Runner series by James Dashner.

Becca (15) – **The Book Thief**, by Markus Zusak. A young girl in Nazi Germany and her life with a family as she discovers words and uses them to create wonderful things, Becca says. She's read it four times! Becca likes historical fiction. She's "re- re- re-reading" the Harry Potter series, by J.K.Rowling. Becca is a big fan of re-reading.

Amelia (13) – **So Much to Tell You**, by John Marsden. About a girl who after a tragic accident becomes mute. Her Mum sends her to boarding school because she can't stand the silent presence in the house. Eventually the girl integrates into the school after some difficulties. Then she meets the person who caused the accident. Amelia is now reading another favourite, The Spook's Apprentice, Joseph Delaney.

Georgia (13) – **To Kill A Mockingbird**, by Harper Lee. It's very clever, says Georgia, who loves the way it all fits together, especially in the court scene. She likes the message. Georgia has read it quite a few times now, she says.

Clare – **Granny**, by Anthony Horowitz. About a boy whose parents are rich, he has no friends, only housekeepers. One day parents go on holiday. One day his Granny comes over and the housekeepers mysteriously die. Granny turns out to be evil!

Bridget (14): **The Mortal Instruments series**, by Cassandra Clare. This is a collection of six young adult fantasy novels. I really enjoy reading about things that are a bit different to normal daily life. It's just something to spark my interest and have fun, says Bridget

Manan (16) – **How to Win Friends and Influence People**, by Dale Carnegie. With leadership coming up , prefectship, find this book almost indispensable. Understanding what other people want to hear in conversations, getting people to like you, though some advised it's really about manipulating people so may not be the best idea!

Charlotte (6) – **Billie B Brown: Treasure Hunt**, by Sally Rippin. This is a series. Billy and her friends are trying to find the school time capsule and another girl wants to see what they're looking for but they try to keep her away by telling her they're looking for a lost ring instead.

Ruia (5 3/4) - **The 52-Storey Treehouse**, by Andy Griffiths because it's really funny, proven as Ruia recites passages by heart.

Lily (9) - **Awful Aunty**, by David Walliams. A firm crowd favourite author! It has a lot of mystery and adventure. Lily definitively endorsed this is the best book she's ever read.

Sarah Kanowski, guest host of Conversations says her daughter Eva (8) enjoys the **Our Australian Girl series** written by a range of writers. They are a really nice antidote to 'fairy-schmairyness', in that they are stories around historic Australian events. Eva is crazy about them says Sarah.

And, lastly **The Little Penguins of Manly**, Felicity Pullman is a wonderful collection of stories about the endangered colony of fairy penguins living in Manly, including Mr Stickybeak and Mrs Silverwing.

Information for this article was compiled from the following sources: <http://www.learn-to-read-prince-george.com> & <http://hubpages.com>