



ARRENDELL
education
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ARRENDELL NEWSLETTER

Term One 2017

Dear ARRENDELL Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that the first term for the year is almost at an end. The staff at ARRENDELL would like to say thank you for your support and positive comments and look forward to continuing to develop a positive relationship with you and your child or children throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

April 7th

End of Term One at ARRENDELL

April 24

Start of Term 2 at ARRENDELL

May 9th to 11th

NAPLAN

June 30th

End of Term 2.

Term Two Preparation

We are presently focused on organising our groups for Term 2. To guarantee a place for your child and to assist us in our preparations for Term 2, please take the time to complete and return the 'Returning' student form that accompanies this email. You may leave the form at the reception desk or confirm your ongoing enrolment for Terms 2, commencing **Monday 24th April**, by email office@arrendell.com.au or by phoning 4942 3000. If no-one is available to take your call, please leave a message and someone will contact you promptly.

Referrals

It is always a delight when a new parent telephone's and enquires about our services. Many are a direct result of parent referral and that is always rewarding. Thank you to all our parents who have shared their positive experiences with others, it is greatly appreciated. Don't forget that if you refer a parent and they enrol a child, both you and the new ARRENDELL parent are entitled to a \$50 fee discount for the initial term of enrolment.

NAPLAN Preparations

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy) is an annual three-day event where Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 students throughout Australia sit standardized tests in Numeracy and Literacy.

Important Announcement

SAVE \$50 when you take advantage of Term 3 Early Bird special. Payment required by the commencement of Term 3.

Refer a student and receive a \$50 reduction in fees for you and the parent referred.

Enrolment for Term 2 is in progress, contact us by phone: (02) 4942 3000

or by email: office@arrendell.com.au secure a place for your son or daughter.

The 2017 NAPLAN paper test dates are Tuesday 9th May-Language conventions and writing, Wednesday 10th May-Reading and Thursday 11th May-Numeracy.

At ARRENDELL Education we feel that it is vital that students always feel they are supported so that they can develop the confidence to do their best. Therefore, as part of our normal tutoring program, we incorporate trial assessments for students in Yrs 3,5,7 and 9 to assist in developing the confidence required to perform to the best of their ability.

The NAPLAN 2017 timetable can be found at the link below.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/information/key-dates/naplan-2017-timetable>

Opportunity Classes: Year 5 2018

There are **six** primary schools- Cessnock West, Jewells, Maryland, New Lambton South, Rutherford and Tighes Hill- in the Hunter Region that have Opportunity classes in Year 5 and 6 for students displaying above average abilities in Year 4. Entry into the classes are based on assessments conducted on **Wednesday 26th July, 2017** and on school performance throughout Years 3 and 4.

In response to requests by parents, we are planning to develop a weekly tutorial session that will run in conjunction with the normal English and Maths sessions held for Year 4, to assist students who wish to enroll in these assessments. We will be looking at operating the classes in Term 2 on a Wednesday between 4-6pm. Please call the office on (02) 4942 3999 or email office@arrendell.com.au if you are interested in registering for the Wednesday OC Preparation sessions.

Application to sit the exam for entry in 2018 opens Wednesday 26th April, 2017 and closes on Friday 12 May, 2017. For further information go to www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Year 6 Students: Preparing for Year 7 Entry and Beyond

It has been a busy term for students in Year 6. They worked diligently during the first six weeks, coming twice weekly as they prepared for the Selective Schools examination that was held on 9th March. All comments received regarding the exam have been positive. The students all felt comfortable and there were no surprises as we had covered so much during their time at ARRENDELL Education.

Often, our Yr6 students take a break after the exam until our **Year 7 Preparation Course** commences in Term 2. However, this year many elected to maintain the momentum by enrolling in a discounted **Bridging Course** for the last four weeks of the term.

During Terms 2,3 and 4, Year 6 students at ARRENDELL Education work on developing and advancing their language and writing skills needed for ongoing success now and into Year 7 and beyond. Students in Year 6 will continue to learn how to analyse texts and use the language of 'text' such as: 'composer', 'audience', 'language techniques' and 'creating meaning'. They will develop their ability to analyse essay questions and to structure their essay accordingly. They will also be exposed to an increasing sophisticated level of narratives and learn the importance of note taking. Referencing and writing Information Reports are also covered.

Year 5 Students

Term Two is a busy time for our Year 5 students as they continue to develop their English and Mathematic skills in preparation for NAPLAN and for Year 6, and in particular, for the selective schools exam for Merewether, or scholarship exams for private schools held in Term 1 of Year 6.

Selection for both Merewether and for private school scholarships is based on a student's marks in English and Mathematics during Year 5 and the actual exam results. In the first term of Year 6, before the exam day in March, students undertake extra tuition to develop exam techniques and complete activities related to the reading, writing, mathematics s and general aptitude tests.

The NSW Department of Education Applications for Year 7 placement in 2019 open on 10th October, 2017 and close 13 November, 2017. Late applications are not accepted. The test date for 2018 is Thursday 15th March.

For further information go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/the->

Preparation for the Selective High School tests and private scholarship tests at ARRENDELL commences when your child is in Year 5 and continues through to Term 1 the year of the exam.

Scholarships for Private Schools

Merewether is not the only avenue to help your child excel. Many private schools in the area offer scholarships to exceptionally talented students. Like the selective exams, private schools assess students early in Year 6. Offers of a scholarship are determined by the student's results in the exams set by the school concerned. All placement tests involve assessment of English (including reading and writing), Mathematics and general ability. Some also take into account a student's primary school's assessment of their performance in English and Mathematics during Year 5. Other evidence of academic merit may also be considered.

The schools listed below offer scholarships for Year 7 based on assessments conducted in Year 6.

- Macquarie College (<http://mc.nsw.edu.au/admissions/scholarships>)
- Hunter Valley Grammar School (<http://www.hvgs.nsw.edu.au/scholarships>)
- Newcastle Grammar School (<http://mc.nsw.edu.au/admissions/scholarships>)
- Bishop Tyrell Anglican College (<https://scholarships.acer.edu.au>)

Secondary English

Just a short update on what the high school students have covered this term so far. We have analysed different types of questions; Built on the use of academic vocabulary; Tried Report writing and through the media of film built on our observation and lateral thinking skills. Currently our grade 7 and 9 students are revising their skills for the upcoming NAPLAN tests – this will continue up to the test date on the 9th May. For the grade 10 and 8 students they have looked at the requirements for making a graphic novel, a genre that is becoming more popular in the senior years as a stimulus.

Mathematics

Our Maths classes continue to develop as students increasingly grow their skills and abilities in this area. Damon, Melissa and John are our the three tutors who carefully monitor and develop the students abilities throughout the year.

Operation Manager Appointment

One final note, at the end of Term 1, I will be stepping back from the responsibility of Program Coordinator, preferring to concentrate my time in a teaching capacity at ARRENDELL Education. I particularly enjoy the student interaction and look forward to more of my time being devoted to teaching and learning.

I am pleased to announce that Gloria Condon has been appointed to the position of Operations Manager of ARRENDELL Education. Gloria comes with an enormous amount of administrative and communications experience with her most recent position being at the University of Newcastle. She will bring considerable energy and experience that will benefit ARRENDELL Education and the program as a whole.

On behalf of all of the staff at ARRENDELL, thank you for your support.

Jenny Lott

Program Coordinator

Education Editorial

In recent years, there has been much discussion regarding the level of Australian Education and what can be done to improve our Educational standards. Our 2016 NAPLAN results showed that our numeracy and literacy skills have flatlined despite record government spending. Reading saw a 0.4% improvement, writing had a 0.2% decline and numeracy had a 1.26% boost (<http://www.news.com.au>).

Our international rankings have also plummeted with countries such as Kazakhstan, Cyprus and Slovenia leapfrogging us over the past four years. Australia now ranks 28th out of 40 countries in Year 4 mathematics and has dropped significantly in English and Science (Matthew Knott 2016, SMH).

An article written by Misty Adoniou (2016), an Associate Professor in Language, Literacy and TESL, University of Canberra, explored why our students are continuing to fall behind in literacy. She explained that several solutions have been trialed by various governments but none have been successful. One solution was to 'name and shame' schools on the public website 'MySchools'. This had no effect in improving literacy standards. Then it was decided that students needed to develop their understanding of phonics. This did little to improve inferential comprehension or the ability to read complex texts.

Adoniou (2016) then explained that the problem with our educational system was that it created language impoverished children. This deprivation meant that by the time students reached Year 9 their vocabulary level was poor. Consequently, they are unable to work with language in sophisticated ways. In other words, they write like they speak!

Writing is not just 'speaking' written down- unless you are composing a message for Facebook or Twitter!

'The only way to improve reading and writing skills is to improve students' literary diet beginning with primary school. Then they must be kept well-nourished throughout secondary school' (Adoniou2016).

Furthermore, Adoniou (2016) explained that children need to read real books, not banal levelled reading programs. Children should not be taught to read on 'white bread decodable texts'. These easy and predictable texts with their controlled grammar and vocabulary essentially starve our children of the skills they need to do the authentic reading required for real life, and expected of them once they get to secondary school. This diet of poor reading affects their writing. If we want students to write considered and convincing arguments, they must be exposed to exemplary arguments on which to model their own work. If we want them to write an evocative and engaging narrative, then they must be reading great narratives where they are exposed to quality writing.

Reading predicts success at school. However, the early reading success does not mean later reading success if the child is exposed to a diet lacking in high quality literature.

In secondary school, students are exposed to more complex and more abstract language. They are expected to read to learn. Weak readers do not have the rich repertoire of language to draw upon to do this successfully. Therefore, they avoid reading and writing. The more they avoid, the less successful they become. Learning to read is not the same as reading to learn.

To succeed, children need reading and writing instruction through all their years of schooling. Especially in secondary school where language also becomes very specific to disciplines covered.

To write well, students need something to write about-opinions, knowledge and experiences. Students need to read widely to know their topic well enough to argue a point, or build a plausible world for a reader to inhabit. Students need the language skills to convey those messages. They need to be able to play with grammatical structures and to select from a broad and diverse vocabulary so they can find the right words for the job at hand.

Students should be reading a vast range of books. They should be shown how language is working in those books to beguile, persuade, entertain and inform, and then they need to be taught to use those same skills in their own writing.

This article supports the philosophy of the founder of ARRENDELL Education, Gwenda Sanderson. Gwenda developed ARRENDELL Education on the belief that a child's academic performance is in direct relationship to the number and quality of books they have read. She firmly believed that students need to read to write. Furthermore, she knew that research showed that childhood reading developed the neural pathways in the brain, and that this related to intellectual capacity. Readers have the most success at school, become independent thinkers and superior decision makers. Furthermore, readers vicariously enter the world of others, and in doing so, gain empathy and understanding of people whose experiences differ to their own.

Gwenda's passion for helping students become capable, confident and fluent readers and writers, ensured that ARRENDELL Education has a very comprehensive library.



Our students are encouraged to borrow frequently from our vast range of books. Today, we continue to utilise quality literature to aid the writing process.

AT ARRENDELL Education we continue to build upon the legacy left to us by our founding Director. ARRENDELL students are not language impoverished, they are well nourished because they have a rich literary diet from which to make their reading selection.

The tutors utilise high quality reading material to model how texts need to be written. This rich diet helps ensure that they have the opportunity to develop strong writing skills and arms them with the skills necessary to be successful learners at school and beyond.

Our tutors are highly qualified and passionate about the learning process. We aim to supply our students with a smorgasbord full of delightful reading experiences.