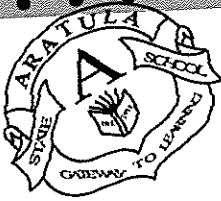


Small enough to care,
big enough to succeed!



Aratula Adviser

Phone: 07 5463 8158 Email: admin@aratulass.eq.edu.au

Fax: 07 5463 8389 Website: aratulass.eq.edu.au

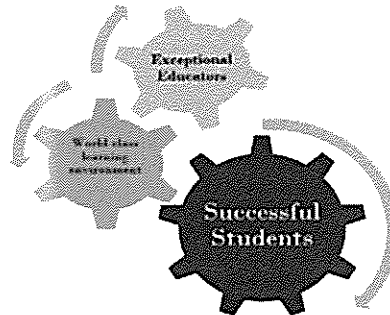
Successful Students * Exceptional Educators
World-class Learning Environment

From the Principal's Desk

It is the fourth week of the school year already! Students and teachers are well and truly into the swing of learning with a clear focus on our improvement goals. The cogs at the right show the three explicit improvement areas from our 2017-2020 strategic plan that guide our pursuit of excellence. In 2018, our first priority is successful students with an emphasis on sustained improvement in reading, improvement in writing and a relative gain in student achievement from Year 3 to Year 5 that is equal to or better than the nation measured by NAPLAN. This point-in-time assessment is a testament to the work of our exceptional educators and is a measure of the quality teaching that occurs every day. As such, these assessments are not frightening or stressful for children because the tasks require students to utilise the skills that they develop and practise each day.

As educators, we value and commit to lifelong learning and strive to develop this love of learning in students. We consistently set goals for professional growth and undertake research and training in evidence-based teaching practices. We are fortunate to have a team of exceptional educators at Aratula State School. Professional development is provided at school, through attendance at workshops and through professional reading.

Finally, we endeavour to develop a world-class learning environment for



children. This includes not only the aesthetics of the school but also the tools and technology that supports students' learning. In 2017, we purchased additional iPads and replaced older style desktop computers with laptops that provide greater flexibility for learning activities. We will continue to invest in technology in 2018.

Student Leaders

Last Monday, Mr Jon Krause MP visited our assembly to present our 2018 student leaders with their badges and officially induct them to their positions.

Our leaders are:

Louise W - School Captain

Maddison H - Vice Captain

Brandon M - Sports Captain

On Thursday, I had the privilege of accompanying these leaders to Maroon Outdoor Education Centre to attend the inaugural Fassifern Leadership Conference with students and principals from other schools within our cluster. This was a very productive day that highlighted the necessity for leaders to act with integrity to develop trust and teamwork in those they lead.

Issue 2

12th February 2018

Dates to Remember

14 February
ECaps—each
Wed—9am
Chaplain Visit

19 February
Assembly
2:45pm

28 February
Chaplain Visit

5 March
Assembly
2:45pm
P & C Annual
General Meeting
5:30pm

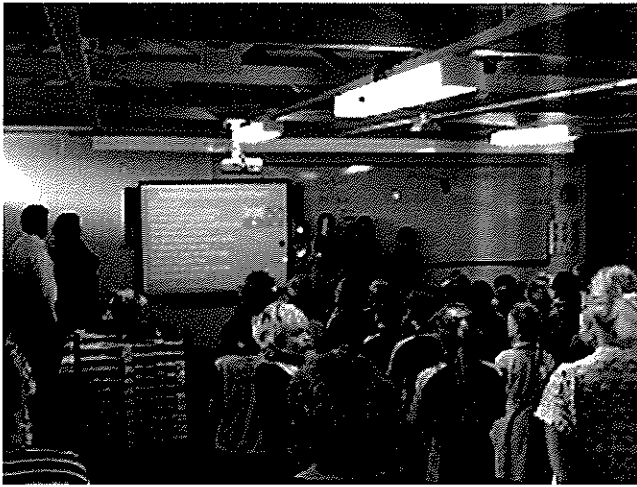
19 March
Assembly
2:45pm

21 March
Harmony Day

26 March
Camp Quality

LIKE US
ON FACE-
BOOK

I have every confidence that Louise, Maddison and Brandon will serve our school proudly.



Student absences

Thank you for supporting our student attendance monitoring by using the new absence@aratulass.eq.edu.au email address. This has proven to be very effective. Please remember to state your child's name and reason for absence. Alternatively, you may call the school number 07 5463 8158. If the office is unattended, you may leave a message stating your child's name and reason for absence.

Student Collection and Bus Transportation

Please help us keep your child safe by:

1. Designating a pick up spot. If you intend to park your vehicle and have your child walk out of the school grounds, please inform your child's class teacher.
2. Notify staff of changes to bus arrangements. We mark a roll for bus duty and need to be certain that a parent has collected in the event of a student absence. Thank you to the parents who have provided updated information regarding bus travel.
3. If a person, other than a parent/carer or emergency contact, is required to collect your child, please notify the class teacher of this before the end of the school day. If this is likely to be an ongoing arrangement, please notify the office in writing.
4. Please use the carparks in front of the school whenever possible to avoid children having to cross the road.

Thank you for your support of these valuable safety initiatives.

2018 office hours

The office is open from 8am – 3:30pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Money collection days are now Wednesday and Thursday with all student banking to be handed in on Thursday. If you need to sign your child in late or sign out for early departure, please visit Mrs Love in the office. On Tuesday and Friday, this process may be completed in your child's classroom.

Feedback

If you ever have any feedback you would like to provide, or any ideas or suggestions for our school, I would love to hear from you! Please come to see me, call to make an appointment or email me anytime at aarms55@eq.edu.au. Emails will be followed up with a phone call.

Have a fabulous fortnight!

Angela Armstrong
Principal



From the Classrooms

From the 5/6 Classroom...

As we move further into the term we are beginning to examine topics with greater depth, exploring cause and effect in History and the behaviour of different materials in Science. Students have been practising their writing regularly, refining the structure of their narratives and their use of precise language. Here is an example from Mia of the way well-constructed sentences and alliteration can create beautifully fluent writing:

The circus was teeming with people, anxious to see the talent of the "Tarantula Terror", for this event was only temporary. These people had heard that when the tarantula goes into a tank full of piranhas for ten minutes, it comes out without a single scratch.

Ms Bills.



Well it's a big hello from Years 2,3,4!

We have started the term off with smooth sailing. Our classroom has provided us with a lovely spacious learning area and we have been very busy already.

Everyone is getting used to their new routines. Last week we started with homework. Students will take home new spelling words each Monday and bring back their homework folders on Friday. There is a reading log in their folder so they can record what they read each night and a space for their comments about what they read.

Our library borrowing time is every Monday when the students choose 2 books. One for home reading and one for class. Our fast readers can renew books by simply placing them into the "Returned Books" box in front of the library door and they can be replaced prior to our set library borrowing time. The same goes for the students who don't finish a book in a week, they can keep them for up to 2 weeks before renewing them. We want to encourage the love of reading as much as possible.

For the first 5 weeks, our literacy focus is on Poetry. This includes the purpose and poetic devices needed for writing, including grammar. Some of the students are natural poets and loved sharing their first rhyming poems about their pets. The students had a good laugh when I read a poem I wrote at their age about my pet dog Fred.

During Numeracy, we have a strong focus on Number including the use of calendars and next we will be working with time using clocks both digital and analogue.

There is a very positive atmosphere in our class and I feel sure we are all going to have a wonderful year of learning together.

Regards

Mrs. Kuiper

Chinese Study Tour comes to Aratula

Late last year, Aratula State School was asked to take a group of Chinese students for a 1 day Study Tour Visit. We jumped at the idea. What a great way to bring some international culture to our school. Well, the group came yesterday and it was amazing.

We asked for volunteers from the students to be buddies for the Chinese students. This would involve helping them find their way around school, take part in the activities we had organised and spend some time just making friends with these young children from Beijing (they were between 9 and 11 years old). The students who volunteered were instructed on the importance of their role

during the visit and all of them were very excited as the day approached.

We all wondered how we would go with the obvious language barrier.

Thankfully, the Chinese students were escorted by a bilingual guide, Cassandra, who explained anything that seemed to be a little tricky for the Chinese students to understand. They all spoke some English and by the end of the day, there didn't seem to be any language difficulties at all.

We enjoyed a wonderful 'Aussie food' morning tea - all the trimmings, including little meat pies and sausage rolls, cupcakes, lamingtons and fresh fruit. All the students whether Australian or Chinese went straight for the cupcakes.

The Chinese students visited the 2/3/4 class where they were involved in a wonderful lesson about Australian animals. They also visited the 5/6 classroom where they joined in playing favourite board games and drawing. As well as the Chinese students really enjoying this time in the classes, it was a wonderful experience for the students at Aratula to develop their understanding of a culture very different to their own.

We had a typical Aussie sausage sizzle for lunch, including an ice-block. There was free play at break time and a really interesting indigenous game just before the end of the day. The students from China were in awe of our wide open spaces and greenery - things we almost take for granted.

Gifts were exchanged at the end of the day as well as e-mail addresses. We waved good bye to our new friends and as I asked the students from Aratula how they enjoyed the day the resounding answer was "better than they had expected" and they "can't wait to host another group" and do it all again. I'm sure this visit will live on in their memories for a long time.

Regards

Mrs Wolter

!Chaplain News

— It is great to be working as the School Chaplain at Aratula again this year.

The Chaplaincy service provides social, emotional and spiritual support to the school community. The school chaplain is a safe person for students to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains are positive role models who run activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

I will be at Aratula School on the following dates this term:

Wednesday - 31st January;

Wednesday - 14th & 28th February

Wednesday - 14th & 28th March.

Please come and have a chat when you see me.

The “Chappy Challenge” is being held again on Saturday 3rd of March, 2017.

Chappy Challenge is an event held to raise much needed funds through registrations, sponsorships and donations. The funds raised are used to offset the short fall in funds provided by the Federal Government to employ Chaplains in our local Fassifern primary schools and secondary school. The challenge for participants is to select and then complete one of the cycling, running or walking courses offered. The event is open to families and individuals of all ages. For more information, to register or donate, go online to chappychallenge.com.au or follow Chappy Challenge on facebook.

Why not join in the fun and walk, run or cycle, or just come down and support our Chaplains and the participants? Thank you!

Kind Regards,
Karen Turner.

THOUGHT: ‘A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor’

Student Banking

Student Banking Day for this year is each Thursday. If you would like to have your children participate in the student banking program, please read the information pack included with this newsletter.

P and C Patch

Well Hello again everyone!

I hope everyone has settled in nicely to the 2018 School year.

We are having some fun with our Tuckshop Menu this term which we hope is tempting for our hungry, little students.

Our Fundraising ventures kick off very shortly with a Chocolate Drive up first. Notes will be sent home with more information.

Our Annual General Meeting is happening on 5th March at 5:30pm. All welcome of course.

Attached to the newsletter is a Committee Nomination form. Please fill it in and return to the School asap.

Have a terrific week.

Kindest regards
Aratula P & C.