



Education and Training

Amaroo School Newsletter

Tuesday
9 December 2014

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week the Year 10 Excellence Awards were presented at the Playhouse in Civic. Three students from all public schools across the ACT were selected for awards. Aimon, Mabior and Kieran from Amaroo School received awards. These three students have made an enormous contribution to our school and fully deserve this wonderful system recognition.

Last Friday the entire Year 10 cohort was farewelled at our traditional Farewell Assembly. Our current Year 10 students deserve great credit and recognition for both the contribution they have made to our school and the fantastic and mature way they have behaved. We wish our Year 10 students every success for their future studies.

Amaroo School is extremely lucky to have supportive and helpful community. It is appropriate to acknowledge and thank the many parents and carers that make enormous contributions to our school. The School Board is made up of students, parents and staff and they play a very important leadership role. The P&C also play an important a role as they coordinate and run many services that enhance the learning opportunities we can provide for our students. These include the School Canteen and Uniform Shop.

We also have a group of regular helpers who form a wonderful group that we refer to as the Amaroo Angels. This group of contributors volunteer their time to provide a range

of terrific and very useful learning support and services for our students. There is no doubt the learning opportunities provided by our teachers are greatly enhanced by the support of the Amaroo Angels. There are also many parents and carers who help in a range of other ways across our school. We thank all these wonderful people for the contribution they make to our school. Whether it be helping with the Reading Program or helping out in any other way, these contributions certainly make a difference to the learning opportunities we provide for our students.

Phase one of the 3 year ICT Action Plan for Amaroo School begins in 2015.

Parents and Carers who wish to invest in a Google Chromebook for your child in year 9 or 10 in 2015 are warmly invited to the front foyer of the school from Wednesday 10 December to Wednesday 17 December for a hands on experience with a range of suitable Chromebooks. This will help and support you in your Chromebook choice for your child before the beginning of the 2015 school year.

Google Chromebooks are an excellent and affordable example of a cloud based computing device that Amaroo School has researched, invested and piloted the use of in 2014.

We are confident that this device will meet the needs and demands of a truly 21st century learning environment at Amaroo School. So come on down to the school and try our "Chromebook PlayStation" for the last week of the 2014 school year! This will be located in the Front Office Board Room from 8:30am-3:30pm.

Calendar Dates

Wednesday 10 December 2014	Preschool play and chat @3:30pm. Kindergarten Dendy Cinema Excursion. Yr 7 Production of Aladdin in Hollywood in the Onyx Theatre 6pm
Thursday 11 December 2014	Arts & Technology 'Creative Minds' Exhibition in the Hall 4:30pm-7pm-All welcome. Excellence Awards night in the Gym (times advised in notes to families). Re-burying of Amaroo School time capsule at 6pm. Year 2 Dendy Cinema Excursion.
Friday 12 December 2014	Arts Tech exhibition -Class tours 9am-12pm. Preschool End of Year Celebration Disco- 3.30pm-5.30pm. Primary Gallery Gathering-2pm Hall -All Welcome
Monday 15 December 2014	Year 5 & Year 8 Graduation. Year 5- Lunch and Disco. Year 8 Movie Excursion . Year 9 Jamberoo excursion.
Tuesday 16 December 2014	Early Childhood Performance Night- Time: 5:45pm, in the Gym. Yr 6 and 7 fun day at big splash pool in Jamison for the whole day.
Wednesday 17 December 2014	Whole School assembly 9:30am-All Welcome Last day of 2014 school Year.

Continued next page

Student Achievements

Please congratulate Mitch , Josh, Jared, and Michigan on their completion of the Certificate I in Building. The graduation was well attended by departmental staff and the students' families.

The dedication to both the practical and theoretical requirements of the course was very impressive by all participants. They are commended on their mature attitude, co-operation on site, within the classroom and their attendance levels.

A special thanks to Garth Jurd, Steve Hardy, Caroline Knoke and Matthew Taylor that have supported them this term.



Chloe and Oliver from Ms Parker's Year 1 class have created great pieces of summer art. These two talented students have used the letters from the word summer to design and craft a poem about summer. Their work is creative and colourful. Well done.

Noah from Ms Ianna's Year 3 class has produced some outstanding writing. Noah has worked hard all year to improve his writing and his essay about elephants is an example that demonstrates great improvement and a high standard work. It is great to see Noah taking pride in producing his best work.

Eleanor from Ms Neideck's Year 2 class has written a great persuasive piece of work. She has convinced me and I am sure any other reader that Brussel Sprouts are a great food and taste terrific. Well done and great writing.

Three Amaroo students achieved an outstanding result in the recent ANZCA piano exams held on 15 November. It was the second piano exam this year for all three students which demonstrates their commitment to learning all the syllabus requirements, memorising musical terms and practicing their songs.

Preliminary: Kim (Honours).

Preparatory: Melissa (First Class Honours), Liam (Honours) and Mirabel (Honours).

We commend all of our Amaroo School piano students listed below on their love of playing and their commitment to practice over the past 3 years with their Piano Teacher Fiona. 2014 students are: Troy, Grace, Ajay, Izak, Brandon, Patrick, Skye, Jessica, May, Kim , Melissa, Liam, Mirabel.

Amaroo Angels

Tomorrow is the last session for the year. To thank the Angels for all their hard work, our session will be a special morning tea. All welcome to attend in the Community Room commencing at 9am. Please bring a plate to share.

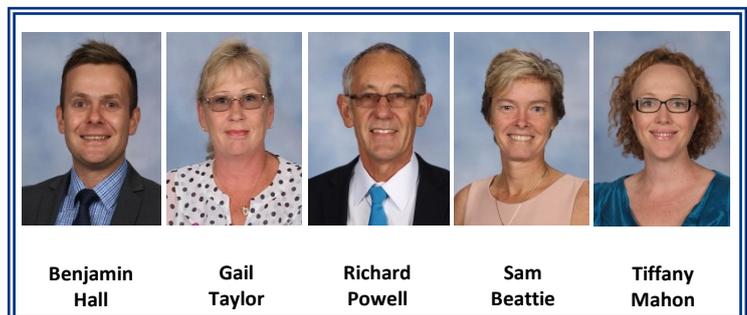
Please see next page for BYOD (Bring your own device) information for 2015.

As always, please contact the Deputy Principals; Benjamin Hall, Gail Taylor, Sam Beattie, Tiffany Mahon or myself, to clarify any issue of concern to you. The whole school team at Amaroo School are committed to working with our community to ensure our students have the very best opportunities to learn.

Richard Powell

Principal

Amaroo School





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Dear Parents and Carers,

Amaroo School have received feedback from parents and carers seeking clarification of some of our messages to parents about Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). Whilst we read and reread the letter many times we do apologise for any miscommunications.

This communication is designed to clarify the choice of device and security issues raised by a number of parents and carers.

Chromebooks are the device of choice for Amaroo School because they are inexpensive yet fast, light weight and the most secure device best suited to a school environment. However any device that meets the specifications on the link below will suffice.

It is also important to note that whilst Chromebooks have limitations and will not perform all the functions of a laptop or notebook computer. Amaroo School is confident that Chromebooks meet the 21st Century learning needs of students at Amaroo School.

Whilst Amaroo School will do all we can in regards to keeping devices safe at school we cannot accept responsibility for thefts and losses. In regards to security issues around students involved in our BYOD program we would make the following points:

- One of the reasons Amaroo School has chosen a Chromebook as the device of choice is that they are very light and can be carried on the person of the student continuously and comfortably as a result.
- Chromebooks are also inexpensive devices that all students will have access to. High Value devices that are brought to school may be at greater risk of loss, damage or theft.
- Lockers are available at a small cost and will be the best way to secure a device safely during breaks.
- Students will be asked to sign a digital contract that makes clear their personal device is their own responsibility which is designed to teach them how to look after and take responsibility for their own equipment.
- Amaroo School will support the implementation of BYOD with library lending of Chromebooks during the day.
- Amaroo School believes the use and care of a personal digital device for learning will equip students with essential knowledge and skills to function highly effectively in the 21st century throughout school and into adulthood.

I hope this information places parents and carers in a position where they feel they can support the program with the provision of a device, however if this is not possible your child will be able to borrow a device from the library.

Amaroo School will continue to update communication around BYOD and our ICT plans on our website. Please refer to: <http://www.amaroos.act.edu.au/byod>