Dear Parents and carers,

Being Creative
This week, as I have walked around the school, I reflected on how creative our teachers and students are. Many students come up to teachers and me about ideas on how to improve our school or what the teachers could teach that may be more interesting. We always listen and reflect, and that is one way our school has made changes for the better. I have written about a few of the notable changes below:
• Last week you may have seen the new play equipment installed. The children have named this Mr Phil’s playground. Our janitor, Phil Batten assembled the new equipment and we now have a better enhanced play area at the entrance to our school. This idea came from the children suggesting they wanted different places to play. See the photo on facebook.

• Last week we changed our whole school assembly time from every second Friday at 11.30 to 9am. This was a P&C request to support families who work. Our first assembly at the new time was a great success and we were presented with two awards for sustainability.

• This week I have continued discussions with the local high school, Gold Creek, to be part of the Brick and Block program. Secondary school students who are involved in pre apprenticeship work will later this year be building an additional handball area near the senior school. They will be working off the plans and designs that Mr Landman’s maths class drew up last term.

• We have just had our radio station installed last week also. Drop by the library and look into the old computer lab area and see the newly painted Flexible Learning Environment. This area has been funded by the money raised by the children from their annual walk-a-thon. The SRC are brainstorming for a fundraising idea for this year’s walk-a-thon.

• We have topped up our quality literature books over the holidays from the points generated from Book club. Thanks kindly to the Scholastic Bookclub mums who, each month, work so hard to supply quality reading to families. Thanks also to the mums who cover the library books after they arrive - a big job. The quality reading program came from children wanting to take home picture books with their home reader. We also have senior students reading books to younger ones and recording the stories onto USBs. These are also available to loan. The library has books with CDs also if you would like to borrow these stories.

• Our lunchtime clubs also offer alternative activities for our children at Palmerston. We change the clubs to reflect children interest. This term we are offering: band, science, defence, CODE-ing, Boomerang, Environmental, skipping, knitting, chess, basketball, book club and soccer. Last term we had a successful teacher verses student basketball game, so this will be brought back due to popular demand from the children. The library is open each morning before school for storybook reading as well. A teacher reads a picture book each morning in the library.

• Our science fair will be back again this year, so please look out for the flyer on how to be part of this fun family event. The children love this event and thanks to the science teachers – Mrs Levinson and Mrs Fisk - who maintain our momentum. We are targeting science purchasing also to support the National Science Curriculum.

Being creative in a school and open to ideas always brings joy to a school. When we think of creative people we often think about people who are artistic. People who can show their talents in ways such as art-painting, drawing, pottery, music, movement, drama, dance, writing and designing for example. Being creative is not just about being artistic. Being creative or artistic doesn’t mean you know how to draw or play an instrument. Being creative is a way of thinking, a way of viewing the world. Creative people sometimes make NEW things but they can also think about things in different ways. Later this year, Palmerston will have a Thinking Skills Day for the whole school community.

Creative people are inquisitive and curious. They don’t just accept everything or believe that there is only one way. To be a more creative person, learn to ask yourself why, what if and I wonder…

This week, our staff was creative. Our school often raises money for charities or the SRC target a charity for support. This Friday, our Palmerston staff challenged themselves to be more creative, and as a team, a group of workers, we are fundraising for Jeans for Genes ourselves. This is a Palmerston staff challenge of ‘what if we (as a staff) did something for someone else?’ Maybe challenge yourself this week to be creative and think differently.
Creative people are observant, they see the world differently.

Creative people also need to be persistent. They don’t give up easily.

Creative people see hurdles (problems or mistakes) as leading to improvement and better solutions.

As Thomas Edison once said when asked how it felt to have failed nearly 7000 times trying to discover the best filament for an incandescent light bulb, “Those are not failures, they are solutions to problems I haven’t started working on yet.”

Palmerston District Primary School is a school working on solutions, we are creative and we are proud of our school and all who arrive here each day.

**Melissa Travers**
Principal

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**School Board**
The school board meet twice a term and each year we have discussed the roles of executive staff and areas of open communication. If you have a concern about your child’s learning or social wellbeing, your first point of contact should be the class teacher. If you feel that your child’s needs are still not being met, please contact the year level supervisors. If you feel you need additional support after this contact, please see the Deputy or then the Principal. The year level supervisors are the best placed to know your child’s learning and social needs in that area of child development. Class teachers can be emailed on “name of teacher@ed.act.edu.au” for example jane.smith@ed.act.edu.au.

Supervisor lines for Semester 2 are:

- **Preschool**
  - Kate Flynn
- **K – 2**
  - Haeley Simms and Georgina Sofatzis
- **3 – 6**
  - Rebecca Hewat and Jennifer Holland
- **Deputy**
  - Kirrally Talbot until 5 September 2014 (end of week 7) and after that Sylvia Headon

This is an initiative of the School Board to better meet the needs of busy working families and has been in place since 2012.

Each government school in the ACT is administered by a school board whose membership comprises the school principal, two elected staff members and three elected members of the parent body and a nominee of the Department of Education. Elected members normally serve for a two-year period.

The Board is the policy-making body of the School. Its major functions are to:

- Determine the educational policies to be implemented at the School
- Assess, from time to time, the needs of the School in relation to the provision of buildings and facilities, equipment, funds and teachers and other staff, and make recommendations to the Chief Executive (of the Department of Education) with respect to the meeting of those needs
- Determine the purposes for which funds made available for the school are to be expended
- Make recommendations to the Director General in respect of the use of the buildings, facilities and equipment of the School for purposes other than school purposes
- Develop relationships between the School and the community and between the School and community organisations
- Make recommendations to the Director General on matters relating to the School
Responsibility for the implementation of policies established by the Board rests with the Principal and staff

**Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)**

The P&C plays an important role within the School. Meetings are generally held twice a term on Monday evenings at 7pm and are advertised in the Newsletter. All parents are encouraged to attend the meetings. As well as its more official activities, the P&C provides an informal meeting ground for parents and teachers and also serves a fundraising function for the School. The P&C oversee the canteen. All extra fundraising goes through the P&C. If you have any ideas/suggestions please attend the P&C meeting.

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**Friendly Schools Plus & Everyone Everyday Programs**

As part of Kids Matter in 2014, we have implemented Friendly Schools Plus across K-6. This falls under the social and emotional learning of the Kids Matter umbrella. Students will continue to take part in a range of learning activities to develop social skills, friendships, emotions, conflict resolution and building a community of happy learners. It is recognised nationally and internationally as a successful whole-school evidence based bullying prevention program. The Friendly Schools Plus program will continue on a Friday across our school. Every second Friday students will participate in learning about ‘Everyone, Everyday’ Disability Education lessons educating our children about inclusion of all students both inside and outside our school community. This program starts this week. In mid-term we will have guest speakers coming in to discuss their personal experiences highlighting the importance of inclusivity.

“The hardest part of parenting is keeping kids’ chins up when life doesn’t go their way.” Michael Grose, Parentingideas

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**Palmerston Gifted and Talented Identification – 14 August (week 4) 6pm**

On 14 August (week 4) we will be holding a parent information session about gifted and talented students and the CAP (Challenging Academic Performance) program. This session is open to all parents who are interested in finding out about gifted education and what we offer at Palmerston. During this session our teachers will explain our Identification procedures which include nominations from parents and/or teachers.

This year we will be testing any students who are nominated by parents and/or teachers in kindergarten to year 5. Nomination forms will be available at the information session and from the front office from 15 August. Forms are due back Thursday 28 August (Week 6).
Preschool news:

Welcome to term 3! It is amazing to think that we are now over halfway through the year. The eager faces of the children on day 1 showed us that they are feeling refreshed and re-energised. We are looking forward to another term of fun and learning.

This is a short newsletter article to complement the comprehensive term overview that you received at the end of last week. We have a great deal of events coming up including Kenny Koala and the Gruffalo (for the end of the week groups). This week, the children participated in the Noteworthy musical experience by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra at Llewellyn Hall. What a fabulous performance! It was obvious that this was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and children and we look forward to practising some of the songs we heard in this performance.

I would like to remind you to label all items of clothing - particularly jackets and other warm clothes. On sunny winter days, the children often peel off a layer of clothing as they come inside. Having labelled items ensures that nothing goes missing. Please pack spare clothes for your children as well.

The departmental Hats Off policy ends on July 31. After this time, your child is encouraged to wear their sun smart hat. Please ensure they have a clearly labelled hat ready for August 1.

Have a nice week,
Kate Flynn

Susan Berran (author) - book orders update

This information is for families who have ordered Susan Berran’s books/items.

Orders have closed and the orders received have been placed through to Susan. These books/items should arrive to our school in the next few weeks and will be distributed to individual students.

Boomerang Club

Boomerang Kids have been participating in a variety of programs and activities during 2014. The aim of the club is to provide a group where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can engage and identify with each other with pride. It is open to any students in the school to attend to increase cultural knowledge and share in the fun!

Here is one of our senior student’s reflection:

“I liked it when Lisa came in and talked to us about how to crack open an emu egg without damaging the shell! She also brought in some red kangaroo skins which was pretty exciting. She told us some dreaming stories and also taught us how to throw a boomerang.” – Dakodah
Defence News

DCO (Defence Community Organisation) is moving with the times and is constantly adding resources to their website. Recently copies of the DVD’s dealing with the effects of deployments on families have been included on the site. “Going Solo” is suitable for younger families, kids enjoy the song by the bear family at the end, they can relate them to the deployment bears they have when a parent is absent. “Don’t Forget It’s Bin Night” is aimed at an older age group, it contains interviews with teenagers about their emotions and how they cope with parental absence. There are many good tips on coping strategies for everyone.

Another good resource that has recently been added is the Family Smart online workshops. There are two workshops for adults, both looking at the effects of military life on relationships and family. Family Smart Resilience is for partners of military personnel to increase their resilience and ability to better manage the military lifestyle. Family Smart Reintegration is designed to help families manage when a member returns home from deployment. All this information is available on my DSTA News board outside the library or on the DCO website, www.dco.defence.gov.au.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

Enrolment and Leavers – 2015

At this time of the year some families may know if they are going to be leaving Palmerston at the end of the year. We understand that families may need to relocate because of changes in jobs or housing. Could you please inform the front office if you know your child will not be attending Palmerston in 2015.

If your child is in preschool this year, they will automatically be enrolled in Palmerston Kindergarten for 2015.

2015 Class Information

Child/ren’s names and year level: _________________________________________________

My Child/ren will not be returning to Palmerston in 2015

My child will be attending:

______ Another government school in the ACT

______ A non government school in the ACT
**P & C NEWS**

**Palmerston Spring / Multicultural Fair**
Are you great at organizing?  
The Spring Fair Committee NEEDS HELP in organizing your Fair.  
We are looking for someone who has some spare time on their hands and is willing to help in the planning and running of the Fair. Please contact Jo, Edwina 0422 006 142 or via palmpandc@hotmail.com  
Fair planning meetings will be held in the school staff room on Thursday mornings at 9.00am.  
Secretary: This position is still vacant. If you can help collect/open/distribute the mail please let us know.

**P&C Chat-about:**
Remember every 2nd Friday (even weeks) after assembly you can come to the resource room at the library and meet up with other parents for coffee and a chat.

**Palm Café:**
Your canteen needs helpers. Tues/Thurs – looking for volunteers to keep it running. Great news! The eggs from the chooks are being used in the banana bread.

**School Banking:**
Banking is now on MONDAY. Jasmine still needs help in processing all the banking. If you can help, please Contact Jasmine Berry via the office for info.

**Uniform Shop:**
Reminder the Uniform shop is open Monday mornings 9-9.20am. Also the lost property box will be cleared out soon. All labelled items will be returned to students.

**Book Club:**
Sandra needs help in distributing the Book Club Orders when received. If you can spare 30mins twice a term please leave your details at the office for Sandra. Or contact Jo or Edwina.

**$190 million extra for our schools? Do you give a Gonski?**

Last year the ACT and federal governments signed a $190 million joint agreement for six years of extra funding for ACT schools following the recommendations of the Gonski review.

However, the federal government has now announced that it will not fund the final two years of this agreement, the crucial years where two-thirds of the funds were to be delivered.

Not having this funding will make it harder for ACT schools to implement their plans for improving our schools. Those plans include:

- reducing class sizes
- expanding literacy and numeracy programs
- increasing the individual attention and support for students at risk
- providing greater assistance to students with disabilities or special needs.

Please help us tell the federal government that we want our children to have all the resources they need for a high quality education.
Visit www.igiveagonski.com.au to find out more about the issue and to add your voice to the call for needs-based funding across Australia.

Jo & Edwina
P&C President/Vice

Next P&C Meeting: August 4th (Term 3, Week 3) @ 7:00pm. Meetings are week 3 & 9 each term.

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**School Banking and Book Club – volunteers needed**

Both the Commonwealth School Banking and Scholastic Book Club bring funds into our school and provide a great service for students. We are looking for volunteers for term 3. The new banking day is Monday. Banking starts at 9am and only takes about 20 minutes. Please see Jasmine if you can help.

Welcome to Term 3, this term we introduce a **swimming bag** and the **Dollarmite money boxes, also whale shark pencil cases, penguin and shark key rings** which are all available to redeem once you have reached 10 tokens.

For mums and dads who do not know about the program...

*Children learn to save their money by bringing it to school every week, no matter the amount of the deposit the children receive a token, once they have saved 10 they get to choose a fantastic reward! Do you know that for every new child that joins the program the school receives $5.00 and 5% commission with all the children’s deposits throughout the term?*

You can go to any Commonwealth Bank Branch and open a Youthsaver, don’t forget to take child’s ID and your own ID.

Come and join in the fun and learn to save with the School Banking Program and help your school in fundraising!

*This year we are deep sea savers so come and join in on the fun!*
Our School Hirer's

Term 3 kicks off Thursday 24th July 7.30pm-8.30pm. $10 casual rate or $90 upfront for 10 weeks. Easy to follow routines for all Fitness Levels. We are also running Freestyle Step classes and Yoga classes. Please call Shirley for more information 0417282173
Email: funkshirlnal@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook and “Like” our page “Funkshirlnal Fitness”

Community News

2015 Enrolments for school age care
The enrolment period for School Age Care into Before and After School Care for 2015 has opened for all families.

A reminder that current families need to re-enrol as well as new families.

Enrolment forms for School Age Care for 2015 are now available on the Communities at Work website: https://commsatwork.org

Please be advised that all of our programs have capped numbers. Enrolments will be processed in the order in which they are received; enrolments received after capacity is reached will be placed on a waiting list.

Enrolments are not confirmed until an email has been received from the enrolments team, if you would like to check on the progress of your application please call 1300 212 273 or email enrolments@commsatwork.org

Communities@Work’s – Bringing up Great Kids
The program focuses on the parenting journey and acknowledges that parenting is different for every family and individual. The program is ideal for parents with children aged birth to 12 years.
Throughout the program parents will:

- Reflect on parenting styles
- Identify messages children are sending and receiving
- The message centre - understanding early childhood brain development
- Behaviour messages and how parents can respond to them
- The importance of relationships, self-esteem and self-care

Parents will also receive their own ‘Parenting Journal’ for on-going reflection and support.

**When:** Monday 4 August – 8 September from 12:30pm to 2:30pm
**Where:** Gungahlin Child and Family Centre – 51 Ernest Cavanagh Street, Gungahlin

This is a free six week course by trained facilitators.
Contact Tegan Graham 6293 6520 or email Tegan.graham@commsatwork.org or familylinks@commsatwork.org
Norths Basketball Club - Junior Summer Season Trials

Norths Basketball Club is one of the major basketball clubs in the ACT and we have a large number of teams competing in Basketball competitions in Canberra. Our junior teams train locally at either the Gold Creek School Senior site or Gungahlin College gyms.

We are now taking registrations for the 2014-2015 (Term 4 and Term 1) Summer Season. Interested players are invited to attend our trials at Gold Creek School Senior Site gym

Mondays 4th and 11th August
U12 Girls (Born 2005/2004) 530pm – 630pm
U14 Girls (Born 2003/2002) 530pm – 630pm
U16 Girls (Born 2001/2000) 630pm – 730pm
U16 Boys (Born 2001/2000) 730pm – 830pm

Tuesdays 5th and 12th August
U12 Boys (Born 2005/2004) 530pm – 630pm
U14 Boys (Born 2003/2002) 630pm – 730pm

Please arrive 15 mins earlier to record your attendance and complete registration

For further information contact our junior coordinator, Jodie Kerec northsbasketball@yahoo.com.au or phone 0410 654688.

We look forward to seeing you in Norths colours.

Scouting is for boys and girls aged 6-25. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests. Come and try Scouts today, and take advantage of our 3 week FREE trial.

Visit scoutsact.com.au to find your closest Scout Group or call 1800 SCOUTS

Take action. Start solving.

When life pressures are causing you stress, you can take action. NewAccess is a free service that provides support in the form of a coach. It’s someone who can guide you in setting practical goals that will help you get you back on track.

Take action by calling 6287 8066 or visit www.beyondblue.org.au/NewAccessCoach
Host Families Needed in January, 2015
Experience Another Culture, Make New Friends
Improve your language studies at home

In January 2015 we will be receiving exchange students from Europe (Germany, Italy, Denmark, Finland and France), South America (Argentina) and Japan. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. To this end, we would again be grateful if you would place a notice in your newsletter/bulletin or mention it on your website. You can download the newsletter notice here in Word format or as a PDF.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also view some student profiles on our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

“It’s been a fantastic experience so far...It’s been great having an older brother for our young kids. Simon has been a fantastic role model...Simon helps around the house a lot. One of the first things he said to us during the first couple of days he was here was what should my chores be? I was delighted to hear him say that.” Victoria, Host Mum

"Hosting Kirstine has brought our family closer together. We’re doing things we used to do when our kids were little, like boiling the billy, having a BBQ and baking apples up the paddock. She’s helped us remember how to have fun when we’re working and take time out for adventures.” Sharon, Host Mum

"Being the youngest and the only one left at home I was looking forward to having another teenager in the house. While Charlotte helps me with my French I help her with her English lessons and I have taught her many Aussie words and sayings. We both love to shop and shop and shop...” Grace, Host Sister

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331. No obligation.