Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 6 week of this term. We have been in a whirlwind of events.

**Bandstrav**
A big congratulations to the year 3/4 Fife Band and the Year 6 Band for their performances at Bandstravaganza (Bandstrav) on Monday and Wednesday evenings. We are very proud of our bands and the children’s enthusiasm. The students were well behaved and outstanding musicians. Their teachers commented on their achievements.

**Walkathon**
Today we announced the winners of the colouring in competition. Well done to all who participated in the walkathon, colouring in competition and those who assisted in our school raising $3,500 for our friendship benches. Thank you families for your support.

**Trivia Night/ Quiz Night**
We held the Palmerston Trivia Night last Friday. We had over 10 tables of people vying for the big prize of Trivia Master Table. We had the ‘Mums in Black’, the teacher’s table, the ‘runaway Brides’ and more.
competing for exciting prizes. Thank you to Jo and Edwina for organising the event and the prizes. We raised approximately $1,500 for the P&C.

A request from the P&C for the Christmas Concert – Christmas Raffle
We are going to have a Christmas raffle this year. Please drop off a donation or two for the Christmas raffle in the box in the school foyer. We will take small gifts, chocolate or anything you might like to find in a Christmas raffle.

I thought I would list the Christmas songs for you, so you can practice them at home. If you have queries, please just ask us.

Santa’s Christmas Workshop, Reindeer Pockey, Go Santa go, Santa clause is coming to town, We are going on a summer holiday, Christmas comes but once a year, Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells, Holiday Skit, Silent night, Joy to the world, Chinese song, Palmerston Seniors song, Bells are Ringing/ Steeple Bells.

English at Palmerston
The teachers attended an afternoon of professional learning on teaching English on Tuesday along with 600 other teachers from across the ACT Government schools. Palmerston held a table on ‘How to teach English’ and showcased our excellent results and our English vision for 2015. We have had many schools from across Canberra and in our local area come along to our school to view what we do and ask us about our teaching strategies, assessment and results. Tuesday was an opportunity to showcase to more schools and to learn from others.

Classes for 2015
As our school is still taking enrolments, I thought I would give you an update. We have filled our preschool classes for 2015 and have a waiting list. We have been working with students to transition smoothly into their next year of learning. We will be putting on a fifth Kindergarten class to keep class sizes small. We have finalised our CAP testing and letters have gone out to families and an information evening will be held soon. If you know you will be relocating or not attending Palmerston in 2015, please contact the front office. We are working on staff placements and we need to have exact student numbers. Thank you for your support.

Student Interviews
Bookings are available if you would like to take up the offer of a student interview. Please call the front office to make a time.

As the weather heats up, please remind your children to put on sunscreen, wear their hats and play in the shade if they are hot. We have many shaded play spaces across the school and the library is open at lunch time.

Have a great week, and I look forward to seeing you at the next P&C meeting and at the Christmas Concert.

Melissa Travers
Principal

Social Media Use
The internet and social media provide many opportunities for us to network and socialise online. While these technologies provide positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to upset or offend others.
Just as we encourage our children to be respectful to others at home, school and other places they go, we need to remind them of the importance of being respectful online.

Social media channels, typically Facebook and Instagram, have a minimum age of 13 for opening an account.

I encourage you to speak to your child about how they use the internet and social media and the responsibilities that come with these technologies.

**Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Instagram**

1. **Why do teens love Instagram?**

Because they love media, sharing it and socialising with it on their phones, and Instagram makes all that doable in a simple, eye-catching way. Teens like taking, cropping, enhancing, sharing and commenting on photos and videos. But the commenting isn't just commenting - in effect, they're socialising in mixed-media conversations that include plenty of likes and links too.

2. **Does Instagram have a minimum age?**

Yes, it's 13, which is similar to most other online services (originally because of US law). But Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than on the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

3. **What are the risks in using Instagram?**

Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Instagram, the main things parents worry about are typical of all social media: mean behaviour among peers and inappropriate photos or videos that can hurt a child's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention. Parents are also concerned that people their kids don't know can reach out to them directly. Kids can learn to manage these risks, which is why we wrote the guide.

4. **What's the best way to help kids stay safe on Instagram?**

As with all social media, being respectful of ourselves and others makes us safer. Our posts and comments reflect on us and others in our photos and videos. Whether serious or silly, they become part of our public image. Respecting others in how media is shared, tagged and commented on reduces risk. While most kids are smart about this, it doesn't hurt for parents to be sure kids aren't posting provocative images or having inappropriate interactions with people they don't know, which leads to the next question....

5. **Should my child's profile be private?**

For many kids, part of the fun of Instagram is developing a big following - a good thing for parents and kids to talk about. Having a public account on Instagram means anyone can follow you. A private account means that you have to approve each request from anyone who wants to follow you, so many parents have their kids start using Instagram with a private account. But there's no guarantee your child won't be seen on Instagram or any other photo-sharing service, because people post photos of each other. Even not having an Instagram account can't ensure a child won't appear in a photo there. How
positive or negative a young person's experience is on Instagram or anywhere online depends as much on the person and his or her friends as on the app.

For more information http://www.headspace.org.au/media/994367/instagramguideparents.pdf

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Writing Awards – Outstanding Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 14 November:

Jessica P (KFC), Jessica T (KFC), Violet (KFC) and Kay (KFC).

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Palmerston PRIDE Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 14 November:

**PARTICIPATION** – becoming involved, “having a go” and cooperating with others

Jacob (2VS), Andie (1HS) and Kay (KFC).

**RESPECT** – respect for self, others and their property

Halamehi (KFC)

**INTEGRITY** – being honest, fair, responsible and loyal

Abdurrahman (KFC) And Elizabeth (1HS)

**DETERMINATION** - being persistent and resilient

**EMPATHY** – understanding and supporting others, regardless of our differences

Rachel (1HS) and Alira (2VS)

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Stationery Pack 2015 Information

Please remember to order your book pack from OfficeMax before Friday 19 December 2014. The process is simple and allows you to select items as needed. All book packs ordered by 19 December will be delivered to the school before the first day of school. Each pack will be packaged with your child’s name and year level.
If you have misplaced your book pack information you can access each year level on the school website or you can collect a copy from the front office.

The Palmerston District Primary School 2015 Stationery Pack lists were sent home with your child/ren recently.

If you are unable to find your Stationery Pack information please To have your order delivered to Palmerston District Primary School complete your order online by FRIDAY 19 December 2014.
To place your orders please go to: http://www.officemaxschools.com.au/ and follow the steps below.
1. Search for your school: Palmerston District Primary School
2. Enter the school password: 2PALMPRBTS
3. Enter students name and select their 2015 year level
4. Select items and quantities required the ‘click’ Add to Cart
5. Review the items in your shopping cart and proceed by clicking ‘Order Online’
6. Review contact and payment details and click ‘Place your Order’

If ordered after Friday 19 September packs will be delivered to home and will incur a delivery cost of $18.90. 2015 Stationery Lists can also be found on the school website: 2015 Stationery Lists and Instructions

Christian Education – Wednesday 26 November – Opt IN program
We will teach the children that when it was the right time God sent His Son to us at Christmas (Galatians 4:4) , using songs & stories, and a game to teach the children from the Bible. We may ask for student volunteers from the school to participate in these activities.

Preschool
We invite all parents/carers to attend our preschool interviews next week. These interviews are being held next Tuesday 25 November, Wednesday 26 November and Thursday 27 November. This is a great opportunity for families to talk to current preschool staff prior to children commencing preschool in 2015. Please call our front office staff on 62057241 to book in for this interview.

We are really looking forward to our end of year Garden Parties. These will be held on Tuesday 9 December at 9.30am (Snugglepots and Cuddlepies) and Thursday 11 December at 9.30am (Gumnuts and Blossoms). These parties will be a great way to celebrate all of the successes that your children have had during their time at preschool. A note with further detail about the Garden Parties will follow. The children have engaged in many exciting activities. These have included the Kindergarten Transition program as well as work in the indoor/outdoor classroom. We are looking forward to commencing our water play activities later in the term.

Have a great week,
Kate Flynn
Defence News

The Remembrance Day Assembly, held last Tuesday, was a pleasure to be a part of. To be able to honour the Defence Force personnel, who have fought in many conflicts defending Australia, is an honour in itself. I would like to thank Commander Dominic MacNamara for his engaging speech and all the students who worked hard to make it a wonderful assembly. The students and staff of PDPS showed many Palmerston Pride values during the assembly and thanks should be given to them also. It was nice to be able to share morning tea with so many defence families after the assembly too.

I count myself lucky to be a part of such a special school.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

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Thank you from the Heart Foundation

Thank you to the Palmerston community who helped us raise funds for the Heart Foundation. I am pleased to advise that we raised $424.20 at the cheer workshops! Thank you so much for your support!

Kind Regards,
Melissa Gelonese
Stop by the Palmerston Kitchen Garden Stall and purchase some fresh produce, seedlings and seeds. The stall will be open Mondays and Wednesdays when there is produce available.

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**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.

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**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

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**Semester 2 Reports 2014 – A-E Reports, Interviews and Duplicate Report Request**

Reports will be sent home with children in week 9. Preschool children will receive a developmental report. If your child is in Kindergarten, you will receive the school report. Children in Year 1-6 will receive a copy of the school report and an A-E report. If you require an interview with your child’s teacher in week 10 please contact the front office.
As parents/carers you have the option of withdrawing your child from the A-E reporting process. This means that your child will still be awarded an A-E grade in the key learning areas, and a copy of the A-E report will go onto their school file. However, an A-E report will not be sent home with your child. You will receive only the school report.

If you choose to withdraw your child from the A-E reporting process, please advise the school in writing. Please indicate below whether you require duplicate copies of your child’s report.

Request for duplicate reports – please return to the Front Office – Semester 2, 2014

I will require a duplicate copy of my child/ren’s report.

My child/ren’s name/s are ____________________________________________

                      class __________________________

Please post the duplicate report to the following: (please include name & address)

P&C News

P&C Chat-about - Friday 21 November
Join us for a coffee/tea and chat at 9:30am Friday 21 November in the library resource room.

P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE!! - Monday 8 December
The last P&C meeting for 2014 is on Monday 8 of December at 7pm in the staff room. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our successful year. Meetings are short and fun!

Items to be discussed include calendar items and ideas for 2015. Suggestion forms will also be available if you can’t make the meeting or would prefer to make suggestions anonymously.

As a P&C in 2014: What did we do well? What should we do differently next year?

Congratulations everyone!

This year the P&C in conjunction with the school held the following events:- Parent welcome BBQ, Carboot sale, fortnightly coffee & chat, Mother’s day stall, disco, school open day, Father’s day stall, cupcake day, World Teacher’s day afternoon tea, trivia night, and the canteen has been open 2 days a week.

School Disco - Friday Nov 28
It will be a Hawaiian theme - shirts and skirts!
Volunteers are needed for setup, pack up, canteen sales and security. If you can help contact Edwina on palmpandc@hotmail.com.

To run the Junior and Senior discos we need more **male** volunteers to help with the management, organisation and packing up from 7:30-9pm. Any dads available for the set up could come ½ an hour early at 5:30pm.

**Palm Café canteen**

Kids can buy healthy, tasty food at the canteen on Tuesday and Friday recess. The fruit slushies and popcorn are popular. Some students from Ms Weston’s 3/4 class have been doing a great job serving too. Please support their great work. Thanks to Leanne Harvey for doing another bake-up and to Sara, John (from afters) and Tracy for their continued efforts in the canteen.

**Christmas Carols**

The P&C support the Christmas Carols evening and will be holding a BBQ and selling drinks on the evening.

**Christmas Raffle**

There will be a box in the foyer for donations of Christmas items for our Christmas Raffle. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase during the Christmas Carols evening.

**Trivia Night - THANK YOU!**

Needless to say there was great company, great questions, great dress ups and great food! Thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed themselves and played a few games. There were lots of winners on the night (and a whole table of LOSERS). A shout out to the Runaway Brides table for their fantastic dress up effort!

Again, thank you to Edwina Samuelson, Fiona Allen and Syliva Headon for their huge efforts in putting this night together. Thanks to all the staff and parents who helped in lots of ways. Hold on and enjoy the Christmas festivities!

Jo Prezzi
P & C President

Edwina Samuelson
P&C Vice President

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**Community News**
Parentline ACT
Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress. Parentline ACT is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service. Phone Parentline if you would you like:
  • To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
  • Help with some ideas on raising children.
  • Support in the important job you are doing.
  • To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
  • To build better relationships in your family.
  • Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm on Phone: 6287 3833