Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second week of the year. We have had a very big week with the Swimming Carnival and the Parent Information Evening.

**Swimming Carnival**

A big thank you to the Swimming Carnival organising team who oversaw a magnificent carnival. Also, thank you to the whole school staff for their support and assistance, the parent community for volunteering and of course, our wonderful students. The manager of Dickson Pool remarked to staff on the outstanding behaviour of our students and the great organisation of our carnival. Well done everyone!
**Parent Information Sessions**

Wednesday evening was a wonderful opportunity to introduce our staff and a time for teachers to detail what the year holds for the children in their classes. Thank you to the families who came along. If you were unable to make it to the Parent Information Session, a copy of the class overview will be sent home and will also be available on the website. A list of staff and positions is below. If you wish to talk to a class teacher, please see them before or after class. An appointment is best so they can give you their time. We are all part of the partnership in educating your child/ren. If you feel you need to take an issue further, please see the executive teacher of the year level. The Deputy and Principal are also available if you are unable to resolve any issues. A snapshot of where your child ‘is at’ will be sent home in Week 9 this term.

**School Vision**

This year we will be revisiting our school vision and we would like you to be part of the conversation. Palmerston school is about positive relationships and working together for the education of our children. More information will be provided by our Deputy Tania Collis over the coming weeks.

**School Personnel List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Staff name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Melissa Travers</td>
<td>Principal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tania Collis</td>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sonya Campbell</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jenny Davies</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clare Timmiss</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philip Batten</td>
<td>Building Services Officer (janitor)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marina Pilicic</td>
<td>Defence School Transition Aide</td>
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<td>Judy Marriott</td>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
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<td>Preschool</td>
<td>Leanne Leake</td>
<td>Lead Educator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Freya Black</td>
<td>Lead Educator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christabelle George</td>
<td>Educator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bec Kimber</td>
<td>Educator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kate Flynn</td>
<td>Executive Teacher (P-2/EALD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Support Unit</td>
<td>Tina Fisk</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lynn Boxsell</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kay Carr</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory English Centre</td>
<td>Vlado Susko</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya Duggan</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anita Cox</td>
<td>Assistant (library &amp; IEC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Teaching Staff</td>
<td>Tiffany Fletcher</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Karon Campbell</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunny Dugbaza</td>
<td>Indonesian</td>
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<td>Lies Price</td>
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Janet Abbott, who oversaw our newsletter, has won a position in the Directorate, so please work with us while we train new staff in this role.

Have a great week,

Melissa Travers
Principal

“You can’t have a partnership without a relationship, and you can’t have a relationship without a conversation. You’ve got to have the conversation. Everything starts there.” (DEEWAR 2008)

This week we would like to take the opportunity to introduce our Executive Team:

Tania Collis – Deputy Principal
Hello, my name is Tania Collis and I am very excited to be back as your Deputy Principal. Last year, after being at Palmerston for three years, I was given the opportunity to work at another Canberra school for
six months. I have returned here with lots of new knowledge and ideas that I am looking forward to sharing. This year I will continue to oversee our community events so I look forward to meeting lots of you and working with you to keep making Palmerston such a warm and welcoming hub for our area of Gungahlin.

This year one of my major roles will be to work with staff, students and the community on resetting the vision for our school. Over the year we will be consulting with all of you on our collective vision as we head into our 21st year as a school! I hope many of you will engage with this wonderful opportunity. Keep your eyes out for further news and dates.

I will also continue to work with teachers and students on our programs and curriculum to ensure our great outcomes continue, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy. And, of course as a lover of the Arts, I will be running my dance clubs and working in classes to share the performing arts across the school. Look out for a performance soon.

Please come and say hello when you are at school. I always enjoy meeting our new families and catching up with those I have known for a while.

Alex Breen – Year 3 to 6 Executive
My name is Alex Breen. I am one if the executive teachers at Palmerston Primary School. This year I have returned from maternity leave and will be working part time, Wednesday to Friday with the senior school. I started my teaching career in 2006 at Amaroo School and in 2011 moved to Fraser Primary for a short period of time, before moving back to Amaroo School as an acting School Leader C. In 2012 I became a permanent School Leader C at Palmerston District Primary School. I have a passion for teaching years 3 to 6 with a strong focus on student outcomes in literacy and numeracy. This year I will be working closely with the year 3 to 6 teachers and Grant Smith, the other executive teacher for the senior school. Our main goals will be to continue to enhance and foster the literacy skills the students currently hold, while developing and strengthening their numeracy skills (which is our whole school priority for 2015).

Kate Flynn – Preschool to Year 2 Executive
My name is Kate Flynn. I am one of the executive teachers at Palmerston. I work closely with the preschool to year 2 team. I have three young children (boys) and work a part time load. I am in the school on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I have had extensive teaching experience both in the ACT and in schools overseas. I have worked across the grades from preschool to year 6 in a number of different educational settings. I started my career at Florey Primary School where I taught a release role as well as on class. After many years at Florey, I taught in the United Kingdom for two years before returning to work at Miles Franklin Primary School. I joined the staff at Palmerston in 2010 before going on leave in 2011.

Mandy Lee – Professional Practice Executive
Hi, my name is Mandy Lee and I am an experienced and dedicated teacher. I grew up in Canberra and attended Canberra University where I completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), with a major in Physical Education. I have 2 wonderful children, a girl aged 10 and a son, 13. Our weekends are spent at junior sport. Across my teaching career I have worked in a range of educational settings including preschool, primary teaching K-6 and running a Learning Support Centre. In 2013, I applied in the Professional Practice Executive Teacher (ETPP) round, and was successful. I am very excited to be continuing at Palmerston this year in the ETPP position. My role includes leading a very enthusiastic 5/6 team as well as coaching and mentoring teachers across the school in best practice, to improve outcomes for students. I will be working in close collaboration with the other executive teachers in leading committees across the school. I look forward to working in partnership with you and your children to ensure we are working within a quality learning environment.
Haeley Simms – Preschool to Year 2 Executive
My name is Haeley Simms. I am one of the executive teachers at Palmerston. I joined the staff at Palmerston in 2011. I work closely with the P-2 and IEC team. This year I will also be working with the school’s English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) students. I am in the school from Tuesday to Friday. I have had teaching experience both in the ACT and in NSW. I have worked across a variety of grades. I recently completed a graduate certificate in literacy and numeracy (The Early Years) furthering my interest in early years’ education. I have a strong interest in numeracy and data and this year I will be working closely with Kate Flynn to further develop the students’ numeracy skills.

Grant Smith – Year 3 to 6 Executive
My name is Grant Smith. I have ten years of teaching experience in the private school system and our fantastic public school system. I have held teaching positions at St Mary’s Primary, St Gregory’s Primary, Amaroo School and currently Palmerston District Primary. I have taught across all year levels K-6. I enjoy using Information Technology in the classroom and teaching Numeracy, PE and Sport. I have a Master of Education Degree in Pastoral Care Leadership and I am passionate about student wellbeing. I am very much looking forward to working with the Palmerston District staff, parents and students in 2015.

School Board - School Board elections will be held in early 2015
Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school’s future directions. There is one (1) vacancy for a parent representative on the Palmerston District Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017. Election of the parent representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2015 school year as set out below:

The positions for election will be:
One (1) - Parent Representative Position.
Elected positions run for a two (2) year term.

Nomination period:
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 2 February 2015
Closes - 11:00am on Monday 16 February 2015.

Voting period (if election is required):
Opens - 11:00am on Monday 23 February 2015
Closes - 11:00am on Monday 2 March 2015.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 30 March 2015.

If you are interested in being a member of the Palmerston District Primary School Board for 2015-2017 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Melissa Travers on 6205 7241. A copy of the School Board Manual is also available for perusal at the front office.

Nomination forms will be available from the school front office from Monday, 2 February 2015.
Swimming Carnival
What an amazing Swimming Carnival that took place on Tuesday this week. On Tuesday 350 students travelled to Dickson Aquatic Centre for our Annual Swimming Carnival and water activity rotation day. Well done to our brave students who entered in the competitive races. All the results have been entered and I am currently coordinating the ribbons to be handed out next week at senior/junior assemblies. A big thank you to the children for their impeccable behaviour, you were true ambassadors for Palmerston Primary. Also I would like to thank the parents who volunteered to assist on the day, it is with your support that we were able to run an action packed activity day.

Mandy Lee

How to Help the Front Office Support Your Child

Front Office hours are Monday to Friday between 8:30am – 3:30pm

Payments
Please use a Palmerston payment envelope when making payments for excursions or voluntary contributions. The envelopes are available at the front office. The envelope has a place for the students name, class and method of payment. This allows us to ensure your money is allocated to the correct activity and child. We accept cash, cheques, direct deposit and credit card payments. Payments can be made by direct deposit by using the QuickWeb payment option from the Palmerston School website which is the preferred option: http://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/payment
When using QuickWeb you will be prompted for the payment Fee Code and GL Code. These codes are now included in notes home. These enable us to allocate your payment correctly. If you are making a Direct Deposit payment, please make sure you include the student’s name, class and what the payment is for.

QuickWeb (preferred method)
GL Code: refer to school note
Fee code:

Online Banking Information
Westpac Bank BSB: 032 777
Account no: 001754

Lost Property
Lost Property is located in the hall foyer. Please make sure all your child’s belongings are labelled, including clothing, lunch boxes and bags.

2nd Hand Uniform Shop
The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Monday mornings in the School Hall foyer from 9:00-9:15am. Other times can be arranged if required.
First Aid
If your child requires First Aid or if they need to take medicine while they are at school they need to come to the First Aid room. The room is located adjacent to the front office. Please keep us informed of your child’s medical requirements so we can best support them whilst they are at school.

Emergency Medical Plans
If you have already informed us that your child has a medical alert we will be sending home an Emergency Treatment Plan for you to complete. Your child’s plan must be updated every year and returned to us as soon as possible.

Medication
If children need to take medication during school hours, please fill in an “Authority to Administer Medication” form which is available from the front office. If the medication is prescribed by a doctor, it is also preferable to have the doctor sign the form. Due to Directorate policy, school staff are not able to administer medication without this authority. All medication to be administered must be in the medication container/box from the chemist with dosage and time of administration and handed to the front office staff.

Student Absences
If your child is absent for any reason, could you please call the school on 6205 7241 on the day of their absence and write a letter with the dates and reason for their absence. This note should be handed to their teacher on the day they return.

Contact Details
For the well-being of your child please keep us informed of up-to-date contact phone numbers, addresses and essential details. We would also appreciate being informed of any changes in domestic arrangements in your child’s family.

Please make sure you provide us with your current email address. We send out email reminders about notes and newsletters as they are updated on our school website. You can find current information at www.palmdps.act.edu.au

If you require further information on general procedures within the school please do not hesitate to contact us on 6205 7241.

School Banking
School Banking will be conducted on Wednesdays this year. If anyone is interested in finding out more about school banking then please see Edwina in the Teachers’ staff room at 9am on Wednesdays. Any enquires please contact Edwina 0422 006 142.
The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) have many services available to ADF members and their families. Services range from individual counselling to group sessions. The group programs aim to improve the quality of life of veterans, eligible ADF members and their families. The groups cover topics such as “Beating the Blues”, “Building Better Relationships”, “Mastering Anxiety” and many others. The courses are free to eligible members and held in a variety of locations. They have just published their programme of events for January to July 2015 and information is available on their website, www.vvcs.gov.au, or phone 1800 011 046. It is well worth taking a look.

Cheers,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

P&C News

P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE - Monday 16 February, 7pm

Palmerston Primary P & C

We Need You!

All positions on the committee will become vacant at our AGM on Monday 16 February. Our meetings are held Mondays in Week 3 and Week 9 at 7pm in the Teachers’ staff room.

The following executive positions will be available:
President
Secretary & Assistant Secretary
Vice President
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Also, the following non-executive positions will also be available:
Fundraising Coordinator & assistants
School Banking Coordinator
Canteen Coordinator
Second Hand Uniform Coordinator
P & C Council Representative

The P & C is about providing experiences to bring our families together along with raising money to provide items for our school. Each year we have organised Car Boot sales, Mother’s & Father’s Day breakfasts, School Discos, Christmas BBQs, Raffles, Trivia Nights, The Spring Fair, Cupcake days, Mufti days and operated the school Canteen.
These positions are all held by volunteers and represent opportunities for you to become involved in your school while at the same time meeting new people. Without a functioning P & C Committee these activities cannot continue. If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact either Jo Prezzi or myself to discuss, otherwise just come along to the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you on Monday 16 February.

Edwina Samuelson (P & C Vice President)

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**Community News**

**“Bricks @ The Woden School”**  
The Woden School will be holding a Brick Expo and Competition supporting Muscular Dystrophy and students with special needs. Sat/Sun 14-15\(^{th}\) March. Come and see the LEGO Expo and competition displays. Enjoy LEGO play for children under age 12. Under age 12 MOC competition judged Sat and Sun 10am - 12pm. Small prizes for 1\(^{st}\) and 2\(^{nd}\) place. Lots of food, coffee, and soft drinks available. Tickets at the door. Children $2. Adults $4. Family of 4 (2A + 2C) $10.

**Hook In2 Hockey**  
Hockey Registrations now open! Friday 13\(^{th}\) February, 5pm-7pm at National Hockey Centre, Lyneham. Saturday 14\(^{th}\) February, 10am-2pm at Tuggeranong Hockey Centre, Tuggeranong. For more information, Call – 6257 2374 or visit – [www.hockeyact.org.au](http://www.hockeyact.org.au)

**27\(^{th}\) Canberra Model Train Expo**  
Saturday 28 March 9am – 5pm  
Sunday 29 March 9am – 4pm  
University of Canberra High School, Kaleen  
Admission: Adults $10, Children/Seniors $5, Family ticket $20.