Next P&C Meeting Monday 31 March at 7pm

Dear parents and carers,

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

Tania Collis – Deputy Principal
My name is Tania Collis and I am the deputy at Palmerston. I have two grown up children who I enjoy spending time with. They have certainly helped me to better understand the diverse need of all children and the importance of understanding everyone’s individual needs.

I arrived at the school in 2011 after teaching in the Belconnen and Weston areas. I am passionate about teaching the whole child and have done extensive work around teaching values, social skills and resilience. Literacy and Numeracy are also areas I am interested in, having previously held the position of Senior Literacy and Numeracy Officer at Chapman Primary School. My expertise also includes working with teachers around Action Research and implementing new programs across the school to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes. I enjoy working with students of all ages and sharing in their learning journey.

Having qualifications, and a long background, in teaching dance I am also an avid supporter of the arts and love sharing my expertise in this area. I acted as a consultant on the Australian Arts Curriculum for the ACT and am looking forward to its upcoming implementation. I have shared my love of dance in the school and am currently running a senior dance club with a view to performing for the school and wider community. Later this year I will be starting up a junior dance club as well.

Community is also important and I endeavour to form strong links and relationships with parents, carers and the wider community. I would love to continue meeting and working with parents and carers, so please take the time to seek my out during the morning or afternoon, or you may of course make an appointment to meet with me.

Kate Flynn – Preschool Executive
My name is Kate Flynn. I am one of the executive teachers at Palmerston. I work closely with the preschool team. I have three young children (boys) and work a part time load. I am in the school on a Monday and Tuesday. 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. This year, I will be working with the preschool team to achieve National Quality Standard.

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services in Australia and this year at Palmerston our progress against the new quality standard will be assessed.

Kirrally Talbot – Kindergarten – Year 2 Executive
Hi, my name is Kirrally Talbot and I am a passionate and dedicated early childhood leader. Upon finishing high school I attended Charles Sturt University where I completed a Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood) and a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood).

I am a mother of two beautiful boys, aged 8 and 6. Whilst I was on maternity leave with my second son I completed a Master of Education (Educational Leadership) through distance education, finishing in 2011. This educational leadership specialisation focused on leading learning in schools to maximise student outcomes with a major emphasis on Professional Learning Communities.

At Palmerston, I am the executive teacher for K-2 leading these teams in teaching and learning. I arrived at Palmerston District Primary School in Term 2, 2013. My previous position was literacy and numeracy coordinator and executive teacher in the early childhood and primary sectors of Amaroo School. I have taught in three ACT schools and in NSW during my career. My roles at Palmerston include literacy and numeracy student support, coaching teachers in best practice and leading our mentoring program. I coordinate the Kids Matter and English committees with our staff. Part of this role includes leading staff through the implementation of the Friendly Schools Plus program for 2014. Our school is a Professional Learning Community with a major focus on English, mathematics and engaging the community.

I look forward to working in partnership with our community as we work together to educate your children.

Sylvia Headon – Year 3 to 6 and G&T Executive
My name is Sylvia Headon and I am the executive teacher for years 3-6. Originally from Albury I completed my degree at Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga) graduating with a Bachelor of Education (Primary).

I moved to Canberra with my husband and I have been teaching at Palmerston since 2009. In 2011 I was awarded a scholarship and completed my Certificate of Gifted Education through The University of New South Wales.

In my role this year I am leading the year 3-6 team including the 3 self contained classes for gifted students. I will be providing literacy and numeracy support for students and mentoring and coaching for teachers.

I will be overseeing the Healthy Child at Palmerston committee which includes our walk and ride to school days, the canteen and gardens, and education in the classroom about healthy food choices. This year I will also be leading the numeracy and mentoring committees.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child/ren this year.

We hope you enjoy getting to know our wonderful Executive team a little better!
Assembly Dates – Friday at 11.30am
- 28 February – Whole school assembly
- 14 March – Whole school assembly
- 21 March – Junior & Senior assemblies
- 28 March – Whole school assembly

March Dates to Remember
Wednesday 5 March – PALM CAFÉ opens
17 to 19 March – Year 5/6 camp to Borambola
Wednesday 19 – Christian Education
Saturday 22 – Car Boot Sale 8am to 1pm

REMINDER: Palmerston District Primary School Board Election 2014

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.

Nomination period:
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 24 February 2014
Closes – 11:00am on Monday 3 March 2014

Voting period (if election is required):
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 10 March 2014
Closes – 11:00am on Monday 24 March 2014

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday 31 March 2014.

Nomination forms are available from the front office.

Parking Reminder
We know that during pick up and drop off periods parking is at a premium. We would like to ask all of our community to take care during these times to ensure we keep the parking lot safe. The “Kiss and Drop” zone in front of the school should be used by parents and carers briefly pausing to allow their children to get out of the car onto the curb side and quickly moving on. Please do not park in this zone. This zone allows the maximum number of families to drop their children safely right in front of the school where they do not need to cross roads. If you do need to walk in with your child please park in a parking space. Please make sure you do not use disabled parking spaces unless you have a current disabled permit.

Palm Café – Opening
‘Palm Café, our school canteen, is opening on Wednesday 5 March for recess.

The Palm Café provides menu options of healthy food, favourites, vegetarian and halal while ensuring our volunteers are able to prepare and deliver on time.

We will be offering three items for sale:
- popcorn (50c)
- muffins ($1)
- jelly cups ($1)

The pre-order forms have been sent home and are due back Monday morning.

We would love to have parent helpers to volunteer for its weekly operation – cooking, purchasing, serving, and cleaning. If you would be interested in volunteering please see the front office and one of the teachers from the Healthy Child Committee will be in contact with you.

Healthy Child Committee

Defence News
Hopefully everyone has now registered for the ADF Health Incentive Scheme but just in case you haven’t here are some of the details. The scheme is designed to reimburse gap expenses for medical and allied health services costs. There are annual limits but the total family combined limit can be accessed for one member
of the family. It covers a wide range of allied health services including Dental, Optical, Physio and Psychology.

Please visit the website www.defence.gov.au/health/Dependant_Health care for further details and for registration forms.

Marina Pilicic
DSTA

News from the Gardens
The gardens are thriving. The students have been busy harvesting and eating cucumbers, carrots, green beans, tomatoes, and basil. The kids are also picking fresh mint from the garden to add flavour to their water for a cool summer drink. The bees are busy pollinating the flowers.

If you get a chance, ask your child to point out the large yellow pumpkin flowers and you might be lucky to find as many as four bees in one flower.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our teachers and families who helped keep our gardens alive over the scorching summer. Our gardens could not have survived without your help. Your time and commitment is much appreciated.

Ms. Levinson

RWTS (Ride and walk to School)
Save the date National Ride2School day is on Wednesday 19 March, 2014.

Take part in a day where over 250,000 Australian students will ride, walk, scoot or skate to school. National Ride2School Day is about celebrating active travel within the school day and encouraging those who haven’t started to give it a go.

Get ready for another great year of riding and walking to school.

Healthy Child Committee

Front Office News
School payments can now be made via our School Web Page.

ACT schools are now banking with Westpac. Our school’s new banking information is:
BSB is 032 777
Account number is 00-1754

Please ensure you amend your banking records to reflect these changes. If you have the school saved as a beneficiary in your online banking you will need to amend the BSB and account number.

We have also implemented a new online payment option, using a Westpac service called Quickweb.

You can go to our school website and make a payment to the school’s bank account. There will be a link that will redirect you to our Westpac Quickweb site. Payments can be made using a credit/debit card, for any school event, or financial contribution.

The information you complete on the form will enable us to accurately identify the funds and
the purpose. There terminology used is listed below:

Family key: your family’s identifier, first five letters of your last name and the first letter of your first name. For example Sami Smith – SmithS

Student key: first five letters of the student’s last name and the first letter of his/her first name. For example Jessie Smith – SmithJ

Fee codes: These are a financial code that is a unique identifier of the event you are depositing funds for. Watch out for these appearing on notes in the future.

The Quickweb payment facility will assist us to accurately identify the sender and the correct ledger for the funds to be receipted against.
Receipts for payments can be issued via Westpac Quickweb. Payment receipts to the Library Trust Fund will be issued by the school.

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**P&C News**

Each year the P&C hold elections for the executive positions. The position of Secretary is still open. Please consider this role and support our dynamic school community.

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**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

The first orders for 2014 will shortly be delivered to students.
When ordering from Book Club please make sure that your child’s name and class are on the top of each order form, then place in an envelope marked “Book Club” and place in the Boomerang Box located in the front office. Filling out this information will allow us to easily deliver your order when it arrives.

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Please direct all enquiries to Sandra Gibb on 0439 624 006 via text or leave a voice message.

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**School Banking News**

Susan from the Commonwealth Bank will be holding a School Banking Account morning on Tuesday 18 March at 8.30am on the black top. Parents will need to provide ID and the children’s birth certificate.

Children learn to save their money by bringing it to school every week. Children receive a token for each deposit no matter the size. Once they have saved 10 tokens 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!

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

Banking day is every Friday!

P&C school banking runs on Friday mornings in staff room from 9am till 9.30am.

Bring school bank book filled out with money and give it directly to your P&C school banking representatives, Jasmine and Bronwyn!

Information packs about Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites rewards now available.

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Community News

Canberra Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce:

Disney Fantasia: Live in Concert
Sunday, 9 March, 2014 at 7:30pm
Symphony in the Park – Stage ‘88
Commonwealth Park

Join us for a thrilling performance of Walt Disney’s ground breaking synthesis of symphonic music and animation. Magnificent repertoire from the original 1940 version of Fantasia and Fantasia 2000 will be performed with Disney’s stunning footage shown in high definition on the big screen.

This event is FREE and is presented by Events ACT: http://events.act.gov.au/whats-on-in-canberra/event/9006445/symphoney-in-the-park

Bring your chairs, rugs and food and enjoy this classic family favourite with the CSO!

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish Confirmation Dates for 2014 (children in Year 6 or older):

Parent AND Child Information Session:
Thursday 13 March at 1:00pm or 7:00pm
Commitment Mass followed by Enrolment:
Saturday 22 March at 6pm OR
Sunday 23 March at 9:30am OR 5:30pm
Celebration of the Sacrament:
At Masses on 10 June, 11 June and 13 June (times to be advised).

Please stay in touch via our parish website www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
More details concerning the Sacramental Program are available in the foyer of the Church, Burdekin Ave, Amaroo or contact the Sacramental Coordinator via email: fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

Model Train Expo
Saturday 29 March 9am – 5pm
Sunday 30 March 9am – 4pm
University of Canberra High School, Kaleen
Admission: Adults $10, Children/Seniors $5, Family ticket $20.

FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDS

Looking for a winter sport - come and play rugby union where you can learn new skills, make new friends and have lots of fun! We have teams for age groups 5 -18 years and provide a supportive environment for all abilities. For more information please email juniors@eaglesrugby.com.au or visit our website at www.eaglesrugby.com.au

Free Ice Hockey Come and try day - 15 March 2014

Cool off by playing the fastest team sport on Earth register your interest at www.ihact.org.au
Official registration and second hand equipment sale on 16 March 2014 from 10:00am - 3:00pm
Juniors 5yrs to 13yrs (PeeWee and Atoms) 11.00am to 1.30pm
Juniors 14yrs to 17yrs (Bantams and Midgets) 2.30pm to 4.45pm
Seniors 18yrs + (Men and Women) 3.30pm to 5.45pm

Come and play AFL with the Gungahlin Jets
Your local junior AFL club since 2000
Junior Registration Days Saturday 15th and 22nd February 9.30am to 1pm at the Marketplace Gungahlin
Boys and Girls aged from 5 to 18 welcome “Live local – Train local”

Global Cricket Day – 2 March

If you have never played cricket before or come from either an indigenous or multicultural background, you are invited to the Global Cricket Day on Sunday the 2 of March 2014 from 10am at Boomanulla Oval .This is a FREE event where registered participants will receive a FREE cricket clinic, FREE cricket pack, FREE lunch and the chance to meet past and present cricket stars including Maximus Thunder! To register, 1) log onto www.in2CRICKET.com.au, 2) enter the postcode 2604 and 3) select Global Cricket Challenge. For more information, please contact Matthew on 0416 531 998 or matthew.william@cricket.com.au. Thank you.

Positions Available at Birrigai@Tidbinbilla
Casual Cook (GSO3/4)
Casual Kitchen Hand/Housekeeping (GSO2)

Birrigai@Tidbinbilla (Birrigai Outdoor School) is a 200 bed facility that provides school camp programs, conference facilities, accommodation
and catering services to the wider community and operates all year round. The casual positions of Cook and Kitchen Hand/Housekeeping are available for immediate temporary filling for a period of 6 months with the possibility of extension.

Cook
Culinary skills appropriate to the provision of varied nutritious menus to client groups of a residential facility. Demonstrated ability to consistently display high quality customer service, and the ability to relate to primary and secondary aged students and other specialist client groups. This position is required to hold the following mandatory qualifications/certificates or be prepared to obtain them within a short timeframe:
• Current driver’s licence
• Current First Aid Certificate
• Relevant Diploma or Certificate from a recognised Institution.
• Current Food Safety Handling Certification
• Working with Vulnerable People Registration

Roster/Availability: Staff are rostered based on demand across the full week (Monday – Sunday), shifts may be rostered anywhere between 5.30am and 9pm depending on booking requirements. Please include in your application a copy of the table below indicating your availability.

Please provide a brief expression of interest and availability ASAP.

Cindy Samuel
Site Manager
Birrigai @ Tidbinbilla National Parks and Catchments Region Territories and Municipal Services Directorate
Ph: 02 6205 6748