Term 3 Week 4  14 August 2014

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www.palmdps.act.edu.au

Board Members: Parent Reps: Amy Phillips, Saravanan Thavamanikumar and George Villaflor
Board Chair: George Villaflor  P&C President: Jo Prezzi
Principal: Melissa Travers Acting Deputy Principal: Kirrally Talbot
Executive Teachers: Kate Flynn, Sylvia Headon, Rebecca Hewat, Jennifer Holland, Haeley Simms and Georgina Sofatzis
Preschool to Year 6

Next P&C Meeting Monday 15 September at 7pm

Recent Notes Home
Science Fair – Expression of Interest
Father’s Day Breakfast & Stall – 5 September

Assembly Dates – Friday at 9:00am
15 August  Whole School Assembly led by 2HS and 2VS
22 August  Book Week Parade
29 August  Whole School Assembly led by KKW, KFC and KGS

19 August  Book Week
            School Banking
19 August  Preschool Book Week Parade
            (Snugglepots & Cuddlepies) at 9:30am
20 August  Scientist visit classes at 9:30am
20 August  Kindergarten – year 6 author – Cameron Stelzer
21 August  North Gungahlin District Athletics
22 August  9:10am Book Week Parade – preschool to year 6

Year 1 maths afternoon in PoD 2 from 2:30 – 3:00pm

Dates to Remember
15 August P&C Coffee and Chat
18 August National Science Week &

Palmerston District Primary School – How we support our learners

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to week 4.

Palmerston District Primary School is a Professional Learning Community (PLC). Part of our commitment is to ensure all students learn. This week I have included a copy of our Palmerston Pyramid of Interventions, a document we use to explicitly identify how we support our students with their learning. I would like to share this with our school community as it shows what programs/plans/teaching we have in place to support our learners. Learning is our focus for our school and this pyramid shows the three tiers of learning catering for all learners in our school. I have included a breakdown of the educational acronyms to make the pyramid easier to read. We hope you find this very useful and informative. This
information has been shared with our school board. We have also presented the pyramid of intervention at the Directorate Learning Workshops series as part of showing best practice in schools.

Tier one on our pyramid identifies the strategies we use across the school by all of our staff to support a positive learning environment. These include the universal strategies that set our school culture and climate. They are all the interventions needed for 85% of the general student body. This includes our social emotional learning programs (Friendly Schools Plus, Everyone, Everyday) and our explicit educational programs and instruction in the classroom.

Tier two on our pyramid identifies students who require additional support strategies or modifications made to the mainstream curriculum. This provides access and opportunity to students with additional learning needs. These strategies build on the strategies for all learners. These strategies help 10-15% of students succeed and achieve.

In our third tier on our pyramid we have identified the intensive support strategies used to help individuals participate positively at school and achieve academic success. Identification of behavioural and academic goals, together with highly structured strategies encourage behavioural change over time.

This pyramid of interventions articulates the programs and support we provide for all our students, ensuring all students are learning across our school.

As part of our programs to maintain student wellbeing, along with all ACT schools we participate in lock down and fire drill practices. Last week we conducted our lock down practice. It went very smoothly. Today we had a false fire alarm following our school evacuation procedures. These practices and processes are part of our safety requirements. Staff have been preparing the students for such practices to ensure we all follow the correct process if/when a real emergency occurs. These are one of the ways we keep our children safe.

Book week is happening next week. We are very fortunate to have another book author coming to run workshops with our students K-6 on Thursday 21 August. Dr Cameron Stelzer is the author and he will be attending many schools across the ACT. We look forward to taking part in these workshops, which have a major focus on reading and writing. This is part of our literacy vision at Palmerston – raising English outcomes for all our learners.

2015 classes
We are looking at staffing and classes for 2015. If you are planning on not returning to Palmerston in 2015, could you please fill out the attached form and hand it to the front office ASAP. Thank you for your support.

Have a great week!

Kirrally Talbot
Acting Deputy Principal

Educational Acronyms – Palmerston Pyramid of Interventions
ILPs (Individual Learning Plans)
PLPs (Personal Learning Plans)
LSU (Learning Support Unit)
ISP (Inclusion Support Program)
DET consultants (Department of Education and Training)
Palmerston District Primary School Pyramid of Interventions

**TIER 1 – All learners**
These strategies are used across the school by all staff to support a positive learning environment. Universal strategies will set school culture and climate. They are all the interventions needed for 85% of the general student body.

**TIER 2 – Additional support**
Additional support strategies are modifications made to the mainstream curriculum that provide access and opportunity to students with additional needs. They build on the foundation of the universal. These strategies help 10-15% of students succeed and achieve.

**TIER 3 – Intensive support**
Intensive support strategies are used to help individuals participate positively at school and achieve academic success. Identification of behavioural and academic goals, together with highly structured strategies encourage behavioural change over time.

Professional Learning Community strategy – Led by Kirrally Talbot
Friendly Schools Plus & Everyone Everyday Programs
*Inclusion Programs*

On Tuesday 12 August 2014, Palmerston welcomed a special guest speaker to the school as part of the Everyone Everyday Disability Inclusion Program. Mr Roger Allan came to talk to all year levels about his disability, how he manages it on a day to day basis and how we as a community can help be inclusive.

It was a great day and we learnt many things, for example, how you can drive with only one arm and how there are special utensils made for people with only one arm. But the biggest lesson we learnt was that even if you have a disability it doesn’t stop you doing what you want to do in life and we should all follow our passions.

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**Writing Awards – Outstanding Achievements**

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 1 August:

Mason (1HS), Zayma (1HS), Riley (1HS), Ben (1HS), Andie (1HS), Rhys (1HS), Liesel (1HS), Keira (1HS), Thanh (1HS), Molly (1HS), Maxinne (1HS), Amaan (1HS), Deborah (2HS), Hunter (2HS), Tomas (2HS), William (2HS), Raafi (2HS), Alessio (2HS)

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**Book Week (18 – 22 August)**

Next week is Book Week which is celebrated school-wide across Australia. The theme, or idea behind it this year is ‘Connect to Reading’ which aims to engage children everywhere to have an enjoyable experience, while at the same time connecting to stories. This year the emphasis is on travelling to other worlds. On Friday 22 August, our school will have a parade in classes commencing at 9:10am. There will be prizes for the best costume, so have some fun helping your son or daughter get creative!

On Thursday, to celebrate Book Week there will be an author/illustrator visit by the very popular Dr Cameron Stelzer. All classes should at this stage be familiar with his books and he will be holding workshops all day. To further enhance the experience, perhaps you could discuss with your child a question they might like to ask Dr Stelzer, should they get the opportunity.
Preschool Book Week Parade

Week 5 is Book Week! To celebrate this event preschool children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring in the matching book to share. The Snugglepots and Cuddlepies will be parading their wonderful costumes throughout the junior school on Tuesday 19 August at 9:30am. The Blossoms and Gumnuts will join the K-6 students in the whole school parade on Friday 22 August at 9:10am on the blacktop.

It would be great to see preschool families come along and watch the parades. We look forward to seeing all of your amazing costumes!

Author Visit - Cameron Stelzer

On Thursday 21 August, during Book Week, we have a special visit from Author and Illustrator Dr Cameron Stelzer. Cameron is visiting Palmerston District Primary School to run workshops with our students. Year 5/6 and CAP students will be engaging in workshops exploring exciting descriptive writing skills. Cameron will be engaging Year 3/4 students in a writing workshop focussing on idea formation. Kinder-Year 2 students will enjoy an interactive Big Screen Book Reading and creative activity with Cameron.

In conjunction with the Author Visit, families have a special opportunity to purchase signed and personalised copies of Cameron’s books at special prices. Individual items are $15 each and there are also exclusive book sets available. Students will receive an order form on the day of the workshops. Forms and payment can be returned the next day, Friday 22 August, to the colourful box in the Front Office. Cameron will personally sign all books (including the child’s name and a message) and students will receive their books the following week.

Please see your child’s class teacher for more information or times of sessions.
Preschool news

As we head towards the middle of the term (and a little bit closer to the warm weather) I want to say a big thank you to all families for remembering to send sun smart hats with their children to preschool. The hats off period (June and July) has now ended and it is a requirement that all children wear appropriate sun smart hats. Please ensure that all of these hats as well as jumpers have children/family names clearly labelled on them.

You may have noticed our new picnic tables. We are really excited to have these. They will be a great place for children to sit and talk as well as being utilised as part of our indoor/outdoor classroom. The indoor/outdoor classroom provides children with the opportunity to carry out their learning both inside and outside the building. The picnic tables will provide us with more seating and desk space when the children are outdoors.

An informal part of our transition into kindergarten has commenced on a Wednesday. During this time the children have been provided with the opportunity to work and play in either of the preschool classes. The aim of this is to assist the children to become familiar with the other preschool children and staff who are not in their immediate classroom. So far, this has been a real success.

We are always looking for parent volunteers and we would like to thank all parents/carers/grandparents who have been able to help with things such as fundraising, attending excursions or helping in the classrooms. If you have any spare time and would like to come in, please let your child’s teacher know.

Have a lovely week,
Kate Flynn

Active Kids Challenge at Palmerston

This term our school is participating in an 8 week initiative called ‘Active Kids Challenge’ alongside other ACT schools. The focus is to get as many of our students as possible physically active for at least 60 minutes a day. There are a variety of skill focus activities for students to participate in, including Kick, Jump, Throw, Ride or Walk, Explore, Discover and Play, as well as discussion on Healthy Eating and healthy food options for lunches.
We will be recording our achievements on a wall chart in our classrooms. By also participating at home your child has a chance to win fabulous prizes, a challenge information sheet went home with the students week 1, this term.

Have a chat to your child and learn what active challenge they are doing this week at school!

Stay healthy!
Healthy Child Committee

Palmerston District Primary School is part of the Fresh Tastes program. For the next three years we will continue to build on our school’s healthy food and drink environment. Fresh Tastes will support us to achieve this. Students who have a healthy diet are better placed to learn, participate and succeed in school.

You can read more information online at: www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes.

Fresh Tastes has partnerships with plenty of organisations who share a commitment to improving children’s health in Canberra. Some of these partners may work with us to help us achieve our goals.

For the next three years we will deliver one or two of the six Fresh Tastes action areas. The six action areas are:
Healthy Food and Drink Guidelines
Food for Sale
Classroom Learning
Growing Food
Cooking Food
Food from Home

This year we have chosen Classroom Learning and Food from Home. We have completed an action plan on how we will achieve change in the first year.

An initial Fresh Tastes action group has already been set up. The more people across the school community that help out, the better the results will be. If you would like to get involved please let us know. Please contact the school to find out more.

The Palmerston District Primary School’s Fresh Tastes coordinators are the Healthy Child Committee.
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

__________________________________________________________

ADF

Defence News

Last Wednesday I attended the regular meeting with other DSTA/DTM’s in the Canberra Region. The guest speakers were two ladies from CONTACT, what used to be called the Citizens Advice Bureau. Not only have they had a name change but also a change in role. CONTACT is a valuable source of information regarding just about anything in the Canberra region, they can help with information regarding local playgroups, sporting clubs, markets as well as advice regarding emergency relief like short term low cost accommodation and food assistance. They also cover legal areas including complaint resolution services, legal services and can act as advocates for issues relating to disability services. If you would like to know more the info line is 62487988 or visit www.contactcanberra.org.au.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA
P & C NEWS

Palmerston Spring / Multicultural Fair
A decision will be made this week if the Fair is to proceed. If you are able to coordinate any stall 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. Tuesdays and Thursdays – looking for volunteers to keep it running.

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 30 minutes twice a term please leave your details at the office for Sandra or contact Jo or Edwina.

Jo & Edwina
P&C President/Vice
Community News

**Brick Expo**
The Brick Expo is the Canberra LEGO show that raises money for the Canberra Hospital Pediatrics Ward. The show is not for profit, this year we hope to raise $40,000. Hundreds for exhibits, some LEGO to build, LEGO sets, all manner of things LEGO.

The Brick Expo is on August 23/24 at the Hellenic Club in Woden.


**iPad Workshop for Parent and Child - Students with Learning Difficulties**
The Taskforce on Students with Learning Difficulties is trialing four workshop sessions where the parent/s/guardian and child/ren can come in together and learn how to use the iPad more effectively as a learning tool at home.

Where: Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching & Learning – 51 Fremantle Drive Stirling
Time: 4:00 to 4:30pm

Session 1: Accessibility on Thursday 21 August
Session 2: Text Help Apps on Thursday 28 August
Session 3: Planning for writing on Thursday 4 September
Session 4: Organisation (this is google chrome or iPad) on Thursday 11 September

To book please email Julie.ireland@act.gov.au

**Touch Football ACT**

Summer has never been more fun and healthier for girls and boys with the upcoming Junior Summer Competition. Running over nine thrilling weeks, starting the week of Monday, 13 October.

Children can begin playing competitive touch football from Kindergarten through to year 10.

Touch Football ACT Junior Competition
Leave weekends Free!
Starts October, 2014
Register: acttouch.com.au
Contact: Mark Moro
Phone: 6212 2880
Email: mark.moro@acttouch.com.au