Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to another busy school term at Palmerston. We are once again looking forward to working with our students and families on both our learning and on a range of events that bring us together as a school community.

**Mother’s Day Stall**

Today many of our students assisted our P and C with fundraising by participating in the Mother’s Day Stall. I would like to thank everyone who contributed by donating a gift to the stall. A big thank you to the P and C and our Student Representative Council who put this event together. Our lovely SRC reps were a great help by wrapping all the presents, assisting with setting up the stall and helping out on the day by collecting the money, so I’d like to say a special thank you to those students. It’s been a fun way to raise money for our P and C and we hope all our special mums, grandmas and ladies all like their gifts on Sunday. We know the children enjoyed the opportunity to go shopping at the stall and being able to choose for themselves from the lovely array of gifts for their mum.
Mother’s Day Concert and Morning Tea
Tomorrow morning we have a very exciting event for Mother’s Day. Our children will be entertaining our mums with a mini concert while they enjoy morning tea. We are all looking forward to this special event which starts at approximately 9.15, after morning lines.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
This term sees our year 3 and year 5 students completing NAPLAN. NAPLAN assesses students’ literacy and numeracy skills in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and compares them to nationally agreed standards. Teachers at Palmerston have been working with students and their families to provide the best possible preparation. This has included
• sending home example questions for homework
• providing practice testing to assist students with the format used and the conditions the test is conducted under
• working through past tests to show students how to answer the different styles of questions

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) do not recommend using coaching providers or ‘teaching to the test’ as it assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the curriculum. Families can assist by encouraging their student to do their best and by reassuring them they are a normal part of schooling and just one of the ways in which they are assessed. You can also help by ensuring they get a good night’s rest during the NAPLAN period and have a healthy breakfast before coming to school.

Michael Grose also suggests that you take your cues from your child, if they aren’t worried then neither should you. Put the focus on trying hard and doing their best while listening to any concerns they have. Agree that sometimes tests can be “a little scary” but they get easier and help them to develop their emotional smarts and resilience. Provide them with some ideas for relaxing and ways to ensure they feel like they are in control. Finally, help them to retain their perspective. Even if they don’t do as well as they would like in the long run, the sun will still rise and it’s not the worst thing that could happen.

Today all students in years 3 and 5 should have brought home the ‘Information for parents’ produced by ACARA who oversee the program. Please take the time to read the pamphlet and see your teachers if you have any questions.

Gifted and Talented Education
1. Parent/Carer Fact Sheets
On Friday 2 May 2014 Ms Joy Burch MLA Minister for Education and Training released a set of Gifted and Talented Parent Fact Sheets to assist parents and carers of gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

The fourteen fact sheets support the ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 and cover a range of topics including an Overview, Frequently Asked Questions, Giftedness & Talent, Identification, Social-Emotional Needs and Programs and Provisions. The ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 aims to ensure gifted and talented students are supported and have education programs tailored to meet their needs.

Under the ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014, schools are required to nominate a school contact for parents for all enquiries regarding gifted and talented education. At Palmerston the first point of contact is myself, Tania Collis, and our Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer (GATLO) is Sylvia Headon.

The Fact Sheets are available to read in our library and are also available for schools, parents and the community on the ACT Education and Training website at http://www.det.act.gov.au
2. Gungahlin Cluster Brochure

In response to parent requests the Gungahlin Cluster of schools has put together a brochure about the opportunities provided to Gifted and Talented students within our cluster. The brochure will be launched on Wednesday, 21 May at Gunhahlin College. A note has been sent home with the youngest in the family inviting you to this launch. Please read and RSVP as requested if you would like to attend. If you have any questions, please come and see me.

I look forward to seeing our mums and other special ladies tomorrow and many more of you as the term continues.

Tania Collis
Deputy Principal

Fluro for Phil Day

Yesterday the staff wore Fluro for Phil to celebrate our wonderful BSO’s birthday. Join us in wishing Phil a very happy birthday and thanking him for all his hard work.


This Issue includes articles on Social Netiquette, True Grit helps kids succeed and Parenting Daredevils.
**Preschool news:**

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope that you all enjoyed a safe and happy holiday. We have been thrilled with the settled way that the children have returned to preschool and have enjoyed hearing their holiday break stories.

We have plenty of interesting and fun experiences planned for the children this term. We look forward to our bus wash excursion, trip to the National Museum and the preschool athletics carnival. More information regarding these events will be sent home as the time draws closer.

The rosemary bushes that were planted at the end of Term 1 certainly make a huge difference to our playground. We have enjoyed watching the children look after and respect the plants as they are growing. We would like to thank all the parents and carers for reminding their children to walk around the bushes rather than walk through them.

This term all classes will be engaging in an indoor/outdoor program. This is an exciting program that provides the children with the opportunity to participate in learning experiences that occur either inside the classroom or outside. Along with this, we are thrilled to announce that Rachel Levinson will work with us this term. She will assist us to maintain our gardens as well as working with us around the concept of sustainability.

As the weather cools down we remind you to pack warm clothing for your children. Please ensure that all of their items of clothing are clearly labelled.

Thanks,

The preschool team.

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**Defence News - ANZAC Service 2014**

ANZAC Day is commemorated each year on 25 April, as with most years, this year it fell within the school holidays. Many families spent part of the day at various services throughout the region; ranging from small community services to joining the Royal Couple at the Australian War Memorial.

On Tuesday 30 April, some of the Defence students attending PDS helped the school community to commemorate the 99th Anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli. A short service was held during morning lines. Ryan, Kyeisha and Grace kindly distributed rosemary sprigs
to all. Rosemary is the flower of remembrance and is widely associated with ANZAC Day. Emma assisted with the music on the day.

Justin welcomed everyone; Lily recited the poem “A Tribute to ANZAC Day.” and Jacob read the Ode of Remembrance. A wreath was laid on behalf of the school by Harrison and Elissa placed a book at the base of the Australian Flag. The book titled Soldier Dog is dedicated to the library on behalf of all the defence students attending Palmerston. A handmade wreath was also laid on behalf of the Gold Creek World of Learning, allowing Palmerston the opportunity to include the local community in our service.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the participants of the service and commend them on a job well done. All the students deserve a pat on the back for their good behaviour and thankyou to the staff and parents for their support.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA.

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**Enrolling in an ACT public school - New arrangements for 2014 and 2015**

The ACT Education and Training Directorate has updated the enrolment and transfer arrangements for all ACT public schools.

To make this process easier for those wishing to enrol or transfer, please use the online enrolment/transfer form and parent/carer guide to enrolment/transfer for ACT public schools located on the ‘Enrolling in an ACT Public School’ section of the Education and Training Directorate website [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

All enrolment requests are stored electronically and sent to the first choice school after 30 May. Decisions regarding offers of enrolment/transfer are made after the closing date.

*Applications for 2015 close on 30 May 2014.*

Once you have been advised of your successful application you will need to collect an Information Pack from the Front Office between 8:30am and 3:30pm. This pack includes the information about the school and will assist with a smooth transition to Palmerston Primary School.
P&C News

The P & C would like to wish all mums a lovely Mother’s Day this weekend.

We would also like to remind everyone about our Chat A Bout sessions in week 4, 6, 8 and 10. We meet for a coffee in the resource room from about 9:15am to discuss fundraising goals and forthcoming events.

A JUMBO winter clothing SALE will be held on Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 May (week 3) from 9:00 to 9:30am. Items from only $3!

The Palmerston P&C Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 29 November.
If you are tired of the same old same old, the P & C would LOVE to hear some of your FUN and new community spirited ideas for our fair.
To all the potential volunteers, dust off your aprons and brush up on your best up selling skills as we will be soon calling on you to help make this the best Spring Fair ever!!
Please contact Jo Prezzi or myself via palmpandc@hotmail.com

Our next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 12 May @7pm in the staff room. We would love to see some new faces come along to see what all the buzz is about!

Palm Café News

Due to the need to upgrade our canteen facilities the Palm Café will be closed until week 4 - the week starting Monday 19 May. We will advise you of the re-opening date shortly.
P&C Canteen Committee

Book Club catalogues were given to students this week and orders are due by Thursday 15 May. 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. If you wish to collect the order from the front office please write this on the order form and provide a contact phone number. Please direct all enquiries to Sandra Gibb on 0439 624 006 via text or leave a voice message.
School Banking News
School banking is held on Friday mornings from 9:00am till 9.30am. We are looking for some more volunteers to help count deposits in the staff room.

On **Friday 9 May 2014 School Banking has been cancelled** to allow us to attend the Mothers Day morning tea.

The P&C benefits also benefits from student banking. The P&C receives $5 for each new banker and 5% of all deposits.

There are a couple of competitions running at the moment. You have the chance to win a family pass to Sea World and bankers receive gifts for every 10 deposits they make.

Jasmine Berry
P&C Banking Coordinator

Community News
**Medic Alert in Schools Program**
Your students medical information and special needs can be communicated in an emergency with a MedicAlert medical ID. The Foundation is now running a Schools program. Pamphlets are available in the school foyer or visit [www.medicalert.org.au/schools](http://www.medicalert.org.au/schools).