Hello everyone,

What a pleasure it is to be writing for you again at Palmerston and thank you for the warm “welcome back” I have received from so many of you. 2015 is going to be another busy, but wonderful year. I would love to share some of our term 1 happenings with you.

Already this year we have held our Parent Information Night and it was fantastic to see the families that came to find out about the programs running in classes this year. If you did not receive a Term 1 Overview they are available on the school’s website. We had a wonderful Swimming Carnival in week 2 and will be celebrating ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ on Friday. Years 3 to 6 have camps coming up as well as the ‘26 Storey Treehouse’ performance at the Canberra Theatre. The whole school will be participating in ‘World of Maths’ days over 11 and 12 March and then on 13 March it will be Science with Questacon! And, that’s just the start of the amazing range of learning experiences we will provide this term. Please
make sure you use the school calendar to keep you up to date. We also provide regular updates on our Facebook page, so if you haven’t ‘liked’ us, please do.

The school also offers a variety of lunchtime clubs for our students which are listed in this week’s newsletter. Take a look at them and talk over with your child/ren which clubs they may like to try. We try to offer a range of activities to ensure there is a club for everyone over the year.

To ensure we meet the goals in our Operational Plan, and to assist us with setting a strong and clear vision for the school, teachers have been participating in a range of professional learning opportunities. We began at the end of January with Integrated Inquiry Learning and Maths. Our second full day with Carol Spencer on teaching Maths is this coming Saturday, 28 February. This term teachers will also attend courses on:

- Boys Education
- Essential Skills (Classroom Management)
- English as an additional language or dialect (EALD)
- Transforming School Culture
- Best practice in teaching Literacy and Comprehension
- Gifted Education

Our leadership team attended Professional Learning on ‘Empowering Others to Lead’. Melissa and myself have also been working with other principals and deputies on the National School Improvement Tool and will be attending a conference over the long weekend on ‘High Reliability Schools’. Over the year we look forward to sharing our learning with our students and our community.

In March, we will begin working on our new school vision and will be looking for input from all members of the community. I will be sending out dates and times in the coming weeks and we value the ideas that we know will come from you. We will be working with an expert in this area who will assist us to set the path forward for our school as we head into our coming of age, 21st birthday, next year in 2016.

In the past few weeks the police have been in attendance on Kosciuszko Avenue as they work to ensure the safety of residents and students around the school. We understand this may have impacted on the flow of traffic and parking during the busy times of drop off and pick up. As with many schools, the carpark and surrounding areas do get very busy at those times. We will continue to work with all of you to try to ensure those times are stress free and safe for our students who may be crossing roads both within and next to the school grounds. We encourage you to use the ‘kiss and drop’ zone at the front of the school wherever possible. The P and C have also suggested you try and use alternate parking such as the shops. If you have any concerns about parking or traffic flow, I suggest you speak to members of our School Board.

The P and C held their AGM last week but are still looking for a number of positions to be filled, including the President and Vice President. If you are interested in holding one of these positions there is plenty of support from both past and present P and C members and I’m sure they would love to hear from you. Please see Melissa or myself if you would like further information. Nevertheless, they will be holding their first fundraising event this term – the third annual CAR BOOT SALE.

This year’s Car Boot Sale will take place on Saturday 28 March in our carpark. This event has grown remarkably over the last two years and we are looking forward to helping the P and C again this year. We have a vast range of pre-loved goods for you to choose from as well as great food at the BBQ and cake stall. It is a fun community morning that brings us all together at the start of the year. More information will be available on the flyer that will be sent home with your children next week. The P and C organisers will be looking for volunteers to help at the BBQ and cake stall as well as for the Car
Boot Sale itself. Our P and C have a fabulous record in fundraising and we are very excited to see them up and running already for 2015!

We love having such an involved community as part of our primary school and we all look forward to seeing many of you over the year, whether it be in the classrooms, at our community events or on the P and C or Board. Together we work together and support all our students to receive the very best in public education. Please come and say hello when you are around the school.

Tania Collis
Deputy Principal

Anzac Day Public Holiday

Please note that Monday 27 April is a public holiday. Term 2 will start on Tuesday 28 April. The Education Directorate has advised that Clause F10.2(g) of the Common Terms and Conditions provides that where ANZAC Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as the public holiday. This arrangement is the same as applies when Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day or Australia Day fall on a weekend. This means that for ACT Public Servants/Schools we will observe Monday 27 April as a public holiday.

Preschool

Welcome to the regular preschool section of the newsletter!

As in 2014, I will contribute an article to the newsletter specifically around life in preschool. This will provide you with an overview of events coming up and what has been happening. It is a valuable avenue of communication for all stakeholders in the Palmerston community.

Term 1 is flying; I can’t believe that we are already sitting in week 4. We are really impressed with your children. They have settled well into preschool life and have positively embraced all the fun and learning that has been on offer. There are many responsibilities at Palmerston Preschool such as independently managing possessions, taking turns, sharing with classmates, recycling, independently washing and drying hands and completing allocated tasks. The children are to be congratulated on their efforts in this area. They have illustrated to us how well they have managed their areas of responsibilities.

We have had some offers of help from parents/carers. We maintain an open door policy and would love to have as much of your time as you have on offer! Thanks to the parents who have already assisted in the rooms. Just a reminder to complete the paper work for your Working With Vulnerable People Card.

We have some exciting events coming up and we look forward to sharing these experiences with your children. These include the No Waste incursion, The Bus Wash excursion and the Healthy Breakfast/pyjama day towards the end of the term. More details will follow about these events.

Thank you to you and your children for a wonderful term so far.

Kate Flynn
Executive Teacher - Preschool

Lunchtime Clubs
The lunchtime clubs for term 1 are:

Monday – Soccer, Enviro Club, Year 5 band
Tuesday – Soccer, Table Tennis Club, Boomerang Club
Wednesday – Soccer, Science Club, Year 6 band
Thursday – Soccer, Computer Club, Years 3/4 Fife band
Friday – Soccer, Senior Dance Club, Defence Club

Finances
For families who paid for their Book Pack by the cut-off date in December 2014, the library trust fund component you paid has been receipted by the school and provided to your child’s teacher today. Please look out for this receipt as it will be given to your child/ren this week. These receipts are tax deductible.

Defence News
The Defence Community Organisation is holding the annual “Welcome to Canberra” Expo on Saturday 14th of March, 10am to 1pm at the ADFA Gymnasium and oval. There will be a variety of stalls to help with local information regarding sporting clubs, fun things to do in the Canberra region and much more. There will be lots of free family entertainment such as a petting zoo, jumping castles and the RMC Band. This event is not just for new families but also existing Defence Canberrans. With so much on offer it’s well worth making the effort, and I hope to see you there.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

World’s Greatest Shave – Leukaemia Foundation
On Monday 16 March at morning lines Mrs Cox is getting a haircut! Along with her daughter Deanna and Kindergarten teacher Mr Higginson. Mrs Cox is cutting off 69cm of hair and Deanna 64cm of her hair. Please support these very brave people by donating to The World’s Greatest Shave.

www.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/Anitacox
www.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/Deannacox
www.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/Samhigginson
School Banking – Account Opening Morning

Palmerston District Primary School offers the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. School Banking day is Wednesday. The Commonwealth Bank will be holding an account opening day at 8:30am on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at the School. If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child, please bring along your driver’s licence, passport or another form of photographic identification.

P&C News

P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE - Monday 30 March

Palm Café canteen
The Palm Café is currently closed. Any parent who is interested in the volunteer position of canteen manager, could you please contact the P&C on palmpandc@hotmail.com or preferably contact one of the P&C Executive at morning lines.

In recent years our canteen was open for two days a week at recess. Other years a lunch order could be made once a fortnight.
Please also note that we are a Healthy Schools canteen.

See you at school,
Jo Prezzi
P&C Secretary

Community News

NOW OPEN AT PALMERSTON DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND AT BELCONNEN COMMUNITY CENTRE!
Offering recreational and competitive Rhythmic Gymnastics programs for children 5yrs and older. Classes on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Call today to arrange an obligation free trial class or enrol for Term 1 2015. Spaces are limited so please get in touch!
Phone: 6112 8460  Email: info@elementz.com.au
United Taekwondo

United Taekwondo run classes at Palmerston District Primary School on Monday afternoons 3:15 – 4pm. Sharon, an instructor had the following to say: “Your hall is amazing. And you have a great bunch of children at your school. I have never had a class so full of attentive and enthusiastic children. What a credit to your teachers and your families. I’m really enjoying teaching them.”

For more information please call Sharon on 0401 476 050 or email utkdcanberra@grapevine.com.au

WITH SHIRLEY

PALMERSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
THURSDAY NIGHTS 7.30PM

Zumba Fitness is for EVERYONE – all ages, fitness levels, shapes and sizes. It’s FUN & EASY to follow & promotes Co-ordination, WEIGHTLOSS, Friendships, HEALTH & FITNESS through movement in disguise in a FUN Party atmosphere that will leave you wanting more!!!! PRESENT THIS FLYER FOR $5.00 CLASS!!!!!! (New participants only)

E: funkshirlnal@gmail.com
M: 0417 282 173
www.facebook.com/funkshirlnalfitness

Taekwondo is a fast paced Korean martial art that helps you be fit and flexible. It combines combat and self-defence techniques with sport and exercise. Gyeorugi, a type of sparring, has been an Olympic event since 2000.

Train under Pravin Bhatia 3rd Dan Black Belt World Taekwondo Federation and 4th Dan Black Belt Sangrok, Korea now at two convenient locations – Curtin and Palmerston. Come and try as an individual student or as a family to learn Taekwondo in a family friendly environment.

Contact Pravin on 0421 593 901 and book your first 2 weeks of complimentary training. And if any of your immediate family member goes to Palmerston District Primary School you are entitled to an additional 10 dollars off your training fees.

Holy Trinity Primary School Hall
Monday 6 pm - 7 pm, Wednesday 6 pm - 7 pm
Palmerston District Primary School, Multipurpose Hall
Monday 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm, Wednesday 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm, Saturday 9:30 am - 10:45 am
Email info@sangrok.net.au for more information.
Shell Questacon Science Circus

The Shell Questacon Science Circus is a great opportunity for parents and children to share, discover and explore science together. Come along and spin like an ice-skater, discover how fast you can throw a ball, freeze your shadow on a wall and test your reflexes.

Sunday 15 March 11am–3pm at Veolia Arena, 47 Braidwood Road, GOULBURN. Admission is free. For more information see www.questacon.edu.au