Term 1 Week 2  13 February 2014
Ph. (02) 6205 7241  Fax (02) 6205 7242
www.palmdps.act.edu.au

Board Chair: Traci-Ann Byrnes  P&C President: George Villaflor
Principal: Melissa Travers  Deputy Principal: Tania Collis
Executive Teachers: Kate Flynn, Sylvia Headon and Kirrally Talbot
Preschool to Year 6

Next P&C Meeting Monday 17 February at 7pm including Annual General Meeting

Dear parents and carers,

It was lovely to see so many families at the Parent Information Evening on Tuesday. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to hear about your child’s learning for the year. We presented our School Vision and 2014 Priorities. The class overviews will be available on line on our website by the end of the week.

School Priorities

- Increase our english outcomes for students
- Increase our maths outcomes for students
- Continue to engage students in their learning
- Engage community in student learning
- Excel in preschool accreditation

Our school motto of: ‘Together, we learn from each other’, guides all our endeavours.

Our special teaching focus is on collaboration in teaching teams.

- We are working as a whole school team – a Professional Learning Community (PLC)- where we all have responsibility for all children
- We are working in teaching teams – a professional learning team (PLT)- across year levels where we plan and teach in teams to gain consistency in educating the students
- New Educators (teachers in their first three years of teaching) will all have an experienced teacher as their mentor again this year
- Executive staff will be providing an opportunity to coach teaching staff this year specialising in our school priorities

I am extremely proud of our teaching staff and their dedication to the teaching and learning at Palmerston. Please make time to meet your class teacher. They are endeavouring to call every parent to introduce themselves. This is an opportunity to talk to your child’s teacher and to tell them about your child and their needs.
Please drop off your email address to the front office so we can maintain good email contact and keep you informed.

Next Friday we will be holding a Fresh Tastes assembly at 10.30am as we are the launch school for the water bottle refill stations. I invite you to attend. The Deputy, Tania Collis, will be leading this event as unfortunately I will not be able to be here. I will be attending a three day coaching course – as part of a Certificate IV- at the end of next week.

I look forward to seeing nominations for the School Board next week. Being a member of the School Board is a great way to participate in your child’s education and only involves attending about four meetings a year.

I hope you have all had a great first two weeks and that your children are settled into school. Next big newsletter we will have the executive introduce themselves and outline their roles.

Melissa Travers
Principal

I will leave you with a quote from David Gillespie who has recently written a book about schooling and has had numerous radio interviews and articles in newspapers.

“The Perfect School

The research tells us what a perfect school should be. It also tells us what it won’t be, or, at the very least, helps us identify all the red herrings hung along the school fence. It might have gorgeous grounds, three Olympic-sized swimming pools, its own personal sports stadium, a single sex, fabulous tertiary entry results, new computers, high fees, very small class sizes, and be very small and have no multi-age classes. But it might have none of those things and still be an extraordinary performer when it comes to delivering the only thing that matters- a high –quality education for your child.

The perfect school will have highly effective leaders who engage the community and teachers, who mentor those teachers and gets the best from them. It will have a teaching culture of continuous learning. Teachers will approach their task not as underpaid, glorified child care but as an opportunity to improve their skills and their student’s’ outcomes. And the perfect school may do absolutely nothing else. It may accomplish these two things in a caravan on a mining site, in a sandstone building on Sydney Harbour or in any possible location in between.”

If you wish to read more :

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<tr>
<th>Assembly Dates – Friday at 11.30am</th>
<th>February Dates to Remember</th>
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<td>- 14 February – Whole school assembly</td>
<td>Monday 17 - P&amp;C Meeting at 7pm.</td>
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<td>- 21 February – Junior &amp; senior assemblies</td>
<td>Friday 21 - Fresh Taste Launch at 10:30am</td>
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<td>- 28 February – Whole school assembly</td>
<td>Friday 28 - Clean up Australia Day</td>
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Fresh Tastes Launch
Join Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA and Minister for Education and Training, Joy Burch MLA at 10.30am on Friday 21 February 2014.

RSVP by Friday 14 February 2014 to 6207 9386 or freshtastes@act.gov.au.

The official launch will conclude with a tour of the school’s garden and cooking facilities, and new water refill stations.

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.

There are three (3) vacancies for parent representatives on the Palmerston District Primary School Board. One (1) vacancy is for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. Two (2) vacancies are for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016. Election of the parent representatives will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2014 school year as set out below.

Nomination period:
* Opens – 11:00am on Monday 3 February 2014
* Closes – 11:00am on Monday 17 February 2014

Voting period (if election is required):
* Opens – 11:00am on Monday 24 February 2014
* Closes – 11:00am on Monday 3 March 2014

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

If you are interested in being a member of the Palmerston District Primary School Board for 2014 – 2016 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Melissa Travers on 6205 7241. The school board meets in the mornings, a couple of times each term.

Nomination forms are available from the front office.

Defence News
Welcome to 2014, I trust everyone enjoyed the break, even if it was spent moving house, they do say a change is as good as a holiday and there is no bigger change than moving to a new location. The children seem to be happy to be back amongst old friends and busy making new ones, all eager to learn with very willing teachers.

Defence Community Organisation Canberra (DCO) holds many activities to suit all needs throughout the year. They publish a monthly newsletter with details and if you would like to receive the updates, simply email DCO at dco.canberra@defence.gov.au or like them on Facebook.

The first big event is the “Welcome to Canberra” Expo to be held on Saturday 22nd February from 10am to 1pm at the Queanbeyan Showgrounds. Please reserve the date, these expos are lots of fun for the whole family and can be a great way to find out information about Canberra and its surrounds. I hope to see you there.

Marina Pilicic
DSTA
**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Scholastic Book Club is a great way to help develop your children’s literacy both at home and at school! Twice a term you will receive a number of catalogues from which you can order books and other resources. For every item you order through Book Club the school receives credit which is used to purchase resources for the library, the quality literature program in class rooms and other school activities. The Palmerston P&C coordinates Book Club to benefit the school and the 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. Each family need only make one payment, covering all children and all catalogues. The orders will normally be sent home with the students about two weeks after the due date however if you wish to collect the order from the front office yourself please clearly mark the order form with “TO BE PICKED UP” and provide a contact phone number.

Payment may be made by cheque made out to Scholastic or online by credit card (there is no minimum charge).

The first issue of catalogues have already been sent home and orders and payment are due today – Thursday 13th February. For future issues, the due date for orders will be stamped on the back page of the last catalogue and information will be provided in the Palmerston Post and/or on the school website. Please direct all enquiries to Sandra Gibb on 0439 624 006 via text or leave a voice message.

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**Community News**

**Harrison School Canteen Assistant Vacancy**

Due to the increase in student numbers at Harrison School, we have a canteen assistant position that has come up. 10.30 – 2pm Mon – Fri. If you would like to apply, please send your resume to hscacanteen@hotmail.com, by COB this Friday the 14th of February. 26 Canberra

**Life skills, leadership, fun and Adventure**

Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth and adults for over 100 years. The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. This aim is achieved through a strong and active program that inspires young people to do their best and to always be prepared. Scouts ACT would like to invite you to a free 3 week trial of scouting. For more information, Call 1800 SCOUTS or visit our website, www.scoutsact.com.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

**Play Netball with South Gungahlin Raiders**

**Netball Club**

REGISTRATION DAY: Saturday 15 February 2014
10 am – 3.00 pm The Salvation Army
The Valley Avenue, Gungahlin
Saturday winter competition March to September for girls and women aged 8 and over and for boys 8-12 years.
New players welcome. Coaches and umpires are needed for all divisions.
Find out more
southgungahlinnetball@gmail.com

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”

Ed-Space @ headspace ACT
Headspace ACT information seminars 2014
Free information and education seminars about mental health and wellbeing.

Who: For parents and carers of young people between the ages of 12 to 25 years. All welcome
Where: At headspace ACT, University of Canberra, Bruce

When: On the last Tuesday evening of the month, starts at 5:30pm for 6pm presentation. Each presentation will run for 1 hour. Tea and coffee provided.
RSVP to 6201 5343 or headspaceACT@canberra.edu.au

25 February – School refusal
25 March – Anxiety
29 April – Depression
27 May – Talking with Young People
24 June – Eating Disorders
29 July Self Harm

For more information go to
www.headspace.org.au/ACT