Dear Parents and carers,

We are now over half way through our term and it is pleasing to see all the great learning happening around the school. The students are enjoying setting goals for their reading and writing and working with the teachers to meet those goals. One of my favourite parts of school is the handing out of the writing awards at assemblies to students who have reached their individual goal. We encourage you to share in your child's learning by asking them what goals they have set and how they are going to reach them.

Teacher Professional Learning
I am also very excited by the learning our staff have been able to participate in this term. Many of our teachers have continued to attend the PALLS Professional Learning on best practice in the teaching of English. They are bringing back wonderful ideas to our Professional Learning Community and the sharing is happening across all our classrooms. Other teachers have attended professional development on classroom management and Circle Time, teaching science and the Peer Support Program. We are lucky to have a staff who embraces life-long learning which they use to ensure our students are receiving the best in educational practice. The executive team were privileged to attend the Hawker Brownlow Conference on Thinking and Learning and the EduTECH Conference on ICT. Both events were
thought provoking and stimulating giving us much to reflect on and work towards bringing to our
wonderful school community. Some of our favourite takeaways from the conferences include:

- **Melissa Travers** – “Educators have an unwavering belief in the ability of all their students to
  achieve success, and they pass that belief on to others in overt and covert ways. Educators
  create policies and procedures and adopt practices that support their belief in the ability of every
  student.” (Kent D. Peterson). We do this at Palmerston through our commitment to, and belief
  in, all students, our continual reflection where we analyse data and confront brutal facts and
  with our collaborative and disciplined practice.

- **Tania Collis** – “Curiosity is creative fuel.” (Tom Barrett, NoTosh) This quote embodies everything
  I believe about providing a great learning environment for our students who will be the leaders
  of the 21st Century.

- **Kirally Talbot** – “There is no point considering teaching without understanding learning!” (Gavin
  Grift and Clare Major). This resonated with me because at the end of the day the essential
  question is about whether our students are engaged in high quality learning.

- **Sylvia Headon** – “Learning is the new skill. Imagination, creation and asking new questions are at
  its core.” (Dr Sugata Mitra) I love this quote because it is all about the way in which our schools
  must respond to our learners’ needs.

**Reporting at Palmerston District Primary School**

As we come to the end of the term, our teachers are diligently working on the semester 1 reports for
our students. Palmerston District Primary School strives to promote a quality learning program which
recognises the uniqueness of each child. We support and challenge our students to achieve to the best
of their ability and we foster a passion for lifelong learning. As such, we value a variety of reporting
formats to ensure parents receive the ‘whole’ picture of their child’s progress and development. These
include the written reports, looking at classroom work samples, Learning Journeys, Parent-Teacher
Interviews, NAPLAN results, PIPS results and the Departmental A to E Summary Report. Palmerston
Primary also values informal reporting strategies as an important element in promptly informing parents
if their child is experiencing difficulties at school.

With the introduction of *The Australian Curriculum* we now report to the Achievement Standards for
English, mathematics, science and history. The ACT *Every Chance to Learn* curriculum framework
remains the reference point for all other learning areas until remaining *Australian Curriculum* subjects
are phased in. Teachers use the standards and online annotated work samples as a reference point for
assigning grades. We also work with other schools in our cluster, and across the ACT, to ensure the
expected standards are moderated.

In the ACT, student achievement in Years 1–10 is reported using A–E grades. It has been agreed that a
‘C’ grade represents a significant achievement and indicates that a student is performing at the standard
expected at that year level. This may be different to when you were at school so you may like to look at
The Australian Curriculum website to gain more information (http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/).
The learning progress of kindergarten students will be reported twice a year by schools using the
*Australian Curriculum* Achievement Standards. As is currently the case, kindergarten students will not
be graded on an A–E scale. *Australian Curriculum* Achievement Standards describe expected end-of-year achievement. Grades given on the semester 1 report reflect the knowledge, skills and understandings studied so far in the learning area. The end-of-year, or
semester 2 report, is summative and based on achievement over the whole year.

Semester 1 reports will be sent out on Thursday 26 June with Parent-Teacher Interviews following in
week 10 (30 June–4 July). Please make an appointment through the Front Office.
**P and C Events**

Our P and C have some fantastic events on this week with 'Spooky Wednesday and Friday' as well as the disco on next Friday night. They have also re-opened The Palm Cafe with a tasty and revamped menu. There are some wonderful new additions to the menu to welcome in the colder winter weather. Please support our P and C through these community events.

**SunSmart**

As we are now in June, students do not have to wear their SunSmart hats. They may like to wear a beanie to keep them warm through the winter months. Our P and C sells the beanies which can be purchased at the Front Office. In this week's newsletter there is some additional information from the Cancer Council about being SunSmart. I encourage you to read their material.

Have a great week

**Tania Collis**

Deputy Principal

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**Palmerston PRIDE Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 23 May:

Vivien (3/4RA), Serena (3/4RA), Summer (2HS), Hope (2HS), Mason (5/6JH), Andy (5/6ML), Kavindra (4CC), Aditi (5/6ML), Anhminh (2VS), Louie (5/6JH), Sarah (4CC), Raymond (KFC), Theraphi (5/6JM), Jessica (KFC), Dakodah (5/6JH), Jasper (KFC), Tomas (2HS), Julia (2VS), Bohdi (5/6JM) Prajna (KGS), William (KGS), Thomas (2VS), Miss Holland (5/6JH) and all of KKW.

**Writing Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 23 May:

Thomas (2VS), Kangh Minh (4CC), Lachlan (4CC), Isaac (2VS), Abdul (2VS), Rayan (2VS), Dante (2VS), Meesha (2VS), Sumaytah (2VS), Byron (2VS), Jelena (2VS) and Andrew (2VS).

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**Christian Education – Wednesday 11 June**

Christian Education is an opt-in program offered by local Gungahlin churches. During Christian Education the children will be taught from John’s gospel, chapter 3, verse 16. They will use songs, stories, and a game or quiz to teach the children. Students may be asked to volunteer to participate in these activities.
Preschool news:
I would like to take the time to acknowledge the hard work of Leanne Leake, Emma Gusse and Kim Griffiths. Over the last few weeks they have been spending numerous out of school hours compiling a Development Summary for each child. The purpose of these is to provide comprehensive and accurate feedback regarding the progress of your child. These Developmental Surveys reflect both the philosophy of Palmerston Preschool as well as the learning outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework. This framework is utilised to support all curriculum decision making in order to extend and enrich children’s learning from birth to five years. The Developmental Summary will be sent home at the end of week 9 this term.

We have had some exciting excursions and incursions over the last few weeks. The Snugglepots and Cuddlepies enjoyed a visit from the staff of the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. The information that the staff shared with our children compliments the recycling work that Mrs Griffiths has been carrying out in class. Thanks to Kim for organising the visit.

We also loved the Bus Wash visit. Not only was it a great deal of fun but the educational aims of creating links and connecting children with the community were met. This excursion assisted the children to gain a deeper understanding of their existing knowledge of services with the community.

School photos were taken last week. It was lovely to see the children in their school uniforms and to provide the opportunity for some children to have a family photo with their siblings from “the big school”. Watch this space for information around the return date for these photos.

A big thank you to Jenni Palombi for organising the tea towel fund raiser. We think that these tea towels are lovely keepsakes and the art work that the children create for these tea towels are delightful!

Have a lovely week,
Kate Flynn

News from the Front Office Team
Front Office hours are Monday – Friday between 8:30am – 3:30pm

Payments
Payments can be made by direct deposit from your bank or by using the QuickWeb payment option from the Palmerston Website. When using QuickWeb you will be prompted for the payment Fee Code and GL Code. These codes are now included in notes home. These enable us to allocate your payment correctly. If you are making a Direct Deposit payment, please make sure you include the student’s name, class and what the payment is for. Online Banking Information

Westpac Banking Corporation
BSB: 032 777
Account #: 001754

In addition you can also pay by cash, cheque or card at the Front Office.
**Lost Property**
Lost Property is now located in the hall foyer. Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled, including clothing, lunch boxes and bags. The P&C is also running a fundraiser for ‘U-Can Label It’. These labels are great for making sure your property is returned to your child! Brochures for ‘U-Can Label It’ can be collected from the Front Office.

**First Aid**
If your child requires First Aid or if they need to take medicine while they are at school they need to come to the First Aid room. The room is located adjacent to the Front Office. Please keep us informed of your child’s medical requirements so we can best support them whilst they are at school. Please remember that an “Authority to Administer Medication” must be completed for us to give your child medicine at school. You can contact the Front Office to receive the form.

**Student Absences**
If your child is absent for any reason, could you please call the school on 6205 7241 on the day of their absence. A note that includes the dates and reason for the absence should be handed to their teacher on the day they return.

**Contact Information**
Have you changed your phone number or address? If any changes occur, please inform the front office as soon as possible.

Your front office staff – Sonya Campbell, Jenny Davies, Janet Abbott and Hayley Tyler

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**ADF**

**Defence News**
The latest DCO E-news is now out, it contains information on the upcoming events planned for in and around Canberra. This month the “Cook’s Night Off” function will be held at the George Harcourt Inn at Gold Creek. This new programme is designed for Defence spouses and partners to meet informally to enjoy a child free night and have a chance to chat with others with similar experiences over a meal. It will be held on Thursday 19 June starting at 7pm. There will be a DCO Family Liaison Officer to facilitate the night. Please RSVP to dco.canberra@defence.gov.au or phone 62658777 by 12 June.

Have you seen my new noticeboard? It is located in a window in the Library Foyer. I will regularly post a variety of information relevant to defence families. If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on marina.pilicic@ed.act.edu.au or phone 0490197264.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA
Hats Off Day - Some News from the Cancer Council ACT

In Canberra, we have already started to witness daily UV levels take a nose dive to, what is considered, low levels (under 3).

Cancer Council ACT does not generally recommend sun protection behaviour (i.e. hat wearing and sunscreen application) when UV levels are under 3 due to the low risk of potential UV skin damage. In Canberra UV levels drop and remain under 3, all day, around the June and July period and so ‘The End of May is Hats Off Day!’

Why Hats Off Day?

Being SunSmart is all about being smart when in the sun, this includes having an understanding around the balance between UV exposure, sun protection and vitamin D.

During the summer period, maintaining vitamin D levels should be relatively easy for children who are active and spend time outdoors most days of the week, even with sensible sun protection behaviour. The body should also be able to store your summer vitamin D levels over the winter period, however by leaving your hat at home during this winter period and getting some winter sun exposure to your skin you can be sure to maintain adequate vitamin D levels.

Don’t forget to complete your Australian School Climate Measurement Tool (ASCMT) survey

Palmerston is continually interested in gaining information that will assist in school planning and making decisions on an informed basis. To this end, the school in partnership with the Australian National University and the ACT Education and Training Directorate is surveying staff, students and parents/carers. Many schools in the area are undertaking this survey. The aim is to gather information about the school’s social climate, day-to-day experiences, the strengths of the school, and the future challenges. This survey will take place this term (Term 2, 2014). You should have received a letter from the school last week with a link to the survey. Students will complete the survey at school.

We hope to be able to discuss the findings of the survey with you at a future time and feel that gathering this information annually is important in ensuring the quality of the relational and wellbeing climate of the school for staff, students and parents/carers.
P&C News

Uniform shop
The uniform shop is open every Monday morning from 9:00am - 9.20am.

Please label all clothing as the lost property box will be cleaned out at the end of every term. All labelled items will be returned to students. Those not labelled are cleaned and sold in the uniform shop.

Mufti Day
Next week the P&C will be hosting two ‘Spooky’ Days as fundraisers. On Wednesday 1 June it will be for the Snugglepots and Cuddlepies in preschool. The day for the rest of the school is Friday 13 June. Wear your best spooky clothing and bring a gold coin donation to help with the Spring Fair.

‘Spooky’ Winter Disco
Also on Friday 13 June is the whole school disco. Students can also wear their spooky costume to the ‘Spooky Winter Disco’.

Preschool – Year 2: 6pm-7.15pm - PARENTS MUST STAY
Year 3-Year 6: 7.30pm-9pm – Permission note needed
Entry Fee: $3

A note will be sent home today with the details.

Spring Fair - Saturday 29 November
If you are interested in helping raise money for our school, please contact Edwina on 0422 006 142 or via palmpandc@hotmail.com

Chat-A-Bout
Finally Chat-A-Bout is on again this Friday 6 June in the resource room. Join us for a tea/coffee and a chat. 9am-10ish

Many thanks,
Edwina
P & C Vice President

Community News

Zumba - Shrink everything but your smile!
Palmerston Primary School Hall - Wednesday 6:30pm to 7:30pm. $10 per class.
Licensed Zumba Instructor
Stephanie
0410 360 033
Stephanie.surima@gmail.com

Get Active Sports – Soccer for Juniors
Soccer for juniors in Gungahlin starting 2 August. For more information email rego@getactivesports.com.au