Dear Parents and carers,

Tania Collis our Deputy Principal has taken up a fabulous opportunity to be working in a specialist curriculum role at Duffy Primary School. She will be in this position for the rest of the year. We wish her the best and know that she will excel. We are lucky to have her back a few days over the semester and she will return next year. For the rest of this term, Kirrally Talbot will take up this position, and it is advertised to Palmerston Staff for Semester 2.

Due to illness, Mrs Kaur has been unable to be at school for most of this term. This has resulted in no A-E grade in Indonesian this semester.

It is a requirement of the Department of Education that we run practice fire drills and lock downs. This is to ensure we are able to keep children safe in case of emergency and to ensure our procedures run smoothly and that both staff and students are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Last Monday
At Palmerston District Primary School we focus on our PRIDE values each week. Under our values are attributes of what make great people. Last fortnight, at school assembly we focussed on good communication in the playground. We played a game with the teachers- Chinese Whispers. The purpose of communication is to pass information from one person to another. It is as simple as that. Good communicators get their message across and understand what others are communicating as well.

It is important that we can get our message across to others as well as receiving and understanding what others are communicating with us. Miscommunication is one of the errors that we see on the playground, in children’s play and time at school. The information can be spoken or visual. Good communicators choose the best way of getting their message across. So . . .

**Listen to others**

**Speak clearly and confidently**

**Read and write well**

**Express ideas effectively**

**Choose the right way to get a message across**

Our next topic to reflect on is on Problem Solving.

**Family discussion starters**

Suggestions for conversations around the dinner table at home:

- How has good communication changed in your lifetime, e.g. handwritten letters, email, fax, internet?
- How important is good communication?
- Tally the number of hours of watching TV and the types of programs being watched.
- Is the internet good for families? What are the good points and the bad points?
- What does non-verbal communication look like and what does it tell us sometimes? Can we read the cues other people give us? Have a go!!!
- When have we misread a communication and what was the consequence?

Have fun as a family

**Melissa Travers**

Principal

**Palmerston PRIDE Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 6 June:

Abdurrahman (KFC), Leah (3/4EW), Molly (1HS), Yahye (3/4RH), Caitlin (2VS), Seoyoung (KFC), Brodie (5/6ML), Amelia (5/6ML), Brocke 3/4RH, Nico (1VS), Kay (KFC), Madeleine (1VS), Saint (5/6JH), Gabbi (5/6JM), Justin (5/6JM), Salam (3/4EW), Jacqui (4CC), Khang (4CC), Obaid (KWW), Cody (5/6JH), Jacob (2VS), Thisuri (1VS), Abdullah (1HS), and all of 3/4RA
**Writing Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 6 June:

Kien (4CC), Vivien (4CC), Serena (3/4RA), Anh (3/4RA), Alex (5/6JH), Tanisha (5/6JH), Cameron (5/6JH), Lamia (5/6JH), Anthony (5/6JH), Omar (5/6JH), Thomas (2VS), Ella (3/4EW), Sasha (3/4EW), Kyeisha (3/4RA), Kiera (3/4RA), Jimi (3/4EW) and Elissa (3/4EW)

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**Preschool news:**

This year, the Snugglepots and Cuddlepies have been engaging in activities based around Aboriginal Australia. These activities have involved the exploration of traditional and contemporary literature, drama, music and artwork. The aim of this has been to create an understanding of Aboriginal Culture and its significant contribution to the past, present and future of Australia.

The children have learnt and experienced many things to date. They enjoyed doing handprints of the Aboriginal flag and hearing about the dreamtime story “Tiddalik the Frog”. They created wonderful models out of plasticine of Tiddalik as well as models of other animals found in dreamtime stories such as echidnas, snakes, emus and models of the sun.

We explored the use of natural materials such as bark, sticks and twigs to decorate the wonderful boomerangs that are hanging in the classrooms. Please come into the rooms to have a look - the children thoroughly enjoyed making these.

After exploring the way that some Indigenous Australians create beautiful pieces of art on rocks, the children took advantage of the natural environment in the playground and attempted to create their own rock art on the stones in the playground.

We are enjoying our work in this area and look forward to exploring more.

On a Thursday and Friday the Blossoms and Gumnuts have been engaging in quality literature with Mrs Talbot. The aim of this is to provide the children with a consistent understanding of the language of books as they head towards Kindergarten. They have explored what terms such as the spine, front cover, back cover, title, illustrations and author all mean. They have also looked at quality picture books such as the book read during National Simultaneous Storytime “Too Many Elephants In this House” by Ursula Dubosarsky. Quality picture books such as this provide the children with a wide level of vocabulary which links to a deep level of understanding.

Have a great week,

Kate Flynn.
Years 3-6 Author visit – Susan Berran
The FREAKY Series By Victorian based author Susan Berran

On Monday 30 June Susan Berran will be visiting our 3-6 classes to help further extend and encourage the enjoyment that reading can bring. Reading and discussing ‘finding that first idea’, ‘hints for better writing’ and 'character building', will be her main focus for the workshops.

With the use of cleverly placed humour and this age groups (Susan’s books are suitable for 7-12yrs) affinity for ‘grossness’ to target her audience, the Freaky series is exceeding all expectations. Being eagerly read and re-read with ‘reluctant readers’ proving to be the biggest winners.

We currently have two books of Susan’s on display in our school library and parents/carers are welcome to come and have a look at the types of books Susan writes. You are also welcome to visit Susan’s website for more information regarding her books http://www.susanberran.com/.

The purpose of Susan’s visit is to further develop a love of writing and exposing students to different authors.

Defence News
I have just given a copy of DHA’s latest book, “Sticking Together” to Mrs Cox for cataloguing and covering. This latest adventure of Rex D. Dog should be available for borrowing shortly. If anyone would like their own copy, please see me for an order form or go online to www.dha.gov.au/rex.

DCO’s next “Cook’s Night Off” is this Thursday, 19th June at The George Harcourt Inn, commencing at 7pm. Why not take the night off cooking and meet with some other Defence spouses for a chat in a great old English pub setting. A Family Liaison Officer from DCO will be there for any questions you may have. The George Harcourt Inn is located at the Gold Creek Village, just opposite Cockington Green so it’s nice and close and it has a great atmosphere. I hope to see you there.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data project collects data from schools about the number of students who require adjustments to participate in education. It will present a national picture of the supports schools provide students. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year. The purpose of the process is to help governments to target support and resources in schools to help all students reach their potential.

During term 2 2014 all ACT Public Schools will be taking part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). Schools will identify students who need adjustments and are identified as meeting a broad definition of disability. This definition is based on the Disability Standards for Education 2005 which is an inclusive definition of what constitutes a disability and does not require a medical or professional diagnosis. If your child currently requires some additional support at school they may be included in the data collection. Examples of the sorts of adjustments and supports a school may provide include:
• Small group literacy and numeracy sessions
• Additional time to complete tasks

A letter will be sent home to families of students that have been identified as requiring adjustments and supports. This letter will outline the process and ask for your permission to include your child in the data collection. No names or personal information is collected as part of the collection process and students. More information about the NCCD can be found at the Australian Government Department of Education website. http://education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability

G.A.T.E.WAYS – ‘The Canberra Festival of Workshops’

Gifted and talented children from Kindergarten – Year 7 are invited to ‘The Canberra Festival of Workshops’ hosted by Canberra Grammar School, Red Hill Monday 30 June and Tuesday 1 July 2014 from 9:15 am to 3:00 pm (registration commences at 8:45 am)

Cost: $96.00 (including GST) per day
How: Enrolment can only be made online. Go to www.gateways.edu.au Go to Parent Enrolled Programs. Click on Festivals and More Information. Scroll down to Mid-Year Festivals. Read the relevant Canberra Festival Brochure.
Contact: Phone 03 9894 2116

Year 7 enrolment at Gold Creek School

The ACT Education and Training Directorate has updated the enrolment and transfer arrangements for all ACT public schools. All families wanting to enrol their child at our feeder Gold Creek School for 2015 will need to use the online form, located on the ‘Enrolling in an ACT Public School’ section of the Education and Training Directorate website www.det.act.gov.au

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 school.

To find out more about the opportunities available at Gold Creek School please visit our website; http://www.goldcreek.act.edu.au/prospective_students/enrolment

If you have difficulty accessing a computer to complete the online enrolment form please come to the school for assistance, where we are happy to answer any queries you may have. Please make an appointment with Leona Anton via 6205 1814.

Features of Gold Creek School
• International Baccalaureate candidate school
• Strong academic programmes with a range of electives in all learning areas
• Extension and enrichment programmes and opportunities for Gifted and Talented students
• Strong and focused pastoral care and student engagement systems in place to ensure student maximise learning outcomes
• A wide range of extension programmes to engage students in school and the wider community including: Band and music programme, vocal groups, dance performances, annual school production, lunchtime radio, sporting opportunities and debating
• Outstanding leadership opportunities
• Comprehensive transition pathways to Colleges

We look forward to you joining our school community in 2015.

P&C News

Disco – Spooky Friday 13 June
The ‘Spooky’ disco and Mufti Day were enjoyed by many children (and parents/carers). It was fantastic to see many new families come to their first Palmerston disco. Whilst the P&C does aim to raise funds at these events the primary aim for the disco is to bring the Palmerston Community together – so thank you to everyone who attended!

A BIG thank you to all the volunteers, especially new helpers in the kitchen and cleaning up and to our long standing disco helpers Russell and his son James who always look after many aspects of the disco.

Chat-about – Friday 20 June
Join us for a coffee/tea and chat this Friday in the library resource room from 9:30-10:30ish. This is not a meeting, just a chance to meet and catch up with other parents or ask the P&C questions.

School Banking and Book Club – volunteers needed
Both the Commonwealth School Banking and Scholastic Book Club bring funds into our school and provide a great service for students. On Friday morning volunteers are needed to help with the school banking. Please see Jasmine on Friday if you can help.

Bronwyn and Sandra have been running the book club again this year. If you are interested in finding out how you can help with the Book Club email your interest to palmpandc@hotmail.com.

School Uniform Shop and Lost Property
The uniform shop is open Monday mornings 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.

Jo
P & C President

This term we are giving students, schools and our School Banking Co-ordinators the opportunity to win a share of sunken treasure found in the Lost City of Savings.
Students simply need to make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 2, regardless of the value, and they will automatically be entered into the competition to win some fantastic prizes including:

Major student prize.
- Five nights' accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast;
- Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
- A $3,000 travel gift card to get them there.

Runner up student prizes.

130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each to spend on their favourite toys.

School and School Banking Co-ordinator prizes.

There will also be a separate draw for schools. As long as you have at least one student who is eligible for the competition, you will be in the running to win:
- $1,000 cash for one school in each state/territory of Australia.
- Plus the School Banking Co-ordinators of each winning school will receive a $250 Commonwealth Bank Debit Card (maximum of three per school).


Community News

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

*CHILADA*
8 DAYS school uniform sale-20%off, apply to all Chilada stores Start 21/06/2014—Ending 29/06/2014
Big saving for all the parents until stock last. All school applies.

*Holy Spirit Catholic Parish First Eucharist and Reconciliation Dates for 2014*
(children in Year 3 or older):

Parent Information Session:  Tuesday 24 June at 1:00pm or 7:00pm
Commitment Mass followed by Enrolment:  Saturday 28 June at 6:00pm OR Sunday 29 June at 9:30am OR 5:30pm
Celebration of the Sacrament:  At Masses on weekends of 6/7 or 13/14 September

Please stay in touch via our parish website www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au
More details concerning the Sacramental Program are available in the foyer of the Church, Burdekin Ave, Amaroo or contact the Sacramental Coordinator via email: fionawilk@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au