Term 3 Week 10  25 September 2014
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Board Members: Parent Reps: Amy Phillips, Saravanan Thavamanikumar and George Villaflor
Board Chair: George Villaflor  P&C President: Jo Prezzi
Principal: Melissa Travers  Acting Deputy Principal: Sylvia Headon
Executive Teachers: Kate Flynn, Rebecca Hewat, Jennifer Holland, Haeley Simms and Georgina Sofatzis
Preschool to Year 6

Next P&C Meeting Monday 27 October at 7pm

Recent Notes Home
Year 5/6 Self Defence
Year 6 Gold Creek School Transition Visit
Year 6 Graduation & Celebration – Friday 12 Dec

Dates to Remember
26 Sept  Last day of term 3!
         P&C Coffee and Chat
13 Oct   First day of term 4!
         School Banking
16 Oct   Term Overviews home
         7:30am Board Meeting
17 Oct   Kindergarten – Kenny Koala
14 Nov   Trivia Night at 7pm

Well done Palmerston!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Palmerston District community for making me so welcome over the last two weeks. All of the children, parents, families and staff I have interacted with have all spoken highly of the school and engaged with me in a warm and friendly manner.

Learning Journeys
Learning journeys were held last Friday 19 September and it was fantastic to see so many families sharing the learning of their children. The students I spoke with were all so proud to share their amazing work. The PoDs looked amazing! There was so much relevant student work on display and each PoD was warm and inviting. Thank you to the highly professional staff who ensured that every child was ready to share their learning. The work that teachers and students had put into learning journeys was evident for all to see.

I was able to experience several of the learning journeys with children first hand. The student work that I saw was fantastic. Students were happy to share what they were learning and importantly they were able to articulate their learning. Congratulations on a fantastic morning!
Science fair
I was also fortunate to be at Palmerston District Primary School during the Science Fair. I read through every science project that was on display. I was very impressed by the consideration that had gone into each project. Of particular note was the engagement of students, the scientific language used and the thoughtful structuring of each project. This is an excellent example of the partnership evident between home and school at Palmerston District Primary School. Thank you to Ms Rachel Levinson for coordinating this highly successful event.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful school holiday break. During week 10 teachers have engaged in planning days and I have seen first-hand the amazing learning that has been planned for term 4!

Kind regards,

Mark Deeker
Acting-Principal

Writing Awards – Outstanding Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 12 September:

Molly (1VS), Madelene (1VS), Maddox (1VS), Nico (1VS), Scarlett (1VS), Johanna (1VS), Toby (1VS), Zac (1VS), Si Thu (2HS), Dominic (2HS), Lahni (2HS), William (2HS), Summer (2HS), Dante (2HS), Kaitlyn (2VS), Dante (2VS), Jason (34 EW), Elissa (34 EW), Alyssa (34 EW), Siarra (34 EW), Chiara (34 EW), Ella (34 EW), Andy (34 EW), Becca (34RH), Brooke (34RH), Imogen (34RH), Ya Wen (56JH), Tianah (56JH), Tilly (56JH), Dakodah (56JH) and Heidi (56JH).
Sharing the good news at Palmerston!

To the Principal and teachers of Palmerston Primary,

I recently travelled to Canberra to look after my grand-daughters while their parents worked. During this time I had the pleasure of witnessing a primary school bursting with all the values we would like our children to follow.

I attended Private school, as did my 3 children, so my exposure to state schools has been limited. We are constantly reading in the press stories of parents complaining about our state schools, I will now be able to speak first hand of my experience.

While I was at the school I joined the school assembly and watched the teachers and children sing the National Anthem and also the school song, which were both sung with pride by all.

As I walked through the grounds every teacher I passed acknowledged me with a welcoming smile and a greeting. The school grounds were clean and well maintained and the classrooms were delightful. I am sorry if this sounds like an audit! I work in Health and we are constantly looking at these aspects of the hospital.

The principal and staff should all feel proud they provide our children with a school filled with a team of dedicated professionals to nurture them in their most formative years.

My grand-daughter is Violet in Kindergarten and I feel she is a very lucky little girl to start her school life at Palmerston Primary.

Yours Sincerely,
Bernadette Stewart

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Defence News

Wow, it’s the end of term 3. I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the warmer weather and the flowers in bloom, especially at Floriade. Take some time out to rest and relax as Term 4 is a very busy time for all. If you are being posted and haven’t let me know, please can you send an email to marina.pilicic@ed.act.edu.au. I would like to start preparing the “Goodbye” packs. I look forward to seeing happy smiling faces next term.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA.
Gifted and Talented Update

Contacts at Palmerston
If you would like further information about our gifted and talented program please contact the following people:
First point of contact: Sylvia Headon – Acting Deputy Principal
Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer: Cheryl Cassella – CAP Teacher
Both Sylvia and Cheryl can be contacted through the front office.

ACT Gifted and Talented Local Support Group Presents a seminar for teachers and parents by Carol Barnes

Awesome at thinking, awful at schoolwork – Gifted children with learning disability

When a gifted child is underachieving academically, parents and teachers are usually perplexed. Could it be an ‘overexcitability’ or ‘asynchronous development’? Or perhaps an unidentified learning disability or undiagnosed medical problem? And does it really matter what it’s called? Not all learning impairments are apparent in early childhood - indeed, the higher the IQ, the later they're usually identified. In this interactive session, we’ll consider some explanations for a child’s academic difficulties other than, “He’s certainly bright, but he’s just not trying!” We’ll also discuss how best to obtain approval for disability adjustments for classroom tasks and for test and exams. No prior knowledge assumed. And plenty of easy-to-follow paper diagrams to annotate and take away.

When: Tuesday 7 October 2014 commencing at 7:00pm
Where: Canberra Girls Grammar School, Multimedia Theatre, Gabriel Centre, Melbourne Avenue, Deakin ACT
Cost: This is a free event
RSVP: Elizabeth by email to actgifted@gmail.com

Carol Barnes is national coordinator and Sydney meeting convenor for GLD Australia, a not-for-profit independent online learning community and support group focussing on gifted children with learning disability (GLD). Carol is also Vice-President of the Queensland gifted association’s Gold Coast Branch and convenor of that Branch’s parent support group. She is an invited sessional lecturer on gifted and GLD at Griffith University, and has provided GLD training for SPELD Qld, SPELD NSW, Education Queensland, Mensa Australia, Aspect Australia, Asperger Services Australia, and numerous government and independent primary and secondary schools in NSW and Queensland. Carol is also a lawyer but, most importantly, the mother of two gifted university students, each with multiple learning disabilities.

Fresh Tastes Healthy School Nutrition Workshop

Thank you to parents who participated in the workshop. We are sure the participants now have a better understanding of how our canteen is working.

The Palmerston District Primary School’s Fresh Tastes coordinators are the Healthy Child Committee.
Active Kids Challenge at Palmerston

This week was the last week of the Active Kids Challenge. Have a chat to your child and learn what active challenge they are doing this week at school!

Healthy Child Committee

Hooray Hooray for Market Day

Palmerston District Primary School will be holding a school market day on Friday 31 October 2014 (Week 3). No money will be handled at the stalls. Tickets will be on sale prior to Market Day during weeks 1 to 3 of Term 4.

All students from across the school will be able to participate in games and purchase treats and miscellaneous goods from stalls.

All activities will be run by Year 5/6 students and the money raised will go toward the Year 5/6 graduation.

If you are able to help out with providing necessary items or donations (e.g. books, toys, treats etc.) there will be more information to come on what is required to make the day successful for Year 5/6. A collection box for items will be placed at the front office early next term.
Preschool news
Dear parents/carers,

A very short newsletter item to thank you all for a wonderful term and to wish you a happy and safe holiday break.

The last two weeks has flown by so quickly. We really loved spending time with you at our Learning Journey and we enjoyed the opportunity to share the work and progress that your children have made this year. We are certain that you are particularly proud of their achievements - we really are! I would like to thank Leanne, Emma, Kim, Bec and Margaret who worked particularly hard during the lead up to Learning Journeys. I am certain you will agree with me when I say that the rooms looked amazing and the portfolios that were presented by the children were filled with quality samples of work.

We are really looking forward to Term 4 where we will begin to transition the children to kindergarten. What an exciting time for your child and your family. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Term 4.

Kate Flynn,
Executive Teacher

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LBG 50th Birthday Family Bike Event
Lake Burley Griffin turns 50 on Friday 17th October and Canberran families are invited to get on their bikes and join in the celebrations!

Pedal Power and ACT Government are holding a family cycling event on the shores of the Lake and you are invited along anytime between 5pm – 7pm. The ride will include an exciting ‘clue hunt’ taking in historic landmarks along the way with volunteer guides bringing the history of the lake to life. There’ll be prizes and goody bags for the kids as well as family entertainment at Regatta Point - plus a VIP will be cutting the Lake’s 50th Birthday Cake!

For more information visit www.capitalcycling.org.au/lbg50
Lost Property

Once again there is a large amount of lost property at Palmerston. A kind parent has sorted the clothing and we will be passing named clothing back to classes.

All un-named and non-school clothing will be sent to charity at the end of term 3.

Please make sure you name all clothing that comes to school. The lost property is located in the hall foyer.

P&C News

There was a link missing from previous P&C News:

Community News

Circle of Security
The Circle of Security is a relationship-based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between parents/caregivers and children.

This is a free workshop for Parents and caregivers of children aged 0 – 8 years.

Where: Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
When: Fridays for 8 sessions commencing 17 October, 2014. 9:00am to 11:00am

For more information and to register contact Vicky Garling or Jordan Bowles on 6207 0120.

Majura Primary School is looking for a Canteen Manager
Majura Primary School is seeking an enthusiastic, reliable, professional and community-minded individual to run our School Canteen. The position is part-time, casual (Thursday and Friday, 8.30am – 2:30pm, during school term dates only), commencing Week 2, Term 4, (Monday 13 October) and requires:

For further information, please contact Stefanie Pidcock Email: stefanie.pidcock@gmail.com Phone: 0425 261 009 Applications close COB Monday 6 October, and should be emailed to: majuraparentsandcitizens@gmail.com

Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T)
Supported by Parentline ACT

Communication skills for peaceful parenting and resilient children (without the use of punishment or reward). Helps develop emotional intelligence, and grow confident, considerate children. Powerful, proven and practical. Yell less, enjoy your children more. Build relationships that last a lifetime. The course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential. $290 pp for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook).

Course begins: Monday 20th October, 2014
Time: 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm
Place: Weston, ACT.

Enjoy P.E.T. with Larissa, Canberra’s most experienced P.E.T. instructor.
0413 451 607 www.parentskills.com.au info@parentskills.com.au