Hello everyone,

Welcome to week 6 of term 1. I have been attending a conference on building high reliability schools. This is a follow on from our work at Palmerston over the last year on building a professional learning community.

What is a high reliability school?

To become high reliability, a school must achieve these five hierarchical levels of performance:

- A safe and orderly environment that support cooperation and collaboration
- An instructional framework that develops and maintains effective instruction in every classroom
- A guaranteed and viable curriculum focused on enhancing student learning
- Standards-referenced reporting of student progress
- A competency-based system that ensures student mastery of content
Staff at Palmerston have commenced on this journey of ensuring we are a high reliability school. To further this notion, this term we will have Mary Brell facilitate what parents and community want for their children at Palmerston. We will be conducting parent and community sessions on setting our Vision and listening to what you want from your school. We last set the school vision with parent forums in 2010. Our sessions will be in the week commencing from the 23 March. Look out for the flyer on this soon.

**P&C – how you can be an active member of your school community**
A reminder about the fantastic role you can play at Palmerston. We are looking for a P&C President and Vice President. You may ask, “What is the role of P&C President and Vice President?”

**The Executive Committee**
School P&C Associations appoint an executive committee at their Annual General meeting (AGM) who are responsible for running the various components of the P&C. Generally, an executive committee consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public officer and P&C delegate to council. These positions are generally referred to as Office Bearers however some may also be known as the Executive Members or Board Members.

**President**
- Provides leadership
- Chairs all general and executive committee meetings of the association
- Acts as a spokesperson for the association
- Reports to Parents and Citizens Association meetings about the activities of the P&C
- Supervises the functions of the other office bearers
- Ensures adequate and efficient communication exists between the members of the association and the members of the school board
- Encouraging parents to participate

**Vice President**
- Steps into the role of the President should they be unavailable and undertakes tasks to reduce the workload of the President.

The Vice President needs to:
- Be familiar with the operation of the P&C
- Be acquainted with the duties of President
- Understand meeting rules and procedure

Our other roles have been filled. We would love you to consider taking on this role. You will be supported and work as part of a team. This is a way to assist your school. We have a Car Boot sale coming up this term and the fundraising team are organising this. Some parents have said to me they cannot commit to fundraising and running a fete. As you can see from the P&C website, being a P&C president is about being part of a community. We are not asking for someone to run a fete. So, I ask you to consider taking on this role, maybe do this with a friend. Many schools have co-presidents. I would love to hear from you.

Check out the P&C website at [www.actparents.org.au](http://www.actparents.org.au)

Thank you,

*Melissa Travers*

Principal
Executive Teacher, Professional Practice
Palmerston Community,
I am an experienced teacher and have won the position of Executive Teacher Professional Practice (ETPP) in 2014. Only forty schools in Canberra have an ETPP. We meet regularly and learn from each other on ways to support teachers in the classroom. I have experience in teaching from Preschool to year 6. My role at Palmerston in 2015, directly linked to the school plan, is to build knowledge amongst teachers in teaching high quality literacy and numeracy lessons across the school.
To achieve these goals teachers can observe my teaching in variety of settings. I will work shoulder to shoulder with them in their classrooms, offering feedback on areas for growth and development.
My classroom is an open classroom where teachers from any school across the system can observe the teaching and learning taking place.
If you have any questions regarding my role please do not hesitate to contact me via the front office.

Mandy Lee
Executive Teacher Professional Practice

Reviewing the School Vision
At the end of March the school will be working with Mary Brell, from Keys to Success, to review the current school Vision which was adopted by the school and community in 2010. Today a note was sent home with students asking for parents to attend our two workshops where we will be looking at the vision and how they interplay with the educational opportunities and outcomes for our students. We would love you to join us at one of the events, either Wednesday 25 March from 9.00am-12.00pm or Tuesday 31 March, 5.00pm to 8.00pm. The note contains an RSVP which should be returned to the Front Office. For further information, please contact myself through the Front Office on 62057241.

Tania Collis
Deputy Principal

Palmerston PRIDE Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 6 March:

**PARTICIPATION** – becoming involved, “having a go” and cooperating with others

Hana (23WW), Vivien (34CC), Fahad (34GL), Henry, Mahee and Luka (56RA)

**RESPECT** – respect for self, others and their property

Connor (KLM), Sienna (KFC), Sarah (23WW), Arvand (2VS), Salam (34RH), Talha, Katya, Taylor (34GL), Faaiz (34GS), Tharapi (6JM)

**INTEGRITY** – being honest, fair, responsible and loyal

Caledon (2VS), Alex (34GL), Hayley (56ML), Omar (6JM)
DETERMINATION - being persistent and resilient

Krystelle (KKW), Verity (KSH), Noah (KSH), Karla (KFC), Zac (2GG), Jack (34CC), Lachlan (34RH), Kayley (34GL), Anh (34GS), Anthony (56ML)

EMPATHY – understanding and supporting others, regardless of our differences

Ethan (KFC), Izaac (2VS), Jacob (34CC), Jason (34GL), Byron (34RH)

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
This term sees our year 3 and year 5 students completing NAPLAN. NAPLAN assesses students’ literacy and numeracy skills in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and compares them to nationally agreed standards. Teachers at Palmerston have been working with students to provide the best possible preparation. This has included providing practice testing to assist students with the format used and the conditions that the test is conducted. Students have also begun working through past tests to raise understanding of how to answer the different styles of questions. We are not training or over practicing, we are making students aware of the experience. Over the years, students here at Palmerston have been exposed to and explicitly taught the skills needed for a NAPLAN test.

If for some reason your child has been recognised as exempt from undertaking NAPLAN you would have received the exemption documents that need to be signed to be brought back to the school. If you are unsure about NAPLAN or would like your child to be withdrawn from the testing process, please contact Grant Smith on 62057241 or email grant.smith@ed.act.edu.au

National Ride2School Day – Friday 13 March
It’s national Ride to School Day. Ride to school on bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, roller shoes, anything with wheels that gets you moving. We are holding this national event to encourage students to become more active as part of a healthy lifestyle. Look out for the flyer coming home with more information and safe routes to get to school.

5/6 Camp Reminder – 16-18 March
Year 5/6 will be travelling to Camp Cooba near Berridale NSW on Monday and arriving back on Wednesday. Please ensure all medical forms are signed and returned and that you have paid for camp, unless you have made special payment arrangements.

It is important that Year 5/6 are punctual to school on Monday morning and we are all present at 7:30 am. The cohort will arrive back at school between 3:45pm and 4:15pm on Wednesday and a more accurate time will be advertised on the schools Facebook page, closer to arrival. If you have any further
enquiries regarding camp please contact Grant Smith on 62057241 or by email grant.smith@ed.act.edu.au  We look forward to a great few days away.

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**Christian Education – Wednesday 18 March**

Christian Education is an opt-in program run at the school by Combined Gungahlin Churches. If you are interested in your child attending the session, and have not previously notified the school, please see the Front Office to fill in a form. Otherwise your child will remain in class.

The program occurs in week 7 of each term and there is a junior and senior program. This term it will be held on Wednesday 18 March in the school hall. The program will teach the children the amazing and true story of Easter. We will be using songs, stories, drama and a game or quiz to teach the children from the Bible. We may ask for student volunteers from the school to participate in these activities.

Julia Polkinghorne
Ministry Facilitator
New Life Presbyterian Church

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**Harmony Day – Friday 20 March**

Harmony Day is on Saturday 21 of March. It celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Palmerston District Primary School will be celebrating Harmony Day on Friday 20 March. There will be many exciting events happening on this day, such as kite making and other fun activities.

On this day we will also be officially opening our Introductory English Centre and launching the directorate’s English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) documents. We have invited Joy Burch, The Education Minister to officially open our IEC. We will be hosting a short assembly on the blacktop on the Friday morning. During this assembly we will also be conducting a traditional smoking ceremony, which is performed on special occasions. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly.

Students are invited to wear their **traditional cultural dress or orange** (orange is used to represent Harmony Day) to celebrate Harmony Day.

Thank you for your support.

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**Term 2, 2015 - Start Date**

**Please note that Monday 27 April is a public holiday.** Please be advised that due to ANZAC Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday, Term 2 will commence for all ACT Public Schools on Tuesday 28 April.
This year our school plan focuses on improving students' numeracy levels. To further enhance our students’ numeracy skills on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 of March the World of Maths Roadshow came to Palmerston District Primary School. The World of Maths Roadshow allows students to see maths in real life situations. Some of the activities included calculating the distance it would take to walk home, placing blocks on a see saw to measure which block was the heaviest and which block was the lightest and building stairs and calculating how many blocks were needed for each stair. The activities promoted problem solving skills and cooperation between students. All of the students were engaged and had a lot of fun!

Preschool
Last week we had a visit from the staff at No Waste. The purpose of the visit was to reinforce and assist the children in their understanding of recycling. We were really impressed with the knowledge that the children shared with the No Waste staff about recycling and we look forward to assisting the children to recycle responsibly at school.

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 an emergency. It is also to ensure our procedures run smoothly and that both staff and students are aware of their roles and responsibilities. This week we have been conducting our first fire drills for the year. I would like to congratulate all children across the school for carrying out this procedure both efficiently and safely.
In order to ensure we continually deliver best practice and a quality program to the children we have been proactively seeking and attending professional development and mentoring sessions. This term all staff will receive training in Mandatory Reporting processes. This week Leanne has attended a session on disabilities, Freya has been completing a series of workshops both online and face-to-face, Kate has been attending a series of leadership and management courses. As part of our whole school vision we have also completed a two day workshop on mathematics across the grades from preschool to year 6. All of the sessions we have attended have been invaluable.

As we have been preparing for our National Quality Standard assessment we have been engaging in visits and other forms of communication with representatives from the Children’s Policy and Regulation Unit (CPRU). The CPRU supports our preschools to deliver high quality education to children. The role of the CPRU includes:

- Providing information about education and care in the ACT to families, services and the community;
- Issuing approvals for providers, services, waivers, certified supervisors and licenses;
- Monitoring compliance with the Children and Young People Act 2008 and the Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011;
- Quality assessment and rating of education and care services in accordance with the National Quality Framework; and
- Investigating complaints relating to compliance with the relevant education and care law.

Phone number 6207114
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
Level 7, 11 Moore Street Canberra City ACT 2600
www.det.act.gov.au

Have a lovely week,
Kate Flynn
Executive Teacher – Preschool

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**Defence News**

This Saturday 14 March, don’t forget the annual “Welcome to Canberra” Expo is being held from 10am to 1pm at the ADFA Gymnasium and oval. This event is organised by DCO to provide information about services in and around Canberra. There will be loads of free entertainment for all ages including a petting zoo, jumping castles and military displays. Why not take the family and enjoy the festivities?

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. To donate, please click on the links below:

Anita Cox - Sponsor page
Deanna Cox – Sponsor page
Sam Higginson – Sponsor page

Student Injury - Insurance and Ambulance Transport
The Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained. As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted. This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage. The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

Front Office Update

Reminder – Student Information Checklist
Please remember to return the Student Information Checklist, as this reflects student details which are held on our computerized record keeping system. There is often a need to contact parents/carers for various reasons and we need current contact details. Please check the details and make any corrections required, sign the form and return it to school even if there are no changes by tomorrow, Friday 13 March.

Emergency Management Treatment Plans
Emergency Management Treatment Plans will be sent home for all students with medical conditions that the school is aware of. It is a requirement of the Education and Training Directorate that all Emergency Management Plans be updated each year. To ensure that we can provide your child/ren with the correct medical treatment should they require it, your urgent attention is required regarding this matter as without these forms we are only able to administer basic first aid.
Payments
If you are making a cash payment to the school, it would be appreciated if you could provide the correct change please. Please remember to place in a clearly marked envelope, stating the student’s name, class and what the payment is for.

Palmerston District Primary School
PAYMENT DETAILS
Payments can be made via Quickweb at:
www.palmdps.act.edu.au/payment

OR
By direct deposit into the School’s bank account.
Bank account details for direct deposits are:
Bank: Westpac Bank
BSB: 032 777
Account No.: 001754

Messaging or Emailing the School
When leaving messages or emailing the school in regard to your child/ren could you please ensure that you state the following details:
Your name:
Students name:
Class Name/Teacher:
Year Level:
Contact details:
Improving our handwriting is a year 1 writing goal for this term. Before beginning daily writing, students participate in hands on activities to strengthen our fine motor skills. Stronger muscles in our hands enable us to form letters correctly and write for longer periods of time.

Under the Microscope
Year 1

Ideas for practising fine motor skills at home:

- Play dough/plasticine
- Colouring in
- Catching small balls
- Scrunching up paper
- Typing on a keyboard
- Cut and pasting
Preschool Banking – Account Opening Event
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 two more account opening days, this time at the Preschool to enable preschool families to attend, but all families are welcome.

**Wednesday 18 March - 8:30am**
**Thursday 19 March - 2:30pm**
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.

Scholastic Book Club
Welcome to Scholastic Book Club for 2015! The catalogues for Issue 2 should be arriving home soon and orders and payment are **due by Thursday 19 March**. There have been some exciting changes to Book Club recently, most notably **LOOP**, which is the **new online ordering system** – so now you can pay AND ORDER online! **LOOP** should be available to Palmerston families from the current issue. Scholastic has also made changes to their catalogues. As a result **each child will only receive one catalogue** for each issue. If you like to see the full range of books on offer however you can view all the catalogues online at [http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/](http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/) and place orders online or print, fill in and send in the last (order) page of the catalogue.

For future issues, the due date for orders will be stamped on the back page of the catalogue and information will be provided in the Palmerston Post. More information on **LOOP** and Book Club in general is available on the school website home page under School Notes. If you have any further queries please contact Sandra Gibb on 0439 624 006 via text or leave a voice message.

Happy Reading!
Introducing Book Clubs LOOP for Parents

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
Community News

Connect and Participate Expo
Looking for something to do with the kids on the weekend? Come along to the CONNECT AND PARTICIPATE EXPO! Saturday 28 March, 11am – 4pm at the Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston. The EXPO will provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover the wide range of social groups in Canberra including sport, outdoor recreation, art & craft, music, performing arts, environmental and hobby groups. There will be come-and-try activities, performances, food stalls and more. Entry is free. For more information, please visit www.connectandparticipateexpo.com.au

Free Bushdance
The Monaro Folk Society is holding a special bushdance for kids on the last Saturday of this month in the great atmosphere of the Yarralumla Woolshed. Bring your kids to a FREE BUSHDANCE at the Yarralumla Woolshed on Sat 28 March, 2 - 4 pm. Live band: The Tin Mugs. Dances taught and called so no experience necessary. Suitable for all school age children. Info: www.mfs.org.au

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2015 – 10AM TO 3PM
OVER 35 STALLHOLDERS, SAUSAGE SIZZLE (10AM TO 1PM) RAISING FUNDS FOR OLIVIA LAMBERT FOUNDATION, JUMPING CASTLE AND FACE PAINTING
Proudly supporting the Olivia Lambert Foundation
Gold Creek Markets is supported by retailers at Ginninderra Village, The Party People, Mitchell, The Abbey, My D Carpets and Design Graphic Design Services
Follow on Facebook: GoldCreekMarkets
WITH SHIRLEY
PALMERSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
THURSDAY NIGHTS 7.30-8.30PM

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: 0417282173
www.facebook.com/funkshirlnalfitness