Hello and welcome to week 8 of what has been an exciting and busy term. In the last two weeks we have had a number of major events in the school and still have some more to come before we break for the end of the term.

Vision Sessions
On Tuesday, the executive team and team leaders worked with Mary Brell from Keys to Success to revisit the School Vision, Mission Statement and future direction of the school. The day was extremely valuable with lots of sharing of ideas and what our vision for quality education looks like. Mary helped us to pull together our thoughts into key points and words that clearly expressed our philosophies and goals. Yesterday she took a group of parents and students through a similar process with equal success. She commented on how engaged our parent group was and was impressed with the concepts and goals they worked through. Mary was equally rapt with the students from years 4 to 6 who worked with her, Melissa and myself in the afternoon.

I will be leading more parents through Mary’s processes next Tuesday from 5.00-8.00pm. Using a variety of tools, and time to talk and share, we will also be able to come up with ideas for the school’s Vision Statement and Mission Statement and draft goals for the parent, community and school to work
on together. You can still return the RSVP for next Tuesday’s session and I am looking forward to having further parent and carer input into the process. I hope to see you there.

Car Boot Sale
A reminder that this Saturday, 28 March, the P and C will be holding their first event for the year, the annual Car Boot Sale. We still have selling sites available and these can be booked through the Front Office. We would also love to see lots of lovely cakes and slices arrive for the Cake Stall. If you have time to help out either on the cake stall or the BBQ, you can also let us know through the Front Office. This day has been a wonderful community event over the past 2 years so we would love to see lots of you there on Saturday. Entry is a gold coin donation and the event runs from 8.00am-12.00pm

Years 3/4 and 5/6 Camps
Last week it was our 5/6 students who went off early on Monday morning to Camp Cooba. We are extremely proud of the way they presented themselves over the three days. We are especially delighted with the way in which all of our campers tried the new, and sometimes challenging, activities the camp had to offer, including the Big Swing, Gladiator Challenge and Assault Course. Each and every student has shared what a great time they had and how much they learned. A huge thanks to our teaching staff who accompanied them: Grant Smith, Mandy Lee, Justine Martin, Steven Landman, Rachel Ashcroft and Tina Fisk.

Next Monday it is our 3/4 students who will head off to Birrigai for a fun day of learning in the outdoors. They too will have the opportunity to challenge themselves, work cooperatively and promote our school through the way they conduct themselves with our PRIDE Values.

Harmony Day and the opening of the Introductory English Centre (IEC)
Last Friday, we were joined by Minister Joy Burch and Meegan Fitzharris along with representatives from the Directorate and surrounding schools to officially open the IEC. The opening fit beautifully with our celebrations for Harmony Day and the school was a sea of colour between the orange clothing and the traditional costumes worn by our staff and students. We hosted a morning assembly where we had a Welcome To Country and traditional Smoking Ceremony to represent our Indigenous students followed by our IEC students helping Minister Burch to cut the orange ribbon. The Directorate’s new English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) fact sheets were also launched at the school.

After recess all students participated in a range of Harmony Day activities followed by kite flying by the whole school on the oval. It was a wonderful day represented by a lovely display made by all of our students in the corridor of the admin building. Please come by and see it if you have the time.

Easter Hat Parade and Car Boot Sale
With two weeks to go we still have the Easter Hat Parade and Cross Country to come. The Easter Hat will take place on Thursday 2 April. This is another fun event and we would love to see lots of you at the parade. The Cross Country is on the last Wednesday of term, Wednesday 8 April. We are still looking for parent volunteers so if you are able to help out could you please fill in the slip from the note sent home and return it to the Front Office. A copy of the track is on the front of all PoDs so you can see where the students will be running.

Tomorrow year 1 are hosting an assembly straight after morning lines in the hall and we are looking forward to seeing their learning on display. We love having our community join us at our assemblies and celebrating what a wonderful school we have. It certainly reflects our PRIDE Values and the way in which we do all work together for our students.

Tania Collis
Deputy Principal
Palmerston PRIDE Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 20 March:

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

**RESPECT** – respect for self, others and their property
Lily Berguno (2HS)

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

**DETERMINATION** - being persistent and resilient
Taj (1BR), Sebastian (2HS), Sajani (56RA), Charles (34CC), Ethan (34CC), Kyeisha (56ML), Andy (56ML)

**EMPATHY** – understanding and supporting others, regardless of our differences
Antonio (1BR)

Car Boot Sale Reminder – this Saturday 28 March
Time: 8:00am – 12:00pm
Entry: Gold Coin Donation
Cost for a selling site: $10.

It’s that time of year again, time for the P and C’s third annual Palmerston District Primary School “CAR BOOT SALE”. Have an Autumn clean out of your house or garage and get all your unwanted goods together. Bring them to our carpark and make some extra cash! The cost of a site is only $10.00 and there are still sites available.

OR

Grab a bargain from the wonderful range of pre-loved goods sold from the boots of cars in our car park. Enjoy a tasty treat from the BBQ and cake stall with all proceeds going to the school.

For further information or to book a selling site please email jillbungen@gmail.com or contact the Front Office. BYO table or a limited number of tables for hire for $5.00.

3/4 Camp Reminder – 30 March
Year 3/4 will be travelling to Camp Birrigai on Monday. All students need to meet at school by 8:00am on the morning of 30 March. It is important that you are punctual. We will arrive back at school by 4:30pm. Birrigai will be catering lunch for all students. Students will need to take recess and a water bottle for the day. We look forward to a great day away!

Public Consultation
**Draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates**
The ACT Government is seeking public comment on the draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates for ACT public primary and high schools. The draft Policy and draft common templates are designed to ensure parents receive consistent information about their child's achievement regardless of which ACT public school their child attends.

Opening Date: Monday 23 March 2015
Closing Date: Friday 15 May 2015

**Term 2 commences – Tuesday 28 April 2015**

Dear parents and carers,

On Monday 27 April 2015, there will be a day in lieu for ACT public servants, including teachers and other employees working in ACT public schools. This is due to ANZAC Day falling on a Saturday this year. Term 2 for all ACT public schools will begin on Tuesday 28 April 2015. It is advised that families make necessary alternative arrangements for Monday 27 April 2015 as soon as possible, as all public schools will be closed. Some outside school hours care providers may be open on the day.

For any further enquiries, please contact your school.

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**Defence News**

Today I have been to the Australian War Memorial to collect an education box and have set up a display in the library. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, a very significant moment in Australia’s history. Please feel free to visit the display and talk about the ANZAC tradition with your family. We will be holding a special ANZAC Assembly on Friday 10 April at 9am with morning tea to follow. It would be great to have as many Defence parents there as possible so please mark it in your diary.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

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**Preschool Enrolments 2016**

Preschool Enrolments for 2016 open on Tuesday 28 April 2015. Children enrolling for Preschool in 2016 need to turn 4 years of age by 30 April 2016. Enrolment forms can be found online at the link below: [Application to Enrol in an ACT School](#)

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**Preschool**

Don’t the rooms look beautiful at the moment? It is obvious the children are enjoying exploration of the unit “All About Me”. The first thing I notice when I walk into the classrooms are the amazing self-portraits of the children. I am impressed with the quality of work and the amount of detail that each child put into their self-portrait. These portraits are certainly items to treasure!!!

We were thrilled with the number of parents who attended our P-1 Parent Information Sessions in week 6. The purpose of these sessions was to provide you with strategies and ideas for supporting your child with reading at home. Feedback from these sessions was extremely positive with families indicating that they found the sessions extremely informative and useful. Again, I thank Katherine Wilson (Kindergarten teacher) for facilitating these.
The staff at our preschool meets regularly as a learning community outside of school hours. During these meeting times we discuss strategies and procedures in order to maximise the well-being of all students. We are currently reviewing all health and safety plans for children with medical conditions. We ask that all families advise staff as soon as possible if your child requires medical assistance.

The time for the Healthy Breakfast is just around the corner... For the Itchy and Brave Bears the Healthy Breakfast will be held on Tuesday Week 10 (7 April) and, for the Cranky and Hungry Bears the breakfast will be held on Thursday Week 10 (9 April). We find that this breakfast is fantastic way to support and promote healthy eating initiatives as well an opportunity to celebrate the diverse cultures in attendance at Palmerston. We invite all families to attend the breakfast if possible. More details will follow about this event.

Kate Flynn
Executive Teacher – Preschool

Do not pick or eat any wild mushrooms!
ACT Chief Health Officer is reminding the community not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms found growing in and around the ACT. The Death Cap mushroom can easily be confused with edible wild mushrooms.
In Canberra, Death Cap mushrooms grow mainly near established oak trees in mild, moist weather typically observed in late summer and autumn. All parts of the mushroom are poisonous and consuming even a small amount of the mushroom can be fatal. Cooking the mushroom does not make it safe to eat. Anyone who suspects that they may have eaten Death Cap mushrooms should seek urgent medical attention at a hospital emergency department. It is advised that people remain vigilant and remind friends and family who are visiting or new to Canberra not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. For safety, all mushrooms should be purchased from a reputable supplier.
If you see wild mushrooms in public areas, call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.
Authorised by Paul Kelly Chief Health Officer, Population Health, Health Directorate
Harmony Day is celebrated on the 21st of March. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. On the 20th of March Palmerston District Primary School celebrated Harmony Day. To celebrate Harmony Day Palmerston invited all of the students to dress in cultural dress or orange (the official Harmony Day colour), it was fantastic to see all of the different cultural dress and the orange. On this special day we invited Joy Burch MLA to officially open our Introductory English Centre and to launch the English as additional dialect factsheets. The Introductory English Centres provide assistance to students who have minimal or no English. The minister Joy Burch gave a short speech at assembly and as a school we participated in a traditional Aboriginal Cleansing ceremony which was brought to us by Ngunnawal elder Violet Sheridan.

Later in the day all of the students participated in fun Harmony Day activities. Then in the afternoon the senior students flew kites with the junior students on the oval. It was fantastic to see all of our senior students working cooperatively and harmoniously with the junior students. The students all enjoyed flying the kites and watching all of the various kites up in the sky.
The children in 5/6 have used the six thinking hats to reflect on camp week.

White hat
The facts are in my cabin group I had Julia, Amelia, Morsa, Brianna, and Tharaphi. The food was delicious. We had fish and chips, wedges with sour cream, toast, bacon, sausages and ice cream to name a few. The activities were great fun. My activity group went on Big swing, Team manoeuvres, buggies, low ropes, assault course, gladiator course and initiative tabloid. In some activities I slipped in the mud, conquered my fear of heights and had a magical time. Dakodah

Yellow hat
At camp the activities were the best. One of the activities was the dirt buggies. The dirt buggies were good because you got to drive 3 times and we got to drive the yellow track twice, it was about 550 metres. Another one of my favourite activities was the assault course because we got to go through the mud. My personal favourite activity at camp was the Gladiator course. The gladiator was awesome because we participated in fun challenges and the big water slide at the end was really amazing. Pete

Black Hat
The worst thing in my opinion at camp was one of the activities called the assault course. When we were at the end you have to go through deep and dirty water, to get through the dirty water there was a tunnel in the water and the tunnel freezes you like an ice block. The water covered my whole body and the water was freezing cold. Andy

Blue hat
My plan is to come back to Cooba again because it was awesome! I think the food and the disco was great. I wondered if they will have a different track for the dirt buggies because some of the track was quite boring and they should have added more hills and bumps to the track to make it much better. Tanisha
Red hat
I believe that camp Cooba was amazing! If the assault course did not have mud and seaweed in the water everyone would not have stunk as much. I felt nervous about going on the big swing because it was so high up and I have a fear of heights. I enjoyed the dirt buggies while driving and navigating [not being a safety police] I enjoyed most of the things at camp Cooba.

Hayley

Green hat
I imagine that the next camp will be better because things improve over time. It may be possible to make the bus drive better. We could try and get more sleep by not talking during the night. We could be more creative by making more activities. I could improve camp by changing the lay out because it would be easier to understand. Noah

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**DIABETES TYPE 1 STUDY**

- Do you have a relative with Diabetes Type 1?
- Are you 1-45 years of age?
- Are you generally healthy?

You may be eligible for the Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Prevention Trial

If you have a relative with Type 1 Diabetes, you could be at risk for this disease. Paediatric Research at Canberra Hospital is participating in studies monitoring the risk of Diabetes in relatives of T1D individuals and is offering an opportunity for you or your child to participate.

Please contact the Paediatric Research and Clinical Trials Unit at The Canberra Hospital on 61747600 for more information.

This study has been approved by the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee

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**DIABETES TYPE 2 in children aged 10-17 years**

Does your child have Type 2 diabetes?
Your child may be eligible for the Type 2 Diabetes Study

Helping your child manage their type 2 diabetes can be difficult. It requires a lot of attention. If diet, exercise and medication are not working well enough for your child, you may be wondering what to do next. It may be time to consider a different approach.

Please contact the Paediatric Research and Clinical Trials Unit at The Canberra Hospital on 61747600 for more information.

This study has been approved by the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee
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

Larissa Dann
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: Thursday, 7th May, 2015; 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.
Contact: 0413 451 607 www.parentskills.com.au, info@parentskills.com.au

Children’s Learn to Skate Program
Rollerskating is great fun, it promotes fitness and strengthens gross motor, so come and give it a try. When: Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning during ACT school terms.
Cost: $150 first child and $120 for a sibling plus $3 skate hire if required
Contact: skateprogramsACT@gmail.com
Bricks4Kids School Holiday Workshops
Term 2 Toddler, Preschool, After school classes. Fun and educational using LEGO.