Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 6th week of term. This term is another busy one and we have a great opportunity to gather as a community at the Father’s Day Breakfast with maths games next week and at Learning Journeys in week 9. With such an opportunity we would like to get your opinion on our KidsMatter program and showcase our new Chrome books.

**KidsMatter**

Palmerston is a KidsMatter School. We provide a supportive environment where as a whole school community, support each other on our journey in life and our involvement in our community of Palmerston. We work with you as families on the Palmerston PRIDE values, our Friendly Schools Plus program, peer support, clubs, inclusion and community events. During the Father’s Day BBQ on Friday

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**Recent Notes Home**

- ‘The Cranky Bear’ Canberra Theatre – Cranky/Hungry Bears
- Book Week Dress Up Parade
- Palmerston Community - Save the date

**Assembly Dates – Fridays at 9am**

- 28 August  Book Week Assembly
- 4 September  Father’s Day BBQ (instead of assembly)
- 11 September  Whole school led by year 2
- 18 September  Learning Journeys (instead of assembly)

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**Dates to Remember**

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Term 3 Week 6  27 August 2015

Ph. (02) 6205 7241    Fax (02) 6205 7242

www.palmdps.act.edu.au

Board Members: Parent Reps: Shelley Penyu, Saravanan Thavamanikumar and George Villaflor

Board Chair: George Villaflor  P&C President: Lisa Fior

Principal: Melissa Travers  Deputy Principal: Kate Flynn (Acting)

Executive Teachers: Alex Breen, Mandy Lee, Grant Smith (Acting) and Will Powell (Acting)

**Next P&C Meeting Monday 14 September at 7pm**

All P&C activities, meeting agendas and minutes are available from the School website at – **Parent Corner**
morning next week, we ask you to take part in a survey on school safety. This is to further inform us on where to next for the school in providing a supportive and safe school environment.

**Information Communication Technology – Chrome Books/ Google Docs**

Palmerston has purchased Chrome books for our students to complement our ipads, Apple laptops, stand alones, IWBs (interactive whiteboards), and whole school technology focus. Students will soon be able to access research and programs quicker through our Chrome books and the school will be partly funding this with the Directorate, to create a bigger wireless system. We will be following the lead of the Directorate and other schools and introducing Google Docs. We will be offering an information session next Thursday after school in the library to have a try of the new Chrome Books. Also another session will be offered on the Father’s Day morning. Many schools have commenced on this journey into new learning technologies with outstanding results. Come along and ask questions. Each family will be asked to fill in a permission form to access Google Docs commencing later this year. This permission is already on the online enrolment form for all new enrolments including students commencing high school/preschool next year. Our already fantastic filters to protect children using the internet will be in place and come under the Directorate control.

**Science Week**

A great time was had by all last Friday with our Science rotations. A big thank you to Karon Campbell for the organisation. Science is an important subject at Palmerston. We have a science club (thanks Mrs Fisk), an environmental science program with our gardens and chickens and many students enter our ICAS science competitions and ACT science competitions. We had our ICAS students above the Australian average for their year level this year- a wonderful achievement. We won the science award last year at CSIRO and we have many entries again this year.

**Book Week**

A big thank you to Tiffany Fletcher for the organisation of Book Week. Today we had book week rotations. Teachers chose a book from an unfamiliar author to read and had an accompanying activity. On Friday students will have an opportunity to wear a book week dressup and show this off to the others in the school. Please have a bit of fun with costume design.

*Melissa Travers*  
Principal

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**Preschool**

Welcome to Week 6!!!

As I have mentioned before 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 and to ensure our procedures run smoothly and that both staff and students are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Earlier in the week we ran a fire drill for our front end of the week groups. We were really proud of all the children and staff. Even though it was raining and cold the children carried out their roles appropriately and efficiently.

All classes have ben engaging in a preschool version of our literature program “Pre- Lit”. This program exposes all of the children to different aspects of books including exploration of terms such as the spine, the cover, the illustrator, the blurb and the author. In this program the children engage with stories and utilise skills such as predicting and the sequencing of ideas to ensure a deep level of understanding of concepts presented. Letters and the sounds are also explored in the Pre-Lit program.
You would have seen signs hanging around our sinks regarding hygiene procedures. In relation to handwashing we direct the children to wash their hands prior to eating, upon entering in the morning and after play and after toileting and blowing their nose. We encourage them to count to ten while they wash their hands or wash their hands for the duration of the Happy Birthday song.

Last week we received notification that our preschool will be undergoing the assessment and rating process in October. The purpose of this process is determining our preschool’s position in relation to the National Quality Standard. As part of this process an officer will visit us to observe life at Palmerston Preschool. More information will follow over the next few weeks.

Have a great week,
Kate Flynn

**Science Week**
What an amazing sight! The whole school engaged in fair test investigations about aerodynamics (flying planes of different weighted materials) and light (making a pair of opaque – no light through – underpants for aliens). The feedback from students and teachers was just so positive. It was such a worthwhile event to celebrate National Science Week!

**Science Fair**
Science sign up forms are due and need to be returned to the front office. Boards can be collected every afternoon from the library. With only 3 weeks away, experiments, investigations and research should be well on the way. Sending in the sign up form is an important part of the process and assists in the planning for the display.

Thanks,
*Karen Campbell*
Environmental Science Teacher

**School Leavers 2016**
We have now reached the time in the year when we begin to look at our school numbers for 2016. If you circumstances have changed and your child will not be attending Palmerston District Primary School in 2016 can you please let the front office staff know as soon as possible.

**2016 Class Information**

Child/ren’s names and year level: __________________________________________

_____ My Child/ren will not be returning to Palmerston in 2016

My child will be attending:

_____ Another government school in the ACT

_____ A non government school in the ACT

**3-6 Say No to Racism**
On **Tuesday 15 September** years 3-6 will participate in the ‘Say No to Racism’ program. The program aims to address racism at the community level, particularly within the school environment. It examines what racism is, why it is unacceptable and provides students with ways to take practical action against racism and prejudice. Guest Athletes from local sporting organisations may also be present to share the message. The program is a joint initiative between the ACT Government and other community partners.
Palmerston District Primary congratulates Nina Campbell in 5/6ML for her selection into the ACT Primary Concert Choir. The choir will participate in the Limelight performance extravaganza at the AIS arena.

**Christian Education – Wednesday 2 September**

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 or see permission note here: Christian Education Permission Form. Please return forms to the front office by Tuesday 1 September.

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 2 September in the school hall.

*We will teach the children that Jesus displays the same power as God, as we see him perform miracles in John’s Gospel (chapter 6:1-21). We will use songs, stories, 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
National Literacy and Numeracy Week occurs this year during Week 7 (Mon 31/8 – Fri 4/9). At Palmerston we have been celebrating this event throughout the month of August in a number of exciting ways:

- **Engaging with Palmerston’s Mathematics Consultant.**
  Last week our Mathematics Consultant Carol Spencer visited our school from Sydney. Carol worked with our children and staff to explore the concepts of addition and subtraction. We really enjoyed welcoming Carol into our school again, this year she has supported us in our journey of raising the profile of Mathematics at our school. Ask your child what they learnt during her visit.

- **Running Book Week activities.**
  Book Week activities have been in operation throughout Week 6. Our Whole School Book rotation (held today) saw the children complete activities with a variety of teachers based around a number of different styles of books for example the classics, popular, picture, and wordless texts.
  Dress up Day. Dress up day was held on Tuesday for our start of the week preschool children and is tomorrow for the remainder of the school. We are really looking forward to seeing all of the costumes at our parade and during assembly!

- **Holding a Mathematics morning.**
  To tie in with Father’s Day we are opening our classrooms to all of our dad’s (we also welcome other parents to attend). After morning lines all parents are invited into their child’s classroom to participate in a variety of mathematics games from approximately 9:00am-9:30am. Some of these games will be the games that are utilised in the classroom as part of our teaching and learning programs.

- **Running Writing and Spelling Parent Information Sessions**
  Earlier this month we were able to run information sessions for families around ways to assist with writing and spelling at home. These sessions were well attended and we thank Alex Breen, Mandy Lee, Katherine Wilson, Brianna Reeve and Rebecca Hewat for facilitating these sessions.

- **Attending the annual ACT Mathematics Conference.**
  This year Rachel Ashcroft, Leis Price, Vidhya Saravanan, Wei Wei, Haeley Simms and Kate Flynn attended the Mathematics Conference at Girls Grammar. This was a fantastic event. Haeley and Kate represented Palmerston wonderfully when they delivered a presentation to a range of educators from the primary, high school and university sector. Their presentation showcased the journey of Mathematics teaching and learning at Palmerston Primary.
**New traffic arrangements**

Thank you to the parents and carers that continue to adhere to the correct parking practices, our children’s safety around our roads is paramount.

Roads ACT have finished creating some additional 15 minute parking spaces on Kosciuszko Avenue adjacent to the bus stop.

They have also installed bollards at the kerb ramps adjacent to the children’s crossing and footpaths.

A map outlining these new parking arrangements is on our school web-site [www.palmdps.act.edu.au](http://www.palmdps.act.edu.au) in the ‘School Notes’ section.

Please do not park in the ‘Service and Delivery Area’ as we need this area to be kept clear for deliveries.
SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

PALMERSTON’S TWILIGHT FAIR
DATE: FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER
TIME: 4-8PM

We hope you can all join us at the school for the Spring Fair- there will be great rides, food and entertainment as well as a variety of stalls including art work created by Palmerston students.

We welcome all community members who would like to operate a stall at our fete to contact us on: palmpandc@hotmail.com

Stalls could include craft, jewelry and Tupperware. All welcome!!!!
**Hatching Chicks**

This term the preschool children participated in the hatching chicks program. This involved each classroom taking possession of 11 unhatched eggs in an incubator. During the first week the students watched with patience as, one by one, each egg hatched!

By the end of the first week we had a total of 18 chickens cheeping their day away in our classroom. During the second week the chickens had matured enough to be taken out of the brooder box and given some time in a make-shift enclosure. A few children at a time were then able to reach in and play with the chickens. It was amazing to see how quickly the chicks gained confidence around the children. By the end of the second week the chickens were beginning to grow wing feathers and it was time to go. Luckily, we were able to sell all our chickens and will now be able to follow their growth via email updates and photos 😊

**Fabulous Food**

This term the pre-schoolers have been enjoying our integrated inquiry unit – Fabulous Food. We have been learning about different fruits and vegetables; The Avocado Baby by John Burningham has been a favourite story this term, with many readings and re-enactments of the super strong baby. We have also been expanding our knowledge of classic food-related fairy tales such as, Jack and the Bean Stalk, The Princess and the Pea and The Gingerbread Man, as well as slightly less well known, The Princess and The Frozen Packet of Peas, Jack and the Giant: A Story Full of Beans and The Stinky Cheese Man and just to name a few.

Where food comes from has also been a hot topic amongst students, we have explored food sources, including the plant life cycle and even managed to start up our community vegetable garden. Hopefully as the weather starts to improve we will be able to expand our garden further and begin collecting ingredients for class cooking and taste-testing!

To conclude our learning healthy eating, we will be Challenge, where all the where they try really hard to recess and lunch. It really has can’t wait for Term 4 and around food and particularly celebrating with a Fresh Food preschoolers will have one day only bring fresh food for been a fantastic term and we more adventure and learning!
P&C News
School Banking
On Friday 11 September, we will be having a visit from one of the Dollarmite characters at our whole school assembly. If interested a representative from Commonwealth bank will be available from 8.30am to answer questions about signing up for School Banking.

School Banking is coming to our Assembly
Jo and Addy from the Dollarmites will be coming to our school assembly on Friday 11 September 2015 at 9am to talk to us about the Commonwealth Bank School Banking Program.
School Banking is a fun and interactive way to teach children about money and the importance of regular savings. It includes an exciting and exclusive rewards, regular competitions and best of all our school receives a regular commission so it is a great Fundraiser.
Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once they have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for one of the cool School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.
Each year there is a School Banking theme and this year it is Outer Space Savers!
Addy can’t wait to see you all at assembly and show you all the amazing rewards.
Jo will be available at the school from 8.30 and after the assembly to answer any questions that parents or carer’s may have and open accounts. Non CBA customers will require identification ie Drivers licence or passport.

Book Club
Issue 6 is being distributed this week. Please note the deadline for all orders is NEXT Thursday 3 September.
If you have any questions regarding school banking or Book Club please don’t hesitate to contact me on 0422 006 142.
Regards
Edwina Samuelson

Entertainment Books
Hurry Last Days!
You have until 31 August to put in your order for the 2015-2016 Entertainment Book.
From now until the 31 August everyone that orders an Entertainment Book has the chance to win $1000. If you win, the P&C will also receive $1000.
Purchase your book or digital copy online by following this link
Or purchase with cash at the front office. For any questions, please contact Jenni Palombi on 0416 180 225
You have probably heard that Palmerston District Primary School is a part of Fresh Tastes, an ACT Government program to make healthy food and drinks a part of everyday life at school. You can read more information online at www.health.act.gov.au/freshstastes.

Many community and business organisations have come on board as Fresh Tastes partners.

‘Vegies to Your Door’ is one of the partners. They are a locally owned company who deliver fruit and vegetables to your home. Visit www.vegiesyourdoor.com.au for more information.

As a Fresh Tastes school, Vegies to Your Door is offering all families and staff a 20% discount off any $50 Medium Size Box (for the first order only, and one per household). The school will receive a free small office fruit box once 15 or more orders are placed.

Plus, if you set up a regular ‘Do it For Me’ order (being an ongoing order with a minimum of $50 spend on fruit and vegetables only) you will receive Free Delivery for as long as the ‘Do it For Me’ account remains active.

One ‘Vegies to Your Door’ discount voucher per family, will be sent home on Thursday 27 August. To claim this discount please place your order online at www.vegiesyourdoor.com.au/freshstastevoucher and enter the voucher number at the online checkout.

Conditions apply. Full details and instructions on how to use this voucher are available on the ‘Vegies to Your Door’ website.

If you have any questions, please contact our school’s Fresh Tastes coordinator, Georgina Sofatzis.