**Term 2 Week 4  22 May 2014**

**Ph.** (02) 6205 7241  **Fax** (02) 6205 7242  
[www.palmdps.act.edu.au](http://www.palmdps.act.edu.au)

**Board Members:** Parent Reps: Amy Phillips, Saravanan Thavamanikumar and George Villaflor  
**Board Chair:** George Villaflor  
**P&C President:** Jo Prezzi  
**Principal:** Melissa Travers  
**Deputy Principal:** Tania Collis  
**Executive Teachers:** Kate Flynn, Sylvia Headon and Kirrally Talbot  
**Preschool to Year 6**

**Next P&C Meeting Monday 23 June at 7pm**

**Recent Notes Home**

Photo Envelopes  
Questacon Excursion for year 5/6  
Bus Wash Excursion for preschool  
Australian School Climate Measurement Tool survey – year 5/6  
**Assembly Dates – Friday at 11.30am**  
23 May  Whole School Assembly led by yr 5/6  
30 May  Junior & Senior Assembly  
6 June  Whole School Assembly led by  
**Dates to Remember**  
Public Education Week / Reconciliation Week  
26 May  Year 5/6 First Aid  
27 May  Preschool Photos – Snugglepots and Cuddlepies individual and sibling photos.  
28 May  Preschool bus wash- Snugglepots and Cuddlepies  
29 May  Preschool bus wash – Blossoms and Gumnuts  
30 May  School Photos  
30 May  School Photos  
School Banking 9:00am to 9:30am

---

Dear Parents and carers,

**Public Education Week**

This week is Public Education week. At Palmerston we celebrate quality children’s learning every day. We had many students attend the Cross Country Event on Tuesday with Ms Weston and Mrs Davies. Thanks to the mums, dads and grandparents who supported the children in this North Gungahlin event. We had the National Story Telling day on Wednesday with this years story “Too Many Elephants in this House” being read in every class on our Interactive White Boards or with the picture book. We also launched the Gungahlin schools Gifted and Talented brochure at Gungahlin College yesterday. Thank you to all who attended this event. Tomorrow, Friday is our walk to school day and stickers will be given out by our SRC students.

Every day at Palmerston is a great day to learn. I have been dropping by classes and to teacher’s planning session and reviewing our children’s writing books. I am very happy to say how impressed I am with the writing across the school. The standard of writing is very high. I know the teachers are working with the students on editing and increasing their vocabulary. We have an across school approach to writing with students setting goals and our next step is to work on our spelling in writing.
This week we received two new Interactive White Boards (IWB) for Pods 3 and 4. The new IWBs do not require a projector and are able to be used as a touch screen for more than one child at a time. They also connect to ipads that the children can access. We are very excited about this as it complements our program of ICT in the classrooms.

On Friday to Monday, a team of teachers and myself will be in Melbourne attending a conference on developing Professional Learning Communities. This is a journey that as a staff we started in January. We are very excited about this journey of teacher led teaching teams and shared responsibility for all children’s learning. We also hope to visit a school in Melbourne, who have implemented an outstanding program for their students in ICT and in creating Flexible Learning Environments. All this knowledge will assist us in taking our students education into the future. The North Gungahlin network of schools will be sending representative to the EduTech conference next month, to enhance our understanding of educating for the future.

A reminder that we are still taking online enrolments for preschool 2015. You may have seen our signs out. Please ask around to see if any families who have a preschool aged child for 2015 have enrolled. The places are filling up fast.

The quote this week is from Michael Grose’s book “Thriving - Raising exceptional kids with confidence, character and resilience”. This book is available for loan from our parent reading section in the school library.

“Primary-school-aged children are trying to work out what they can do and how they can fit into their various groups. In many ways, these are prime confidence-building years. Some children’s self-esteem falls when they start school, as they meet strange new situations with new peers and new rules. Self-esteem in the primary-school years is often linked to learning, how kids perform at sport, how they get on with others and, late, how they look. Again, as parents you need to reflect back to your kids that they are capable, make the most of teachable moments and help them to work out their strengths.” Page 77.

Have a great week

Melissa Travers
Principal

Palmerston PRIDE Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 9 May:

Billy, Alex, Abdullah, Pete, Amaan, Eashal, Kien, Mr. Sheather, Maxine, Mackenzie P, Luka, Pranati, Elizabeth, Tomas, Yuki, Jessica, Tianah, Sky and Lachlan.

Writing Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 9 May:

Primary Concert Choir
Congratulations to Jazymn in 5/6 for her successful audition to the ACT Instrumental Music Program’s first Primary Concert Choir in 2014. This is the equivalent of ACT representation in Music.

The choir is made up of students selected from ACT public primary schools in years four, five and six. It is directed and administered by the Instrumental Music Program and rehearses each school week at the Instrumental Music Program’s Centre in Kaleen. 53 students from 22 different schools have been selected.

The choir will perform at school, community and directorate events throughout the year. The conductor in 2014 is Katharine Finlayson, Executive Teacher Professional Practice – Arts, Belconnen Network, based at the Instrumental Music Program and working in Belconnen schools.

Naida Blackley
Principal - Instrumental Music Program

Preschool news:
Thanks to all the dads and families who contributed a yummy afternoon tea last week for our Mother’s Day Afternoon. Both days (Tuesday and Friday) were really successful. We value the opportunity to share and connect with families. We had quite a few mums and grandmothers turn up and we enjoyed watching everyone relax and have the chance to talk to each other. We loved watching the children perform the Wombat Wobble. I would like to also thank Leanne, Kim, Emma, Margaret and Bec who worked with the children to create beautiful cards, necklaces and photos to give to the mums as presents.

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. Last Monday we held our first fire drill for 2014. I would like to congratulate all children across the school for carrying out this procedure both efficiently and safely.

We are enjoying our indoor/outdoor program. In this program the children are provided with the opportunity to explore either the indoor or outdoor areas of the preschool depending upon their preference.

Just a reminder to send in a spare change of clothes, including underwear and socks in your child’s bag.

Have a great week,
Kate Flynn

School Photos – Tuesday 27 for Preschool (Snugglepots & Cuddlepies) and Friday 30 May for the rest of school
Please come to the front office collect a sibling photo envelope if you would like a photo of your children together. Siblings of pre-schoolers in the Snugglepots and Cuddlepies will need to have their sibling photo taken on Tuesday 27 May. Please contact the front office to organise the time.
Walk Safely to School Day - Friday 23 May 2014

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a community event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

This is an opportunity for parents and carers of Primary School aged children to promote safe pedestrian behaviour. Supervision is particularly important for those under 10 years of age, in all road environments, holding hands when near or crossing the road.

There are significant physical, mental and social health benefits which can be achieved through regular walking.

Collect your friends, grab an adult and get walking.

Have fun!
Ms. Levinson

---

Defence News
On Sunday I attended the DCO function at Gold Creek Station to celebrate National Families Week. It was a great day to watch some sheep shearing and have a taste of country life. I saw a few familiar faces, met up with some old Defence friends and heard Dr Katrina Warren read the new DHA book by Rex. D. Dog called “Sticking Together”. This free book is aimed at 4-8 year olds and looks at Defence life using a light-hearted story. If you would like a copy, along with an activity book, please feel free to contact me for the order forms or email rex@dha.gov.au.

This week I have claimed an area for a “DSTA News” noticeboard. I have set up a window in the library entrance to display relevant information regarding functions and Defence assistance schemes. If you can, come and take a look. If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA
St Johns First Aid for years 3-6
The children in years 3 - 6 will be participating in the First Aid Skills in Schools program on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 May. This is an initiative aimed at training ACT school children in basic first aid skills. Over 5,500 children were trained in 2013 and 10,000 are planned for in 2014. St John Ambulance believes in empowering our children and youth to be capable in first aid situations.

The ½ day program includes age appropriate content on how to be a good first aider, how to call for help, managing bleeding and managing burns. Years 3-6 also cover an introduction to the DRSABCD (Danger - Response - Send for help - Airway - Breathing - Compression – Defibrillate) action plan, how to manage an unconscious breathing patient. It involves class participation, demonstration and practice of skills as well as some fun and games.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact Mandy Lee.

Australian School Climate Measurement Tool (ASCMT) survey
Palmerston is continually interested in gaining information that will assist in school planning and making decisions on an informed basis. To this end, the school in partnership with the Australian National University and the ACT Education and Training Directorate is surveying staff, students and parents/carers. Many schools in the area are undertaking this survey. The aim is to gather information about the school’s social climate, day-to-day experiences, the strengths of the school, and the future challenges. This survey will take place this term (Term 2, 2014). You will receive an e-mail from the school with a link to the survey and students will complete the survey at school.

We hope to be able to discuss the findings of the survey with you at a future time and feel that gathering this information annually is important in ensuring the quality of the relational and wellbeing climate of the school for staff, students and parents/carers.

Semester 1 Reports 2014
Reports will be sent home with children in week 9. Preschool children will receive a developmental report. If your child is in Kindergarten you will receive the school report. Children in Year 1-6 you will receive a copy of the school report and an A-E report.

As parents/carers you have the option of withdrawing your child from the A-E reporting process. This means that your child will still be awarded an A-E grade in the key learning areas, and a copy of the A-E report will go onto their school file. However, an A-E report will not be sent home with your child. You will receive only the school report.

If you choose to withdraw your child from the A-E reporting process, please advise the school in writing.

Please indicate below whether you require duplicate copies of your child’s report.
Request for duplicate reports – please return to the Front Office – Semester 2, 2013

I will require a duplicate copy of my child/ren’s report.

My child/ren’s name/s are  __________________________
    class  __________________
    class  __________________
    class  __________________

Please post the duplicate report to the following: (please include name & address)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
The Palm Café is reopening in week 5 on both Tuesday and Thursday for recess and lunch. The following menu will be in place for the rest of term 2. You may like to keep it on your fridge for easy access.

**Orders for Kindy and Preschool**

Orders are to be written clearly on a paper bag with the child’s name and class. Please state whether the food is for recess and/or lunch. Money should be placed in the bag. Orders will be collected from the classrooms on the morning of the order. The orders will be delivered to the classrooms.

**Orders for Year 1 to 6**

All orders for year 1 to 6 will be over the counter at both recess and lunch.

All food will be available at both recess and lunch.

**Menu**

- Banana Bread $1.00
- Pumpkin Soup (opt. Nat Yoghurt) bread roll $2.50
- Apricot balls $0.20
- Garlic bread $0.50
- Frittatas $2.00
- Savoury Muffin's $1.00
- Hot Milo $1.00
- Yoghurt & Muesli $1.50
- Quinella Beetroot choc vanilla muffin $1.50

P&C Canteen Committee
Community News

The IB Difference

- How does the IB impact on your child?
- Want to know more about PYP/MYP?
- What about the Australian curriculum?
- How can we build better partnerships for your child’s future?

Join us for a parent information session on:

Thursday 29 May 2014
5.45pm—6.30pm PYP
6.45pm—7.30pm MYP
Senior Campus Library

Light refreshments available

Could you please pass this information onto any staff or students who have attended Amaroo School in the past 10 years.

We will be celebrating our 10th birthday on Monday 19 May at 3pm at Amaroo School. All ex-teachers and ex-students are welcome.