Term 1 Week 10 9 April 2015
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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: Tania Collis
Executive Teachers: Alex Breen, Kate Flynn, Mandy Lee, Haeley Simms (Acting) and Grant Smith (Acting)

Next P&C Meeting Monday 11 May at 7pm
All P&C activities, meeting agendas and minutes are available from the School website at - Parent Corner

Recent Notes Home
Cross Country Postponed

Dates to Remember
28 April First day of term 2
28 April Preschool Enrolments open for 2016
30 April Year 6 Gold Creek Transition
30 April School Board Meeting, 7:30am
30 April Term 2 Overviews home
1 May Cross Country Carnival
1 May Mother’s Day Morning Tea
4 May Jump Rope for Heart Launch
7 May ACT Swimming Carnival at AIS
8 May Mother’s Day Morning Tea, 9-10:30
11 May P&C Meeting at 7pm
12 May Preschool Parent Info Session
15 May Billy Tea Bush Dance
12-14 May NAPLAN

Dear Parents and Carers,

The winter weather has arrived early this week. I hope the sun comes out a bit for the April school holidays. Remember to keep reading over the holidays and school commences back on Tuesday 28 April due to the ANZAC day being on a Saturday.

Cross Country
Our Cross Country will be on the first Friday back. Thanks to parents and community for volunteering. We are hoping the weather will improve and please accept our apologies on moving the day due to weather conditions.
Parents and Community-P&C
The P&C along with the whole school community ran a fantastic Car Boot Sale this term. Thanks to all who popped along or ran a stall and to those who volunteered. We have a new P&C president, Lisa Fior. I would like to welcome Lisa to the role of P&C president and to say thanks for taking up the role and a big thank you to all who are on the P&C executive. In term 2 the P&C will be running a school disco and be part of our Bush Dancing Evening- BBQ sausage sizzle dinner! 15 May in the school hall.

Billy Tea Bush Band – Bush Dancing
This will be our second year of running bush dancing for the students. We have been lucky enough to secure the Billy Tea Bush Band to assist us as a school in learning how to Bush Dance. Bush Dance originated from the goldfields, we all have fun, dance in a circle and join in. The fun of bush dancing, is that there is no wrong way, but a great deal of laughing. This year we have extended our bush dancing to include families. We are holding an evening on Friday 15 May, where families can come along and dance together, have a sausage sizzle together and laugh together. This is a brush up on your bush dancing skills, acquire new ones or just have your child/ren teach you how to bush dance.

School Vision
I would like to thank the parents who came along to our two sessions on revisiting our school vision. We have now had two sessions for parents, one teacher session and one student session. Together we are creating a vision for Palmerston for the next 5 years. Next term we will keep you updated and if demand dictates, we will have a third opportunity for parents and community to take part in a School Vision session.

ANZAC Assembly
Tomorrow we will be holding an ANZAC day assembly. This coming ANZAC Day commemorates the 100 year anniversary of the landing on the shores of Gallipoli. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. Our DSTA and the Defence students and families are putting on an ANZAC assembly on Friday 10 April at 9am in the school hall. This will be followed by a morning tea in the staff room.

Play Equipment Reminder
Each afternoon it is enjoyable to hear families gather and chat around the junior school play equipment. I believe this is a great way to meet new families and another way for children to form friendships. Unfortunately, this term, there have been a few incidents that parents have approached me about. Some children are not using the play equipment safely when with their families. I would like to remind you all, that playing on the roof or running around the equipment means that younger children can be harmed. If you like to stay back and utilise the school junior play equipment, then please supervise your children closely. Mr Phil locks up the school by 4pm, so the side gate will be closed and secured by approximately 3:30pm from next term. That would be a natural time to have as the latest in leaving the school grounds.

The senior play equipment and basketball court is used by After School Care from 3pm and they pay for the area so their children can access supervised games. Please be mindful that this is not an area after school for children that are not in After School Care. The bike racks are also locked at approximately 3:20pm, so please remind your children to collect their bikes and scooters straight after school and go around the fenced area. Inside the school is not a place to ride/walk a bike or scooter. Our school is surrounded by paved walkways to ensure that all students are safe in leaving the school. This ensures the safety of others, babies in prams and toddlers. Thank you for your consideration in this area.

School commences at 8:55am with a morning assembly and we have the library open from 8:30am each school morning. School finishes at 3pm and we require all children to make their way home straight after school. If a child is not picked up straight after school, teachers bring them to the foyer of the school and the wonderful administrative staff call families. We understand that at times events happen to cause families to be late and we care for all children in this situation. This is why it is important to talk
to your child about where they are being picked up or how they are to make their way home and the importance of telling the teacher if a family member does not arrive. Please have a safe and happy April school holidays and if you know someone who has a preschool aged child for 2016, enrolments open at the start of next term.

Melissa Travers
Principal

Term 2 commences – Tuesday 28 April 2015
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 our front office on 6205 7241.

Out of Hours Play
Over the last few weeks we have been contacted by a few parents about some students not having their out of hours play supervised by parents. We would ask that parents actively supervise students when on the playground after hours, so that together we can keep our students safe.

Defence News
This year will mark the 100th year Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli of Australian and New Zealand troops. To commemorate ANZAC Day, Saturday 25 April, which falls within the school holidays, we will be holding a whole school assembly tomorrow Friday 10 April, commencing at 9am in the school hall. I would like to invite all parents/carers to attend the service, you will be most welcome.
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

Year 6 Gold Creek High School Transition Visit
In preparation for high school next year, the year 6 students have been invited to visit Gold Creek School on Thursday 30 April, 2015. This is the first Thursday of week 1, term 2. The day has been organised for Palmerston students to experience high school based activities. During our visit, Gold Creek will host a welcome, tour the students around the school and then all students will rotate through lessons on technology, science, languages, PE and art. All year 6 students are encouraged to attend even if they are not planning on attending Gold Creek School. The transition day will hold benefits for all students through the experience of high school lessons and it will assist with providing an awareness of high school environments and programs.
Transport to the school in the morning will not be provided. Students will need to be dropped off by a parent/carer at Gold Creek Senior Site, Kelleway Avenue, Nicholls, near the round-about in front of the front office by 8:55am. They will be greeted by teachers from Palmerston District Primary school. The day will begin with the welcome and tour before students begin the rotations. They will enjoy a BBQ lunch but will be required to provide morning tea. After the BBQ, students will finish around 12:30pm.
and then travel by bus back to Palmerston. The bus back to school has kindly been provided by Gold Creek School. During the visit, students will be supervised by two year 5/6 teachers from Palmerston and teachers from Gold Creek School. Details and consent forms will go home shortly and will be due back to school on Wednesday 29 April 2015.

2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)
The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) at Palmerston District Primary. ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in twenty-one countries. The ICAS competitions are run by the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

ICAS is an opportunity for students to be assessed against other students who complete this testing nationally. It is important to note this testing is not compulsory and there are costs involved. ICAS entries will close on Friday May 1.

Further information regarding ICAS competitions and enrolment details will be released on Friday 10 April 2015, in a take home letter and registration form.

2020 Youth Parliament
Some Year 5 students are busy getting ready for the 2020 Youth Parliament to be held in June this year. The Parliament will allow students from K-12 to present, debate and vote on sustainability ideas to help Canberra meet it’s 2020 targets. Radio station 2XX 98.3FM’s Lee Constable interviewed Vivien from Palmerston District Primary School about Palmerston’s plans for the Parliament of Youth on Sustainability. Vivien spoke informatively about the issues facing Canberra and with enthusiasm about Palmerston’s ideas to tackle those issues, such as our gardens and greenhouse. Thanks to Vivien for being such a great interviewee!

Front Office Update
We would like to welcome Olga Drienkova who will be joining the Front Office staff next term for an 8 week Work Experience and Support Program (WESP) from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The Work Experience and Support Program is designed to help Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds enter the workforce by giving them an opportunity to improve their skills and confidence, as well as develop important networks within the ACT Public Service.

Lost Property from 5/6 Camp Cooba
There is a large collection of lost property from camp including clothing, shoes and towels. We will hold the items at the Front Office until the end of Week 1 next term, when they will be donated to charity.

Preschool Enrolments 2016
Preschool Enrolments for 2016 open on Tuesday 28 April 2015, (you cannot submit them before this date) 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

2016 Preschool Parent Information Session
There will be a Parent Information Session for 2016 Preschool students on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 5pm. Starting preschool is a special time for children, parents and carers. We look forward to
developing a successful partnership between home and school and we endeavour to make the transition from home to preschool as smooth as possible for you and your child.

Our preschool is open from 9:30-10am on Mondays and Fridays for the month of May.

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**Preschool**

Welcome to the final newsletter article for the term! This term has really gone quickly - I’m certain that you agree with me. It is hard to believe that ten weeks ago we were welcoming your children to preschool. They really need to be congratulated - they have engaged enthusiastically with all that has been on offer and have independently and successfully adapted the routines associated with life at preschool.

I hope you all enjoyed a really nice long weekend over Easter. We loved the Easter Hat parade and would like to thank the children for participating in this. There were plenty of comments from children and staff at the primary school about how fantastic the preschool children’s hats were!

I would like to thank the families who completed our survey around start of the year procedures. Your feedback is valued and important and will help to shape the way we design the first few days of preschool in 2016. It is not too late to complete a survey, please see Leanne, Freya, Bec or Christabelle if you would like a copy.

Over the last few years we have engaged a critical friend from within the ACT to work with us as we prepare for our National Quality Standard assessment. Last week we had the pleasure of our critical friend, Amy Czoban visit us. Amy is a School Leader C based at Neville Bonner Primary School. Last year Bonner received an overall exceeding rating in their assessment so we find feedback from conversations highly beneficial. Amy really enjoyed her time here and had many complementary things to say about our preschool. We look forward to working with Amy again next term.

I would like to welcome Mrs Richa Oberai to the preschool team. Mrs Oberai is an experienced early childhood educator who has worked regularly at our preschool. Mrs Oberai will replace Miss Emma Gusse on a Thursday and Friday commencing next term. Miss Gusse will commence working five days on year two. Mrs Oberai attended the preschool planning day yesterday and has liaised closely with the preschool team in all aspects of planning. Welcome Richa!

Wishing you a lovely and safe holiday.

Kate Flynn
Executive Teacher – Preschool

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**P&C News**

**Upcoming events:**

*Mother’s Day stall – we will be holding the popular Mother’s day stall in term 2 – keep your eye out for more information in week 1, term 2.*

*P&C Meeting Monday 11 May at 7pm (week 3)*

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**Welcome to the 2015 Parents & Citizens group (P&C)**

Welcome all to another year at Palmerston Primary. It is a pleasure to be part of such a positive and encouraging school in our local community. Can you believe term 1 is nearly over already?

I would like to introduce myself as the new president of the P&C. My name is Lisa Fior. I have 3 children, 2 who currently attend the school, Noah (year 5) and Amarlie (year 2). This is my first year of being directly involved in the P&C and I look forward to working on what we can achieve to support and enhance our school environment.

I have lived in Canberra all of my life, and in the Palmerston community for over 5 years. I work in the Community sector; predominately overseeing the operation of many community based programs and
have done so for many years. From this I see what a difference an active community can bring to an environment such as Palmerston Primary School and what the benefits to all can be. I look forward to being a part of bringing our school community together regularly over the next year. We will also focus on the continued efforts of the P&C in raising essential funds that can help to support identified school priority areas in 2015. I encourage anyone who may be interested in participating to come along to the next meeting and see what the P&C is all about. Please feel free to contact me on 0407107595 or via email on fiors@bigpond.com if you have any questions or would like to see how you can get involved in the community at Palmerston Primary. Happy holidays,
Lisa Fior
P&C President

Scholastic Book Club
Unfortunately due to Easter and NSW school holidays, Scholastic Book Club orders will not be delivered until early term 2. I am very sorry for the delay and any inconvenience it might cause and would like to assure you that this is highly unusual. I hope you all have a lovely holiday!
Sandra Gibb
Book Club Coordinator

Public Consultation - draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates
Opening Date: Monday 23 March 2015
Closing Date: Friday 15 May 2015
The ACT Education and Training Directorate 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. School communities can provide feedback through the ACT Education and Training Directorate website at www.det.act.gov.au and the ACT Government’s Community Engagement ‘Time to Talk’ website at http://timetotalk.act.gov.au/.

Gifted and Talented Learners
To support ACT public schools in their implementation of the Gifted and Talented Students policy, the ACT Education and Training Directorate has commissioned Gateways Education to develop a series of six articles over the next three years to provide information to parents and the community about gifted and talented children. The following article is the second in the series. This article and further information about the education of gifted and talented learners, including Gifted and Talented Fact Sheets for parents, can be found on the ACT Education and Training Directorate website: http://www.det.act.gov.au/

Understanding the different curriculum needs of gifted learners
In educational systems across the world, educators are tasked with the responsibility of meeting the needs of all learners in their classrooms through the curriculum and program options they construct and deliver. Every classroom is a community of diversity, which includes students of different ability levels and learning styles, prior understandings and skills, different cultural experiences and language backgrounds, as well as a variety of affective differences and learning difficulties. Each learner has specific needs and, whilst the curriculum is designed to reach most learners in these classrooms, additional strategies are often needed for students such as gifted learners, whose needs are different to mainstream learners.
Differentiation is about modifying learning experiences so that all students have the opportunity to engage in the learning process at their optimum level. In the case of gifted students, it should be as qualitatively different as their level of ability requires. Differentiation has become the global approach to addressing the needs of a wide variety of learners, as it promotes equity in the mixed ability classroom and focuses on best practice instruction (Tomlinson, 1999, 2001; UNESCO, 2004)

Gifted students differ markedly from each other in the curriculum adjustments they require because their characteristics and needs are so personal and unique. VanTassel-Baska’s longitudinal research published in 2008, found that the three key characteristics of gifted learners, which should guide curriculum planning were those of precocity, intensity and complexity. They need time for in-depth exploration, to manipulate ideas and draw generalisations about seemingly unconnected concepts, and opportunities to ask provocative questions.

So how does appropriately differentiated curriculum meet the different needs of gifted learners? There has been substantial agreement over the last three decades (Kim, VanTassel-Baska, Bracken, Feng & Stambaugh, 2014; Passow, 1982; Reis & Renzulli, 2010; Rogers, 2007; VanTassel-Baska, 1986, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2013; VanTassel-Baska & Brown, 2007; VanTassel-Baska & Little, 2011), on a number of key points related to this question. The following points provide a summary of these:

- The content of curriculum presented to gifted students should be more advanced than the regular curriculum and be organised to include more elaborate, complex, and in-depth study of major concepts, problems, and ideas that integrate knowledge within and across systems of thought (Maker, 1986). The pace at which this content is presented should be reflective of the different learning rates of gifted learners.

- Curriculum differentiation should allow for the development and application of productive thinking skills to enable gifted students to reconceptualise existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge. Inquiry-based and problem based learning using higher order thinking and creative thinking skills such as those developed through the use of Bloom’s Taxonomy (1956), the Williams Model (1970), the Maker Model (1982) and Paul’s Elements of Reasoning Model (1992) should underpin curriculum implementation and pedagogy.

- The learning environment in the differentiated classroom should be open and supportive of diverse learning styles and enable gifted students to explore constantly changing knowledge and information in order to develop the attitude that knowledge is worth pursuing in an open world. Personal bests rather than comparisons to other students should be encouraged too, as research shows this results in an increasing level of academic achievement for all students, particularly the gifted (Rogers, 2002). Gifted students require daily challenge in their learning in order to prevent underachievement, anxiety and stress and thus may benefit from being grouped with like-minded peers to facilitate this (Rogers, 2007) and to avoid repetition of already mastered materials.

- Curriculum adjustments for gifted students should promote self-initiated and self-directed learning and growth, and support the development of self-understanding and connection to the world.

The research in the field of gifted education strongly suggests that curriculum differentiation is effective in promoting learning within this population (VanTassel-Baska, 2008). It is also important to recognise that differentiation for gifted learners in heterogeneous settings requires great skill on the part of teachers and the support of principals and educational authorities (VanTassel-Baska, 2004) through ongoing access to professional learning. Finally, Rogers (2007) warns that there is no single practice or panacea that will work in every school setting and with every gifted learner and therefore, good practice will reflect multiple research-based strategies and pedagogical structures, which align with a school’s own philosophy, staff and community.

References:
Dear Parents,

We have an amazing opportunity to offer professional guitar and keyboard tuition to students. The program will commence in Term 2, 2015 and continuing throughout the year. Class sizes of 6 students for 30 minute lessons are available.

Enrolments Are Now Open!

Please phone 02 9191 4925 to enroll or for more information about the lessons.

**IMPORTANT!** Spaces are limited and minimum numbers are required for lessons to run.

**About Music Education Australia (MEA)**

MEA is Australia’s leading provider of school music tuition. We provide a wonderful opportunity for children to have quality group guitar and keyboard lessons at school.

- Small groups (3-6 students)
- Caters for all ages and abilities
- Weekly 30 minute lessons
- Amazing value = $110 p/term
- 70% less than private tuition
- Instruments supplied during lessons
Brave Bears and Hungry Bears – Ms Black/Christabelle/Miss Gusse
The Brave Bears and the Hungry Bears have had a very exciting first term, sharing and learning about each other and their lives, as well as the benefits of being healthy. Students have enjoyed learning about different foods including fruit and vegetables, the effects of germs as well as the importance of dental hygiene.
During week 6 the Preschoolers were lucky enough to have a visit from No Waste, exploring what and why we recycle, this proved an interesting and informative session with students discovering the ways we re-use what would have otherwise have been throw-away items.

Last week was action packed with students showing off their creations during the Easter hat parade around the pods and front office, going on the bus wash excursion through the exchange and a mysterious Easter visitor who only left footprints and some chocolate eggs behind...

We are ending the term with a healthy breakfast, a social opportunity for students to share some food and show off their artwork to their parents. After such a full term the preschoolers are looking forward to a short break before the start of Term 2.

Itchy Bears and Cranky Bears – Mrs Leake/Bec/Miss Gusse
What a wonderful start we have had to the Preschool year. The Itchy and Cranky Bears have settled in beautifully and are enjoying the wide range of activities on offer. Whilst home corner and block play were very popular in the early weeks, as the term has progressed, the children have begun to explore the ever-changing table activities and art/craft experiences which have included bubble painting, box construction, crayon wash, body sketching and the ever-popular finger painting!

Our integrated inquiry unit, “All About Me”, began by focusing on our faces and individual characteristics. The children created some outstanding self-portraits which are currently hanging in our classroom portrait gallery. From this we moved onto learning about our bones, joints, muscles and skin and many of the children enjoyed sketching their skeleton/bodies to display on our art wall.

During our outdoor explorations the children have enjoyed the obstacle courses, swings, dirt patch, bikes, water trough, sand-pit and mud tray. As the weather cools, children from both groups have enjoyed watching the leaves of our deciduous trees change colour. They have also provided the children with some wonderful sensory play.
In the final weeks of Term 1 we were so excited to go on our first excursion to the Bus wash, participate in our very own Easter hat parade and even go on an Easter egg hunt!!

In Week 10 we will be participating in our own healthy breakfast!!! This is a wonderful community event and a great way to end our first preschool term.

We wish all our families a safe and restful break and look forward to seeing you all again in Term 2 😊
It has been a pleasure to see the transformation of the gardens over the term. Students have worked hard to harvest all the summer crops – so many potatoes and tomatoes! It was amazing!
The next step was digging up the soil in the garden beds and mixing organic matter into them ready for the autumn and winter stage of planting and growing.

The chickens have continued to lay lots of eggs and students have enjoyed going into the chicken palace (the coop) to collect eggs and hand feed the chickens.
The bottle green house is working well to provide a protected environment for the future garden crops.
At the moment we have lettuce, brussels sprouts, peas, cauliflower and cabbage seedlings being raised.

Earlier this year, students from 1-6 were treated to a free show by Questacon. It was highly engaging and lots of fun. Students came away from the performance buzzing with excitement about Science.
Biological Sciences and Sustainability have been the focus for classroom Science.

This term all Kindergarten students have been learning all about the 5 senses. K/6TF have been learning about plants growing up and down. We made special growing pots out of recycled milk cartons that have a window that allows us to see the roots.
Year 1 (1BR and ICG) have focussed on the features of living things – plants and animals. They have researched and decorated a worm tower to put into the gardens to further enrich the soil.
Year 2 (2HS and 2GG) have been studying the changes in living things – plants and animals and are currently tracking the progress of a very hungry caterpillar which is cocooning.

Year 3/4 RH have been environmental leaders and are currently working on the recycling system in the school and generating ideas on how to help the school community to sort our rubbish better. They also learned about the observable features of living and non-living things.
Year 5/6 (5/6ML and 6JM) have been learning about fair testing and Scientific research. In groups, they have designed fair tests using the CMS model. Change 1 thing, Measure 1 thing and keep everything else the Same.
Karon Campbell
Environmental Science Teacher
Community News

SERVICES UPDATE

Changes to ACTION school services from Monday 18 May 2015
On Monday 18 May ACTION will be introducing a range of timetable adjustments and service improvements to the normal weekday network, as well as changes to some dedicated school services. These changes were announced Thursday 2 April. Full details are available on the ACTION website. ACTION have also contacted schools to inform them of any upcoming changes to their dedicated schools services.

Since the launch of the new schools network in September 2014, ACTION have been continually monitoring the network using performance data and identifying areas for improvement. For dedicated school services these include:
- the addition of six new services;
- directional and stop changes for 21 school services;
- changed start times for 68 school services; and
- just 1 school service will no longer be in operation.

Other school services may have slight timing changes or no changes. We encourage parents to view the changes to the normal weekday network also taking effect on Monday 18 May, as connection times with dedicated school services may have changed.

For more information please visit www.action.act.gov.au or call 13 17 10.

The Canberra Golf School
Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club is happy to announce its running of Golf Clinics for primary school students during the school holidays for the remainder of the year. They are open for all students 9 years and over and will run from 9am - 10am for the first week of holidays starting Monday 13 April, 2015.
Clinics will be run by fully Certified PGA Members and are designed to get kids active and interested in the game of golf and sport in general. Run in line with the new "Sporting Schools" initiative, the program will be a fun and interactive session where no experience is required and all equipment is provided. Clinics are held at Gungahlin lakes GC Driving range. Cost: $95 for the week clinic. Information can be found at www.canberragolfschool.com.au