Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an exciting and windy week two. I would like to welcome Mr Ben Hall to our school. Ben is the Deputy of the Early Childhood Sector of Amaroo school. Ben will be working at Palmerston as our deputy for term 2.

**Mother’s Day Event**

Today we had the mother’s day stall. A big thank you to the P&C for wrapping the gifts for the stall. We had such a buzz of excitement around the school this morning. Tomorrow is our Mother’s day concert. I hope all the dads and significant men in our student’s lives are out there cooking up a storm to contribute to mum’s morning tea. Just drop it in to the canteen tomorrow morning. Each class will be putting on an item in the school hall to entertain mums/grandmas and special people in each child’s life. The Mother’s Day concert commences first thing tomorrow.
Bush Dancing - whole school event
Billy Tea Bush Band and dance will be on Friday of next week- 15 May. Classes will be rotating through the hall to participate in the bush dancing. Senior students will be dancing with junior students during the day. There will be a BBQ and dancing for families in the evening. This event commences at 5.45pm for the BBQ and 6.30pm for bush dancing. Please fill in the note on the website and drop it into school, so we can cater for numbers. Parents and families are recognised as integral members of the school community and partners in their children’s education. We can all be part of teaching the PE and Arts curriculum in learning bush dancing together!

Reporting Procedures – Parent Guide 2015
As we are coming into reporting time we have published a Parent Guide for Reporting Procedures. This document outlines the forms of reporting you will receive about your child’s progress. The procedures can be found here: http://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/our_school/Policies
If you have any questions please speak to your child’s teacher.

Community Involvement – How do we do that at Palmerston?
Palmerston actively seeks ways to enhance student learning and wellbeing. We do this by partnering with parents and families, other education and training institutions, local businesses and community organisations. Partnerships are strategically established to address identified student needs and operate by providing access to experience, support and intellectual and/or physical resources not available within the school. Palmerston has deliberately and strategically used partnerships to provide additional resources to the school. We have approached this by working with:

- Communities at Work to provide a before and after school care on site
- Gungahlin Child and Family Centre to provide additional experiences for the Boomerang Club students and their friends and the centre provides opportunities and workshops/courses to families
- Gungahlin library in our reading workshops
- The Men’s shed
- Vince Ball (CEO) and the construction industry training council and the bricks and blocks program
- Macquarie University, the University of NSW and University of Canberra to assist staff in further professional learning in teaching maths, reading intervention and gifted and talented education and other schools
- Utilising parents/carers as reading tutors and support in the classrooms and for other activities across the school
- ACT Smart Schools, Sustainable Schools, Defence Assistant – DSTA, Canberra Refugee Support, Physios, speech therapists, school psychologists
- Sporting groups for skill development, music education and chess classes after school
- P&C, School Board
- Rostrum, Maths Association, ALEA,
- Community hirers:
  - Communities at Work, Music Education, United Taekwondo, Zanshin Martial Arts, Sangrok World Taekwondo Academy, Elementz, the Prep Edge, Zumba, Fusion city church, Ready Steady Go Kids, Bangla Multi-cultural/Ethnic School, Canberra Tamil School and Music School, Chennai Tamil School and P&C events

The school’s partnerships are being successfully implemented and are resourced and sustainable. Each partnership was established to cater for identified needs in our wider school community. We are actively enhancing student outcomes, broadening student knowledge, building new skills, developing more positive attitudes, increasing engagement levels, and creating applied learning opportunities for students.
Palmerston staff have been driving a strong improvement agenda. We ground this in evidence and practice. Our school is driven by a deep belief that every student is capable of successful learning. We work with many others, but have mentioned only a few community partnerships. The school has set targets in our annual operating plan and school plan for student achievement. We have met with community on our school vision and will continue with this over the school year. With you as our partners, and at times we may have ups and downs, we are working towards maintaining a learning environment that is safe, respectful, tolerant, and inclusive and that promotes intellectual rigour. We are using the National School Improvement Tool to assist us on this journey. Thanks for supporting us and continuing to keep clear lines of communication open in this partnership.

Melissa Travers

Effective teaching is part art and part science. The science part of effective teaching is founded on decades of research that has provided guidance for the general categories of behaviours that constitute effective teaching and for the specific techniques that can be employed within those general categories. The art part of teaching is founded on the dual realisations that research cannot provide answers for every student in every situation and that the same behaviours can be employed in a different order and fashion by two different teachers with equally beneficial results.

Robert Marzano

Preschool

Thanks to all the families from the Itchy and Brave Bears who participated in our “Stay and Play” for Mother’s Day on Tuesday. This was 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. I would like to also thank Leanne, Bec, Freya and Christabelle who worked with the children to organise this event. We look forward to this occurring tomorrow for the families of the Cranky and Hungry Bears.

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. The weather at the start of this week was magnificent and provided the opportunity for children to explore the outdoor areas if they wished.

To assist with the transition from home to preschool we will be holding a Parent Information Session for the 2016 preschool parents next week. We appreciate that starting preschool is a special time for children, parents and carers and we look forward to developing a successful partnership between home and school.

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

Preschool Enrolments 2016

Preschool Enrolments for 2016 opened 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
Gold Creek Year 7 2016 Information Evening at Palmerston
We invite you to come to Palmerston for an Information Evening about Year 7 at Gold Creek School. The Deputy Principal at Gold Creek will be talking to Palmerston parents on Monday 11 May at 6:45pm.

Defence News
Welcome to Term 2, I would like to say a very big THANKYOU to all the seen and unseen participants of the ANZAC Assembly that was held on the last day of term 1. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli in such a way, was a great tribute to the past and present members of the Defence Force. The catafalque party from the Australian Federation Guard amazed all attendees with their precision, perhaps inspiring a few students to consider a career in the ADF.

I hope that everyone had a chance to enjoy the “hands-on” display from the Australian War Memorial in the Library before the holidays and look at the uniform display in the front foyer. There are many books available for borrowing in the Library regarding the ANZAC story; perhaps a family reading activity could be centred on one of these great resources.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA
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/.

Scholastic Book Club
Orders close for the current book club on Thursday 7 May. It is now very easy to order online (and also via the new APP). Just go to www.scholastic.com.au/loop and follow the prompts. Edwina Samuelson is now the Scholastic Book Club Co coordinator. Any queries please contact Edwina on 0422 006 142.

School Banking
School Banking is every Wednesday. So far this year $220 has been raised for the school! There is a new promotion again offering a chance to win a family trip to Disneyland. Once you have made 25 deposits this year you automatically go into the draw to win. Also there are 2 great new rewards now available this term when you have collected 10 tokens.
Second-Hand School Uniforms - Donations
As the weather is turning cold, we are asking families if they have any second-hand winter uniforms they no longer need that could be donated to the school. If donations could be brought to the front office it would be much appreciated.

Community Hirers
Classes recommencing in week 3, Tuesdays 6-7pm and Wednesdays 4-5pm at Palmerston District Primary School
Offering recreational and competitive Rhythmic Gymnastics programs for children 5yrs and older. Call today to arrange an obligation free trial class or enrol for Term 2 2015. Spaces are limited so please get in touch!
Phone: 6112 8460  Email: info@elementz.com.au

Community News
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.
Family FUN Day
Sunday May 31st, 11am-2pm
John Dunmore Lang Place, Parkes (Next to Questacon)

Proudly sponsored by:

Jumping castles
Facepainting
Reptile Displays
Sausage Sizzle
Dance Party
And LOADS more...

School Banking is shooting for the stars.

As the beginning of 2023, the School Banking program launched students on a mission to save by making regular payments into their Youth saver account. By June alone, over $600,000 School Banking deposits were made around Australia. It’s a fantastic result that’s seen thousands of Australian children change their savings mission.

To help keep students on track with their savings mission in Term 2, we’ve released two new awesome rewards from our Outer Space Savers range. Students just need to make 3D School Banking deposits to be able to redeem a reward.

Invisible the Martian Pen
Intergalatic Rocket

You could win a 5 nights’ family trip to California’s Disneyland! Just imagine: Students who consistently display healthy savings behaviour by making 21 or more School Banking deposits in 2023 will automatically go into a draw at the end of the year to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland.

For more information visit: AustralianCatholicBank.com.au/SchoolBanking