Together we learn from each other.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to Palmerston for 2017 – returning families and new families. I hope you all had a restful break and enjoyed the summer holidays. I know I did, as I went to the beach, as did many of our staff.

This week we had the media arrive to film the start of school for our pre-schoolers and Kindergartens. I hope you got to catch it on WIN or ABC news on Monday evening. Today saw our second session of preschool commence just as smoothly as the Monday group. We have 110 preschool children over the week and we are looking at close to 100 Kindergarten children. Our numbers are still settling but it looks like we will commence the year with about 560 students. Our class configurations will be five preschool classes and five Kindergarten classes. I would like to thank you all for preparing your children for a smooth start to the new school year. Your support of the school is very clear and I would like to acknowledge what a wonderful school community we have. Have a great year!

Carnivals/Camps

Palmerston is jumping into activities at the start of the year. We have our swimming carnival next Thursday 9 February, year 3/4 one day camp on Wednesday 15 February and year 5/6 three day camp on Monday – Wednesday 20 February. Our Parent Teacher Evening is on Tuesday 7 February commencing at 5pm (see details further in the newsletter) and Billy Tea Bush dance on the evening of Thursday 16 February.

Parking

Palmerston is a growing school and with that we are seeing the number of cars using our carpark growing. We have many families who drive their children to school each day for drop off and pick up. I ask you to drive carefully and slowly around the school. Please ensure you use the parking bays for drop offs and pick-ups.

P & C NEWS

All P&C activities, meeting agendas and minutes are available from the School website at – Parent Corner

School Board:

2 Feb 7:30am Board meeting

School Board election will be held in early 2017
This week I have witnessed a few people double park to collect children. This is a very unsafe way to collect a child or drop off a child. If you have difficulty finding a park, possible options could be: coming to school a bit earlier or 5 minutes later, will enable you to secure a parking bay or park at the shops and walk down to us. On the outside of the school, the ACT Government placed bollards to stop people parking near walkways and crossings. Please be aware, that children using the footpaths, cannot see around parked cars. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our children safe around cars. Palmerston is a walk and ride school and we encourage you to walk to school or ride your bike. This year we will be putting in a newer and more secure bike and scooter rack.

School Review
This year Palmerston will be undertaking School Review. Our School Plan will be reviewed in term 3 and includes an external panel visiting for two or three days to observe teaching, review programs and interview staff and community. The review team will use the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT).

Our priorities for this School Plan are to raise English and Maths outcomes for students and to continue to engage students. The Directorate is also in the last year of Education Capital, the strategic plan for ensuring delivery of high quality education for all of Canberra's children and young people. Education Capital is an evidence based strategy that sets a course for improvement.

The overall focus this year for the Directorate is on:

• effective implementation of school improvement as defined by the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT);
• developing quality teachers;
• promoting and collaborating to enable quality teaching that meets the needs of students (including digital pedagogy);
• improving our equitable and inclusive culture and capacity to support learning outcomes; and
• creating environments that promote and enable learning.

This year we will be looking at the concept of delivering 21st Century education. We have embarked on purchasing new IWBs and increasing student access to laptops with Chromebooks and ipads. Many teachers have undertaken training in this area and we will continue with expanding our knowledge in this area. Mr Witte will take the task on of increasing our 21st Century education. This is very exciting.

This year has seen a few new teachers to the school. I have provided a list of teachers below.

Have a great first week,

Melissa Travers

Did you know we have a Skoolbag App? Download it on the app store!
UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Information Evening – see notes sent home
Date: Tuesday 7 February 2017
5:00pm General Session in the school hall with whole staff
5:15-5:45pm Session 1 in teaching teams (Held in PODS)
6:00-6:30pm Session 2 (repeat of session 1)

The evening will provide:
• An introduction to new staff
• An overview of the school’s Operational Plan for 2017
• An opportunity for teaching teams to outline the year and invite parents into their classrooms

Each teaching team will present their sessions twice to enable parents to choose which session they attend based on the age/s of their child/children.

For further information, please contact your child’s class teacher. We look forward to meeting you.
Palmerston Teaching Staff

2017 Swimming Carnival - see notes sent home
Date: Thursday 9 February
Location: Dickson Aquatic Centre
9:15am- children turning 8 years this year and over depart Palmerston
10am- children turning 7 this year and under (excluding preschool) depart Palmerston
12:45pm- children turning 7 this year and under depart swimming pool and return to school
1:50pm- children turning 8 years this year and over depart swimming pool and return to school

This is a free event for spectators (please advise the staff at the pool that you are with Palmerston District Primary School)

Year 3/4 - 1 day camp to Birrigai- see notes sent home
Date: Wednesday 15 February
Location: Birrigai
8:00am- all year 3/4 children meet at Palmerston- bus departs at this time
4:30pm- bus returns to Palmerston

Year 5/6 - 3 day camp to Berry Sport and Recreation Centre - see notes sent home
Date: Monday 20 February - Wednesday 22 February
Location: Berry Sport and Recreation Centre
7:00am- Students to arrive at school for a 7:30am departure on Monday 20 February
4:00pm- bus returns to Palmerston (approx.) on Wednesday 22 February

Billy Tea Bush Band- notes to come home shortly
Date: Thursday 16 February
Location: Palmerston District Primary School
9:00am-3:00pm- workshops run throughout the day for classes
Billy Tea Bush Band dance at school for entire school community, time to be confirmed.
TEACHERS & CLASSES FOR 2017

Executive - P,K,1: Emily Ashcroft

Preschool
Noisy Bears: Hoda Bejak & Clare Timmiss
Itchy & Cranky Bears: Leanne Leake & Bec Kimber
Hungry & Brave Bears: Jessica Tan & Christabelle George

Kindergarten
KKW: Katherine Wilson              KSH: Sam Harris              KFD: Fiona Dean
KGS: Garema Singh                  KJL: Jess Lago

Year 1
1EG: Emma Gusse                     1MC: Mel Cameron              1HD: Helen Duncan              1CG: Freya Black

Executive - 2,3,4: Haeley Simms

Year 2
2RA: Rachel Ashcroft               2RN: Rachel Northey            2LM: Libby Marley

Year 3/4

Executive - 5,6: Kate Flynn

Year 5/6
5AJ: Alicia James                  5DT: David Tilley              6KB: Kara Brailey

Executive - Support Staff: Eleanor McMillan

CAP - Challenging Academic Performance
3/4WW - Wei Wei                     5/6CC - Cheryl Cassella

LSU - Learning Support Unit
Tina Fisk
Andrew Rice
Lynne Boxsell

LSC - Learning Support Centre / Bookclub
Georgina Sofatzis, Catherine Griffin, Robina Jeffs

IEC - Introductory to English Centre
Peta Gai Faulkner & Veena Kaur

Extra Curricular
Indonesian & PE - Vlado Susko       Library - Tiffany Fletcher & Noreen Pidgeon
Environmental Science - Karon Campbell    ICT - David Witte
SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS 2017

School Board - School Board elections will be held in early 2016

Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school’s future directions.

There are two (2) vacancies for parent representatives on the Palmerston District Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019. Election of the parent representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2017 school year.

Nomination period:
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 6 February 2017
Closes – 11:00am on Monday 13 February 2017

Voting period (if election is required):
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 27 February 2017
Closes – 11:00am on Monday 6 March 2017

The positions for election will be:
One (1) - Parent Representative Position.

Elected positions run for a two (2) year term.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 27 March 2017.

If you are interested in being a member of the Palmerston District Primary School Board for 2017-2019 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Melissa Travers on 6205 7241. A copy of the School Board Manual is also available for perusal at the front office.

Nomination forms will be available from the school front office from Monday, 6 February 2017. If you would like to have a form before that date, please contact the school front office on 6205 7241.
P&C NEWS

P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE - Monday 13 February 7pm

Upcoming events:

P&C AGM and Meeting Monday 13 February at 7pm (week 3) – we welcome new parents to join us at this meeting.

Welcome to Term 1 all families at Palmerston District Primary School, both new and continuing. We commence the 2017 school year looking forward to being part of all that our wonderful school and teachers have been busy preparing for our children and school community.

I am the current P&C President and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of both the Palmerston School Community as well as the P&C for a number of years. I have had the privilege of getting to know many families at Palmerston through various connections. The P&C and all of its wonderful volunteers again co-ordinated many both enjoyable and successful events in 2016 and we look forward to the year ahead.

We welcome and warmly encourage new parents to the P&C. Being a member is a great way to contribute to and be part of your child’s schooling. Meetings are held in week 3 and 9 of each term.

All positions on the committee will become vacant at our AGM on Monday 13 February.

2017 P&C Positions
President and Vice President
Secretary and Assistant Secretary
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
Fundraising Coordinator and assistants

If you can help in any of these roles or would like more information on them please see one of the P&C executive or email palmpandc@hotmail.com.

Lisa Fior
P&C President

School Banking
School banking has commenced. Banking days are Wednesdays.
Parent Information Evening

The Staff of Palmerston District Primary School would like to invite you to attend an Information Evening at the School. The evening will provide:

- An introduction to new staff
- An overview of the school’s Operational Plan for 2017
- An opportunity for teaching teams to outline the year and invite parents into their classrooms

Each teaching team will present their sessions twice to enable parents to choose which session they attend based on the ages of their child/children.

When:  
Tuesday 7th February
5:00pm
General Session in the school hall with whole staff

5:15-5:45pm
Session 1 in teaching teams (held in PoDS)

6:00-6:30pm
Session 2 (repeat of session 1)

For further information, please contact your child’s class teacher.

We would love to see you there.

“Together, we learn from each other.”
COMMUNITY NEWS

As we start a new school year, we would like to remind you, parents and students about our services and how to best prepare for bus travel in the new year. Details of all school and regular bus services are now available for parents and students to begin planning their journeys. We ask that parents and students familiarise themselves with the most suitable route, times and stop locations for their children before the school term commences.

School bus services are available to school students only however, parents with young children may apply to travel on these services for a few weeks to help their child get used to bus travel. Please use the links below for further information on our bus services:

- School bus timetables
- Regular bus timetables

We are urging parents and students to check MyWay cards and top up if required. MyWay cards can be topped up automatically using the handy Autoload service, online, over the phone via the Transport Canberra information line (13 17 10), or in person with a MyWay recharge agent. Passengers who top up using Autoload attract a further 5% discount on all fares.

New bus fares came into effect on 14 January 2017. Single trip concessions cash fares cost $2.50 and MyWay fares are now $1.16. School Students are almost $60 a month better off when using MyWay rather than paying a cash fare to and from school. Parents and students can find more information at transport.act.gov.au or by calling 13 17 10.

Transport Canberra would appreciate your assistance in circulating this information to students and parents using your existing communications channels, such as school emails, newsletters or notices.

We wish you the best of luck with the 2017 school year.

Regards,
Transport Canberra - Marketing and Communications

A Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) provides assistance and support to the children of Australian Defence Force members as they move from school to school and during times of parental absence.

The DTM would develop and implement a range of resources and activities to assist these children and their families to integrate into the school community and to increase their ability to cope with the military lifestyle.

This is a contract position starting ASAP to 30 June 2017. The continuation of the position beyond this date is dependent on funding from the Australian Department of Defence.

The DTM is an employee of Harrison School and is responsible to the School Principal or nominee for everyday activities.

Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the DTM role description and selection criteria from the school office.

For information relating to this position please contact

Debbie Carne on 61422200

Application close on 14 February 2017

Together, we learn from each other
The home of Aussie Rules in Gungahlin

The Gungahlin Jets is a family friendly community club providing you with an opportunity to have fun, get fit and play Australian Rules Football.

New and experienced players welcome in all grades, Junior and Senior.

⇒ **Auskick:** Girls and boys aged 5 to 7 years.
⇒ **Juniors:** Girls and boys U8 to U14, boys to U17
⇒ **Youth Girls:** U10, U12, U15 & U18
⇒ **Seniors:** Rising Stars, Men and Women.

Registration details at:

www.gungahlinjets.com.au

---

**Stressed about back to school costs?**

Would $500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a laptop or tablet?

Saver Plus matches your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500!

You may be eligible if:
- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

**Contact Kathleen Watson,**
your local Saver Plus Coordinator:
02 6283 7606 / 0448 730 305
or kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by AMF and First Phonics of The Smith Family and is funded to you by The Smith Family. The program subsidised by AMF and Saver Plus App Inc.

For more information visit saverplus.org.au