Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 2. I would like to welcome back Kate Cummins to Palmerston and year 3/4 after being on maternity leave. We also have a new administrative assistant, Olga Drienkova. Olga is part of the Work Experience and Support Program run for new immigrants. She is a new immigrant with extensive work experience as an executive administrator, auditor and accountant. I would like to say congratulations to Tania Collis who has been appointed to Bonython Primary School as acting Principal for term 2.

We have a wonderful term of learning and co curricula events on this term. We are starting with Cross Country this week, Mother’s Day morning tea and concert next Friday and the Billy Tea Bush band the following Friday. We also have NAPLAN in the third week of school this term.
Classes have started again with enthusiasm and excitement about learning. I understand that year 5/6 are exploring volcanos and year 3/4 are continuing with their discovery of the life of early explorers. We are also continuing with our author visits this term.

Teachers across the school will have an opportunity to have a Sydney Maths consultant Carol Spencer work alongside them in classrooms this term.

Thank you to the families that participated in revisiting our school vision last term, we will further work with the community on this over the year.

In late term 1 we sent out the first of our reports on your child’s progress. If you have any concerns about your child’s learning, I encourage you to talk to your child’s teacher. Parents and carers are encouraged to raise any issues or concerns about our school with their child’s teacher, the principal or any staff member. If you would like further assistance you may also contact the Education and Training Directorate’s Liaison Unit by phone on 6205 5429 or via their online contact form: www.det.act.gov.au/contact_us

We will be sending out a Parent/Carer reporting document that shows how reporting is communicated to parents. This will also go up onto our website. Reporting is on a point in time, just as NAPLAN is a point in time.

This term we will commence our Peer Support program across the school. Peer Support is about resilience, getting along, cooperating and this is part of our values program. Peer support is run by our trained senior students as leaders in across age groupings. A fun time is had by all and new friendships made.

*Berliner (1986) ultimately concludes that effective teaching is a dynamic mixture of expertise in a vast array of instructional strategies combined with a profound understanding of the individual students in class and their needs at particular points in time.*

*Melissa Travers*
Principal

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**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](#)

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**Scholastic Book Club**

Edwina Samuelson has now taken over the role of the Scholastic Book Club Coordinator. If you have any queries please contact Edwina on 0422 006 142. The orders from end of term 1 will be distributed this week, we apologise for the delay in receiving these.

A new catalogue will also be distributed this week. The deadline for orders is 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](http://www.scholastic.com.au/loop) and follow the prompts.

Edwina Samuelson
Book Club Coordinator
ANZAC Assembly
We would like to thank Marina Pilicic and the defence students and families for an outstanding commemorative ANZAC Service.

Parent Well with the Mood Meter Program – Building Emotional Intelligence

Palmerston District Primary School has an ongoing commitment to increasing communication with families. We subscribe to Parenting Ideas Schools to access support in parenting. We often put Michael Grose’s articles in the newsletter or handouts at events such as mother’s day or father’s day. The articles are on helpful hints on parent and child wellbeing. We have had an offer to place in our newsletter a link to the Mood Meter Program. It is from Parenting Ideas Schools and is an optional online parenting course that you may wish to access if you are interested. This is not a school run course. Please follow the link for more information: http://www.parentingideasclub.com.au/Mood-meter-course

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/.

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**Gold Creek School**

**Open Night**

**Thursday**

**14 May 2015**

We invite all prospective parents of Year 7 2016 to attend our Open Night

_6:00pm – 7:30pm_

To be held at the Senior Campus (entrance off McClelland Ave)  
Contact: Michelle Morthorpe  
Tel: 6205 1814 Email: info@goldcreek.act.edu.au

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**Community News**

**SERVICE 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 school 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.