PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to week 3 of term 4. We are busy here with teaching, learning, singing, swimming and international visitors. Term 4 is always a busy term, and this week is holding true to that.

Children’s week

Children’s week was celebrated by Palmerston with our market day last Friday. All K-6 participated in the event. The seniors set up stalls, advertised them to the younger students and through a great enterprise education opportunity, coordinated the whole event. The day was a great success and fun was had by all. The money raised goes towards the year 6 graduation activities.

Visit from professors from East China Normal University and University of Canberra

Last Friday also saw a visit from education professors from the East China Normal University. I had the pleasure to visit their university last year and schools affiliated with them. We were able to return the hospitality and Palmerston teachers invited them in to view lessons and explain our teaching and learning philosophy. The visitors loved the opportunity to be part of our senior’s market day and enjoyed their first ‘spider’ drink (soft drink and ice cream). We also provided them with a picture book from an Australian author and treated them to pavlova for morning tea. I have included a letter from Dr Janet Smith from the University of Canberra.
Dear Melissa,

Huge thanks to you, Kate Flynn and all of the fabulous team at Palmerston District Primary School for our visit last Friday with the delegation of five Professors from East China Normal University and three staff from the University of Canberra.

As you know, I invited Palmerston to be part of the Chinese delegation’s visit to Canberra, as Palmerston District Primary School is one of the ACT’s most impressive schools — in terms of your school leadership, teachers, students and parents — plus of course the exemplary learning and teaching that takes place in your school. And Palmerston certainly didn’t disappoint us — in fact the visit was absolutely perfect and even exceeded our high expectations. The Chinese delegation really enjoyed engaging in great conversations with your school leaders and teachers; visiting classrooms so alive with learning; witnessing the wonderful school assembly; experiencing the fun Year 5/6 Market Day; and of course, enjoying the morning tea you provided with delicious home-made Australian food. All of the delegation and UC staff loved every minute of our time at Palmerston — and no-one wanted to leave!

Thanks again for your wonderful partnership with UC, and for extending your hospitality and kindness to the ECNU group – we really appreciate it. They were so fortunate to see one of ACT’s finest schools in this way.

Dr Janet Smith,
Associate Professor,
University of Canberra

**Big Gig**

On Tuesday we had two year 3/4 classes sing and two year 1/2 classes participate in the ‘Big Gig’ at Llewellyn Hall, the School of Music, ANU. Our teacher Tiffany Fletcher mentored the teachers in teaching singing and along with other schools in the ACT we were able to offer our students an opportunity to sing on stage at Llewellyn Hall. The event was fabulous, fun and full of singing, laughing, glitter hats and joy. A great time was had by all and I even got on stage to sing ‘Moon River’ with my colleagues!!! Please read the letter below from the MEP team.

“Dear Participants,

The MEP team would like to thank you all for your participation in the MEP Big Gigs yesterday. Captures of the live-streams for both the 10am and 11.30am gigs are now available at [http://livestream.com/accounts/5867449/BigGig](http://livestream.com/accounts/5867449/BigGig). We have already had over 700 views from all over the world (including India and South Africa), and would love you to watch and post comment. We are very grateful to our wonderful Craig Greening who did such a great job setting cameras and microphones, and making sure the filmed result was as inclusive as possible. It's not easy to try and capture the sound and movement across the whole Hall and he was still adjusting the set up between gigs to try and improve the results.

Thank you to all participating teachers and students: it was wonderful to see everyone so involved in the audience. A particular thanks to all those adults who showed such exemplary participatory musical leadership in ‘Moon River’, including John Mackay, a long-time School of Music staff member who not only soloed for us but sat in with the band and played along with the students from Telopea for both gigs. And thanks again to Rob and the band too!

Best wishes from the MEP team: Susan, Georgia, Tiffany and Katrina.”
**Twilight Fair & Swimming & Spelling**

Palmerston is busy again with term 4 swimming. Each day I see the enthusiastic year 1 and Kindergarten children go off for swimming lessons. Thanks to the teachers for organising a very important life skill for our younger Palmerston students. Year 2 will have lessons later this term.

Our P&C meeting was held on Monday evening and I would like to pass on my thanks to the hard working Palmerston families who ran and worked on the Election Day sausage sizzle, last term’s special lunch orders and our upcoming Twilight Fair committee and their calm organised approach. I would also like to remind you that assisting for even an hour at any of our P&C events helps the whole school community. Yesterday, as I walked past the teacher’s staff room I could see three very dedicated parents volunteering with the school banking and on other days with bookclub or the second hand clothing pool. In the classrooms I see the families reading with children or assisting with school work. Thank you to all who provide your time to assist in important events and activities that make a school a community.

This year our retired volunteers have increased in number and Mrs Jeffs in the Book Club room oversees this. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer at our school, please contact the front office, as we always welcome assistance.

Spelling, spelling, spelling. We had about 25 parents come along to our spelling evening on Tuesday at 5pm. Our Melbourne consultant, Chris Killey is up here again at Palmerston working with teachers and children on our spelling program. She outlined our approach to teaching spelling to parents/carers on Tuesday. It was not scary or threatening, but supportive and informative. We would like to run this session again next year and see more of you attend and find out about how we teach and learn spelling at Palmerston.

**School Uniform**

The Palmerston District Primary School Dress Standard and Colour Code policy was presented to the school board for review and comment. It is now time for you to have a read and comment on the document. You can find it located in the newsletter. Please forward all comments to the front office. The School Board is interested in your thoughts. All schools are undertaking a review of their dress standards and colour code.

**Preschool building update**

Palmerston preschool is getting an additional building. This building, as seen in last week’s newsletter, is still being constructed in Victoria. It is arriving at Palmerston on the weekend of Friday 2 November to Sunday 4 November. I wanted to inform you that the street in front of the school may have changed traffic conditions to keep people safe. Further information about this will be distributed through our newsletter and placed in the Canberra Times closer to the date. There may be disruptions to hirers of the school over that time also, to ensure people’s safety. A short time of disruption will lead to a new wonderful preschool building for our growing community. If you have any questions, please call the front office and we will endeavour to assist.

Have a great week,

Palmerston is celebrating World Teacher’s Day this Friday 28 October.

_Melissa Travers_
PENGUINS

The penguins from Antarctic Festival have arrived back at school and have made a home in the kitchen garden.

![Penguins in the garden](image1)

BAND NEWS

**Yr5 Band**
Y5 combined band rehearsal will take place in the hall on Tuesday 2 November. It is from 9:00am to 1:00 pm. The concert starts at 12:00pm and finishes at 12:20pm.

**Fife Band**
Fife combined band rehearsal is on Monday 7 November at Latham Primary, a note will be sent home today.
Band Stravaganza performance Monday 14 November at Llewellyn Hall, ANU. Students are to arrive by 6pm.

**Yr6 Band**
Bandstrav rehearsal on Tuesday 15 November in the hall from 10am-12pm
Band Stravaganza performance Wednesday 16 November at Llewellyn Hall, ANU. Students are to arrive by 5:45pm.

SCHOOL APP FOR IPHONES

Palmerston has recently arranged to trial a Skoolbag app, which is now available in the itunes store. This app allows us to send you important updates and news. It also allows you to send in absences for your child electronically. We will be trialling this app for term 4 and we encourage all parents to download it from the app store by searching for Palmerston District Primary School. We would love to hear any feedback you have about our new app.
P&C NEWS

Book Club
Issue 7 Book Club ends today, 27 October. Please place all orders online or in the boomerang box no later than tomorrow morning.
I am still holding a Lego book that was ordered by someone who left no details on their order form. If this is you or your child please contact me and I will be more than happy to hand it over.

School Banking
A reminder there are 2 new prizes available to redeem your tokens. These include a ‘Bush Fly Fan’ and a “Wriggly Glow Worm”. A reminder if we happen to forget to place a token in your child’s wallet, don’t panic. We do keep an electronic record of all deposits, from which we are able to check how many tokens each child has at any point in time.

Disco
A big thankyou to all those mums and dads who helped to make the Disco last Friday a big success. We hope everyone had a great time.

Thanks
Edwina

SCHOOL INTENTIONS 2017

School Leavers 2017
We have now reached the time in the year when we begin to look at our school numbers and staffing arrangements for 2017. If your circumstances have changed and your child/ren will not be attending Palmerston District Primary School in 2017 can you please let the front office staff know as soon as possible.

My child/ren will not be returning to Palmerston in 2017.

Child’s name: ____________________________  Child’s class: __________
Child’s name: ____________________________  Child’s class: __________
Child’s name: ____________________________  Child’s class: __________
Child’s name: ____________________________  Child’s class: __________
My child/ren will be attending:
_________ Another government school in the ACT
_________ A non-government school in the ACT
_________ Moving out of the ACT
**SEMESTER 2 REPORTS**
As we head towards end of semester reporting time we thought we would take the opportunity to explain over the next few newsletters some of the features from our new ACT Directorate report. As you are aware, at the end of each semester, parents and carers are provided with a student progress and achievement report. In semester 1, Palmerston utilised the new ACT Directorate Reporting template. Feedback from our community indicated that there is a high level of satisfaction around the new style of reporting. Further feedback from staff and families indicated that information around curriculum content covered in each year level should be in parent friendly language. To meet this need we have enhanced the Directorate template to meet our community’s needs and you will now find a generic statement for each year level around the Australian Curriculum content assessed in each learning area. For example:

*The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of language, literature and literacy. Teaching and learning programs balance and integrate all three strands. Together, the three strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. Learning in English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and teachers develop and strengthen these.*

*In Kindergarten, students communicate with peers, teachers, known adults and students from other classes. They participate in shared reading, viewing and storytelling using a range of literary texts, and recognise the entertaining nature of literature. Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts including pictorial representations, short statements, performances, recounts and poetry.*

Kate Flynn
Deputy Principal

Reports will be sent home with children in week 9. Preschool children will receive a developmental summary report. If your child is in Kindergarten you will receive the school report. Children in Years 1 - 6 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 by week 6 Friday 18 November.

Please indicate on the form attached whether you require duplicate copies of your child’s report.

**Request for duplicate reports – please return to the Front Office – Semester 2, 2016**

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

______________________________class ____________________________

______________________________class ____________________________

______________________________class ____________________________

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

________________________________________

________________________________________
SPELLING EXPERT PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

On Tuesday the 25th of October we hosted spelling expert Chris Killey who began to unravel the mystery of spelling. Chris has been working with the teachers of Palmerston for the last 18 months. During this time she has taught many of our students and held in depth curriculum discussions with teachers. She taught parents some of the key ways we have been teaching their children to spell. One of these ways is: I can never end a British English word, this strategy helps students to spell over 100 words!

Next year we will be keeping you informed of the different strategies. The parents at the session were enthralled and feedback from the session is that parents would like to know more! We have invited Chris back in 2017 for another spelling session with parents. We will keep you informed of the details closer to the time. We look forward to seeing you there.

STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Last term Palmerston District Primary School completed the annual School Satisfaction Survey with our students, parents and staff. Last week we shared our parents’ results with you, this week we would like to share with you our results from the student survey.

**Parents identified the following areas as our strengths:**
94.2% of students agreed they had adequate or excellent levels of staff and student relations
96% of students agreed that their teachers expect them to do their best
77% of students agree that the school gives them interesting things to do
80% of students agree that their teachers motivate them to learn
76% of students like being at school

**Some of our identified areas of improvement were:**
Some students identified that they felt they would like their teachers to listen to their opinions in a more thorough way and some also identified an area of improvement being the availability of healthy food and drink.
Using this information we will be addressing these areas both next year and this one. We will continue to work with the P&C to offer healthy lunch days at school for students.
One of the ways we are addressing listening to students opinions is by hosting a year 5/6 PoD meeting every week, whereby the teachers are available to listen and address any concerns or issues the students have.
We are always looking for ways to improve and we welcome your feedback. If you would like to provide further feedback in relation to any of these areas, please contact Haeley Simms at the front office.
Thank you to our students who completed this survey. It has given us valuable insight into students’ thoughts about Palmerston.
Palmerston District Primary School Dress Standard and Colour Code Policy

Policy Statement
All ACT Public Schools have a uniform, colour code or school dress standard. The uniform at Palmerston District Primary School may include colour code as well as the official uniform with logos attached.

Rationale
The school colour code or uniform reflects community standards and is consistent with occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination, equal opportunity legislation and the Education and Training Directorate’s Sun Protection policy.

Definitions
Dress Standard
A dress standard is a detailed written statement of the expectations that Palmerston District Primary School holds regarding student appearance.

Colour Code
School colour code refers to the colours chosen by the original Palmerton District Primary School’s Board to represent the school for uniforms and other items of identification. The colours of Palmerston District Primary School are teal and blue.

School Uniform
A school uniform consists of a limited range of clothing that identifies students as belonging to Palmerston District Primary School.

School Uniform
All students are expected to wear school uniform and take pride in being a part of Palmerston District Primary School. Where uniform is not available for some reason, it is desirable that students wear the school colour code. The school colour code for Palmerston District Primary School is teal and blue.

The Palmerston District Primary School uniform is outlined in the table below.
Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Empathy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Single colour navy blue shorts, skort, skirt or long track pants</td>
<td>- Single colour navy blue shorts or long track pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teal colour polo shirt</td>
<td>- Teal colour polo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Single colour navy blue jacket or jumper</td>
<td>- Single colour navy blue jacket or jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Enclosed footwear</td>
<td>- Enclosed footwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Navy blue broad brim, bucket or legionnaire style hat</td>
<td>- Navy blue broad brim, bucket or legionnaire style hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blue beanie in winter</td>
<td>- Blue beanie in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Navy blue winter dress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- School dress in plaid pattern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students to wear a blue broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat.

Responsibilities
Students attending Palmerston District Primary School are expected to come dressed in school uniform or colour code during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school.

Students are reminded of the school dress standard through class meetings and assemblies as well as individually when required. Students will not be disadvantaged where required dress standards are not available because of circumstances beyond their control.

Parents are informed in writing of the school’s Dress Standard and Colour Code policy which is found on the school website and displayed in the school foyer. Parents are informed of the school uniform and where it is available when they enrol their children.

Palmerston District Primary School Parents & Citizens association operates a second hand uniform shop at the school offering preloved items and regularly advertise opening hours. All parents and their children have equal access to these items of clothing as needed either by contacting the P&C or the Palmerston District Primary School Front Office.

Teachers and other school staff model appropriate dress standards for students by dressing in a professional manner at all times.
Non-compliance with dress code
All students at Palmerston District Primary School are expected to meet the dress standard unless an exemption has been granted.

Strategies used to deal with non-compliance of a student to uphold the required dress standard include:
- positive reinforcement and encouragement of responsible behaviour,
- the offer of appropriate items from the Palmerston P&C second hand uniform pool,
- informing parents or carers of non-compliance to prevent reoccurrence, and
- implementing a process of mediation if a student persistently wears inappropriate dress after discussions have been held with parents or carers.

Special Considerations
The Principal will consider the following when resolving matters of student dress standards:
- mobile families,
- unavailability of an item,
- student’s health,
- economic hardship,
- conscientious objection for religious or cultural reasons, and
- an exemption to wearing dress standard granted by the Principal.

TALENT QUEST
The Talent Quest is coming up soon, so get practicing!
Auditions will be held on Thursdays at lunchtime in the hall, starting in week 4.

Audition timetable:
- week 4: 5/6
- week 5: 3/4
- week 6: 1/2
- week 7: kindergarten

Some examples of acts are:
- Mime
- Comedy shows
- Dancing
- Singing
- Play a musical instrument
- Gymnastics
- Drama
Term 4 – Ride Safe to School Week – 31 October to 4 November 2016

Next week is Ride Safely to School Week and that there will be special prizes for students who will ride a bike/scooter to school next Friday!