Dear parents and carers,

Congratulations to all for creating a wonderful school environment. This term has been the best start to a school year. Each morning I welcome the children to school at our morning assembly and I so enjoy seeing the children’s eager faces ready to learn. Morning assembly is an opportunity to share what events and activities are coming up or acknowledge the special celebrations that mark student or school achievement. If you ever have a chance, drop by for a morning assembly.

**Car Boot Sale – Saturday 22 March 8am to 1pm**

*We Need You!* The P&C are running their second car boot sale and we need you to clear out your old belongings and take up a car space in our car park.

Is your house or garage full of things you no longer need? Are you ready for a clean out and the chance to make some extra cash? Are you and your family after some bargains? Then this is the place for you! No cars or car boots will be sold! Children can run a stall from a rug for only a gold coin donation. They can make some pocket money by selling their old toys (I recommend you check out what they intend to sell).

Call 6205 7241 or drop by the front office to secure your stall space for only $10.
This event is a P&C initiative in its' second year. We have joined forces with Muddle Puddle who will be selling baby and children’s wear and supplies from the multipurpose room. Coffee and tea will be available, as will a cake stall and sausage sizzle (bacon and eggs in the morning). A fun morning will be had by all.

Swimming Carnival
Last Friday we all enjoyed our swimming carnival. The carnival is a time to experience water activities or race competitively. The water activities are very carefully supervised and children have an opportunity to play in shallow water under supervision. The children who race competitively had the opportunity to shine and their races were timed. Each school enters their top place getters into inter-school competitions that will be held later this year. We had our biggest turn out of parent/carer volunteers at the carnival. The atmosphere was wonderful with smiles all around and laughter heard across Belconnen (where our event was held).

Canteen News
Parent volunteers have also been busy in the canteen this term. Yesterday I popped in to see the parents very busily preparing for our canteen day. Students as part of their Environmental Science program grow vegetables in the school gardens. The produce will be used to support our canteen. Our canteen is aiming to be green. This means we provide healthy food options for our children at Palmerston. We are taking small steps in this direction and working towards this goal. A very big thank you to the parents who have given up their time so the children at Palmerston can have a healthy canteen. Our canteen in now called The Palm Café. The canteen name was voted on by the children - democracy in action! We are a real community.

Preschool
Our preschool will soon have a section in the newsletter where they will be highlighting events and learning. The preschool is holding a raffle and art stall at the Car Boot sale on Saturday 22 March. They are also running a bulb drive for your spring bulbs. Now is the time to buy and start planting.

NAPLAN
At this time of the year, the NAPLAN results are made public. The schools have had this information since last year. This information is a snapshot of where our school is at, in May last year for year 3 and year 5. As a school we have moved on academically. At Palmerston we believe that for students to achieve well, we must invest in teacher development. This is the key to achieving great student outcomes. Teachers are our best resource. We believe that with consistent teaching across the school we will endeavour to provide the best quality education for all our students. We know we have achieved outstandingly in our junior school. Our ongoing commitment is to work towards high student outcomes across the school.

So, how do we do this? Our new educators (teachers in their first three years of teaching) each have an experienced teacher mentor. We provide in class coaching from experienced teachers so that consistency in teaching practice is ensured. Teachers are provided with quality professional learning to develop their practice and provide opportunities to reflect on increasing student outcomes. In addition we have employed a professional practice lead teacher in the senior school. We link with our neighbouring schools and share best practice.

Our other belief is that it is essential that schools are happy places for young children. We know that we do not all need to be happy all the time as that is not possible to achieve and that a child’s every wish cannot be granted. We do believe in providing a stimulating environment and consistency in expectations across the school. We have a broad program to engage children on many levels. We offer: engaging lessons, physical activity, bike program, outstanding play equipment and surrounds, a well
maintained school and singing. We allocate a part of the week to the teaching of singing and music-through our band programs.

The main theme is the love of learning. Palmerston also has an outstanding library. It is open from 8.30am every morning as well as at lunch times. Teachers can read stories from the story telling chair, children can borrow many and varied books, and every class visits the library. Your Library Trust Donations have meant that the library has top quality resources. It is an exciting place to play a board game, learn knitting, speak in your first language, or just sit and read. Parents can borrow books too. This is a community place. A meeting place.

I do think I have the best job, as I work at Palmerston.

Melissa Travers
Principal

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**Introducing Mandy Lee – year 5/6 teacher and Curriculum Advisor**

Hi, my name is Mandy Lee and I am an experienced and dedicated teacher. I grew up in Canberra and attended Canberra University where I completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), with a major in Physical Education.

I have 2 wonderful children; a girl aged 9 and a son, 12. Our weekends are spent at junior sport. Across my teaching career I have worked in a range of educational settings including preschool, primary teaching K-6 and running a Learning Support Centre. In 2013, I applied in the Professional Practice Executive Teacher (ETPP) round, and was successful. I am very excited to be at Palmerston this year in the ETPP position. My role includes leading a very enthusiastic 5/6 team as well as coaching and mentoring teachers across the school in best practice, to improve outcomes for students. I will be working in close collaboration with the other executive teachers in leading committees across the school.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and your children to ensure we are working within a quality learning environment.

Mandy Lee

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**NAPLAN – Term 2 Week 3**

Year 3 and 5 students will be taking part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in week 3, Term 2. If you wish to have your child withdrawn from NAPLAN please the front office by Monday 17 March and a form will be sent to you to complete.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child taking part, please contact Sylvia Headon. Further information about NAPLAN will be sent home closer to the date.

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**NAPLAN – Information Session**

An information session about NAPLAN will be held on Monday 31 March at 6.30pm. This information session will explain what assessments your child will take part in, what the school does to support your child and ideas you can use at home. Following the information session the P&C meeting will take place.

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**Parenting Ideas Magazine – Out Now!**

Issue 11 of the Parenting ideas Magazine is out now! There are many interesting articles including those on “Why some of the best learning for our kids occurs outside school” and “Tolerance: A vital ingredient for your child’s success”. The magazine can be accessed at:  
**University of New South Wales Competition - ICAS**

ICAS entry forms have been sent home to all students in Year 2-6.

ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in 20 countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

ICAS is annual skills development assessment program and available in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The tests take 30–60 minute and are supervised at school. Certificates are awarded to all students.

Results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested.

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form and return it, with your entry fees, to school by Friday 4 April.

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**Defence News**

For most Defence families, childcare is an issue, especially on posting. DCO is currently running a survey to assess the needs and difficulties that military families have with childcare. Families that have children 12 years and under are eligible to complete the survey to provide important information on the current needs and state of services available. It opened on February 25th and can be found on the DCO website, www.defence.gov.au/dco or by contacting the Defence Family Helpline at DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au or on 1800624608.

I would strongly urge eligible families to have their say to help themselves and others to improve the current system.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

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**News from the Gardens - Friday Morning Market is back on!**

Friday Morning Market is located on the black top outside the administration building from 8:50am until 9:10am. This week they will be selling cucumbers for $1 each and Tzatziki for $3 a tub.
**Fresh Tastes**

Palmerston District Primary School was mentioned in HerCanberra
http://www.hercanberra.com.au/index.php/2014/03/05/a-new-healthy-schools-program-for-canberra/?utm_source=HerCanberra&utm_campaign=efae8f4124-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2da382dd49-efae8f4124-57560325

Palmerston District Primary School is one of the first schools to pilot the new program. Their **Fresh Tastes** school grant is being used to revamp their canteen (now called the 'Palm Cafe'), establish new vegetable gardens and set up a new chicken coop. They'll also spend the money on educating their students about healthy food and drink choices.

Well done Palmerston!

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**RWTS (Ride and walk to School)**

Wednesday 19 March 8:30 - 8:50 am

Get active and help the environment. Walk or ride bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades. We'll have music, milk, stickers, and vouchers to hand out upon arrival. Parent helpers welcome. If you would like to help please contact Rachel Levinson via the front office.

Healthy Child Committee

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**Christian Education – Wednesday 19 March**

The students will be taught the Easter story - ‘Jesus is Alive - how amazing' from Luke 24:13-35, using songs, stories, and a game or quiz. Students may be asked to volunteer to participate in these activities. This is a voluntary opt-in program. If you have filled in and signed the Christian Education permission slip on enrolment your child will attend the session. Otherwise your child will remain in class.
Welcome to the 2014 Parents & Community group (P&C)

Upcoming events:
NEW P&C chat-about (coffee and chat) – 9:15 to 10:30am on Friday 14 March library resource room (week 6, 8 & 10)
Car boot sale – Sat 22 March (8:00-1:00pm)
P&C Meeting Mon 31 March at 7pm (week 9)

Welcome to new and continuing parents (and carers) to another year of learning, growing and spending time with our children, family, friends, other parents and other members of our vibrant school and local community. It’s scary to think that we have finished February and the third month of the year is already upon us - time sure flies when you’re having fun!

Over the next few Newsletters I would like to introduce myself and the executive P&C parents. I am the President (Jo Prezzi) and I have 3 children at the school, Chiara (year 3), Riley (year 1) and Blake (preschool). I have been active on the P&C over the last few years helping out running school events as my children love to be involved in the planning, creating and helping out with events that are linked with their learning and being at school. I was an ICT Project Manager (at the ABS) but have recently graduated to the teaching profession (as a part-time Italian / ICT secondary teacher).

I look forward to being a part of bringing our school community together regularly over the next year as well as assisting in raising funds so we can support identified school priority areas.

Other executive members will be introduced in upcoming Newsletters; Edwina Samuelson (Vice President), Jill Bungate (Fundraising Officer), Jenni Palombi (Treasurer)

VACANT - The Secretary and Assistant Secretary roles are still open.

These positions are a chance to help the P&C stay well organised by minuting meetings and processing mail. If you can help in this role for part of the year then please see one of the P&C executive.

Please come and introduce yourself on Thursday and Friday mornings when I am at school (or email me on joprezzi@hotmail.com or call on 0409 565 895 – please allow about 3 days for a reply) and see how you can get involved at Palmerston Primary.

Happy parenting! I hope to see you on Friday in the library.

Jo Prezzi
P&C President
Community News

Primary Concert Choir
The ACT Instrumental Music Program is seeking students from Year 4 to Year 6 to audition for a new vocal ensemble, the Primary Concert Choir (PCC). The PCC will rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm till 5:30pm during school terms at the IMP in Kaleen. The Primary Concert Choir will be conducted by Katharine Finlayson. The choir is an extension opportunity for students in ACT Education and Training Directorate schools and it is expected that members of the PCC will also participate in the choir or vocal ensemble at their school if this opportunity is available.

The choir is an excellent opportunity for enthusiastic and talented young singers to work together in a supportive and fun environment. Further details and information about how to apply for an audition are available from the Instrumental Music Program website at www.imp.act.edu.au. The application form can also be accessed through this site. Information letters are available at your child’s school. If you do not have internet access please telephone the IMP on 62058265.

Applications now open and close Friday March 14.

FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDS
Looking for a winter sport - come and play rugby union where you can learn new skills, make new friends and have lots of fun! We have teams for age groups 5 -18 years and provide a supportive environment for all abilities. For more information please email juniors@eaglesrugby.com.au or visit our website at www.eaglesrugby.com.au

Model Train Expo
Saturday 29 March 9am – 5pm
Sunday 30 March 9am – 4pm
University of Canberra High School, Kaleen
Admission: Adults $10, Children/Seniors $5, Family ticket $20.

Connect and Participate Expo – Saturday 29 March 11am to 4pm
Looking for something to do with the kids on the weekend? Come along to the CONNECT AND PARTICIPATE EXPO! Saturday 29 March, 11am – 4pm at the Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston.

The EXPO will provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover the wide range of groups in Canberra including sport, outdoor rec, art/craft, music, performing arts, and hobby groups. A free ACTION bus will run a loop every 20 – 30 minutes from Platform 3 at the City Bus Station to The Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston between 11am to 4pm. Please visit the website at www.connectandparticipateexpo.com.au

Free Ice Hockey Come and try day - 15 March 2014
Cool off by playing the fastest team sport on Earth register your interest at www.ihact.org.au

Official registration and second hand equipment sale on 16 March 2014 from 10:00am - 3:00pm
Juniors 5yrs to 13yrs (PeeWee and Atoms) 11.00am to 1.30pm
Juniors 14yrs to 17yrs (Bantams and Midgets) 2.30pm to 4.45pm
Seniors 18yrs + (Men and Women) 3.30pm to 5.45pm

Humes Hey Day – Saturday 15 April 10am – 4pm
Cob and Co Coach and rides, wine and olive oil tasting, cow milking, bushrangers and much more.