Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to Term 2. We had a vibrant start to the term with quite a few new enrolments. We also had the opening on a new online enrolment system. Preschool enrolments for 2015 are now online and we have classes filling up very quickly. We offer 4 classes of preschool and two are already full. If you know of a child turning 4 years old by the end of April 2015, then please inform their parents that if they live in our area, they can enrol their child into preschool now for 2015.

I was on leave in the last week of term 1 and I would like to thank the Deputy, Tania Collis for acting as Principal and overseeing the school. The teachers attended a professional learning day on teaching reading and vocabulary to primary aged children on 24 April. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the staff to bring the best and most up to date knowledge on the teaching of English to our students. All our teachers plan in teams to meet student’s needs. We call these teams Professional Learning Teams. Each team is led by a teacher leader. Our whole school is a Professional Learning Community. This is the way we ensure that we meet each child’s needs.
I would also like to pass on a big thanks to all the students, as they helped me celebrate a very special birthday this week and filled my office with balloons and all signed a card. It carries great meaning for me and I will treasure the thoughts. We have a very thoughtful and kind school community.

Next Friday 9 May, sees the school celebrate a Mother’s Day morning tea in the hall from 9:00am and all the classes will be performing. I look forward to seeing you there. The P&C and SRC are running a Mother’s Day stall on Thursday 8 May. So from now on, if your child can bring in a small gift and drop it off to their class- clearly labelled with their name and class - then on the Thursday of next week, they can purchase a gift for mum or significant person in their life for $2.

Our year 6 students will start to visit Gold Creek school this term to ‘get to know’ High School. If you have a child in year 6, please look out for a postcard in their school bags that will give dates and times of open days at the neighbouring High School. This is all part of our transition process where we support our students moving from one school environment to another.

Have a great term

Melissa Travers

“The very essence of a learning community is a focus on and a commitment to the learning of each student.” Richard and Rebecca DuFour. Learning by Doing.

Mother’s Day Morning Tea
To celebrate Mother’s Day the staff and children at Palmerston would like to invite all mother’s to a morning of entertainment on Friday 9 May 2014.

**Time:** 9:15am – straight after Morning Lines

**Where:** Hall

**What:** All year levels will perform an entertainment item and morning tea will be provided

School Payments Update
Please note that from 1 August 2014, card holders will no longer be able to sign for payments made in person. This is part of a banking industry initiative to improve credit card security in Australia, while most overseas countries have already adopted this method of card purchase authorisation.

This also applies to payments made using debit cards and savings account cards.

Families will need to use ‘PIN’ authorisation when paying at an EFTPOS terminal. Any transactions without a pin will be declined after that date. This also applies to credit or debit card payments made by filling out a form.

In preparation for this requirement to start using the PIN issued with their card you may like to locate the original PIN. If you are unable to locate the original PIN you can update the PIN by dropping into their bank with their card and ID.
Palmerston PRIDE Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 11 April:

Anh, Poppy, Si Thu, Sumatah, Mattie, Sophie, Kunrot, Toby, Ode, Evie, Sarina, Leanne, Jessica, YaYa, Kaleb, Byron, Arvand, Yuki, Jada, Thanh, Tanisha, Tameika, Sohan, Ella, Madeline, Gatmata, Rachel, Becca and Lachlan.

Writing Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals:

Mackenzie, Ashleigh, Toby, Sarah, Amarlie, Thanh, Hope, Raafi, Dean, Sophie, Yusuf, Ryan, Charlotte, Aidan, Tomas, Sianna, Demi, Julia, Kaitlyn, Angus, Natasha, Anhminh-Minh, Caitlin and Isaac.

Triple P Parenting Program - Reminder

Last term I put some information into the newsletter about a Triple P Parenting Program that I will be helping to run at Palmerston District Primary School. The program runs for 5 sessions with 2 individual follow up sessions. The school based sessions will start on Wednesday 14 May and run from 1pm to 3pm for the 5 weeks. (Please note this is a week later than first advertised.) The program is free and can take up to 10 participants. At this stage I have responses from a number of parents and carers but I just wanted to send out a reminder in case there are others who would like to join the program.

Triple P is evidence based family support strategy designed to help parents and carers improve their parenting skills and build positive relationships with their children. The program aims to give parents and carers the skills to:

- Build positive relationships with their children
- Praise and encourage behaviour they like
- Teach children new skills
- Set rules and give instructions their children will follow
- Respond to misbehaviour immediately, consistently and decisively
- Use discipline strategies that work
- Learn to take care of themselves as parents

As I said last term, parenting is one of those skills that we all learn on the job, by doing and trying different things to see what works and what doesn’t. It is one of the few things in life that there is not training for before we embark on the parenting journey. I have certainly found any parenting courses I have been involved in to be very useful not just professionally but also in my home life.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Judy Marriott
62067241, 62055933
Palm Café Changing Times.

Our wonderful canteen volunteers will be opening the Palm Café on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As well as opening at recess, the canteen will also be opening for lunch! We are busy developing new menus and look forward to being a part of this exciting new change with you. If you have any questions or would like to join our volunteer group please email Jill Bungate for more information. Jillbungate@gmail.com

Thanks and happy, healthy eating!

School Banking News

Please note that school bank books must be delivered to the school Banking Officer, Jasmine Berry at 9am so they can be processed.

Volunteers needed! Please contact Jasmine via the front office if you are interested in helping her with student banking on Friday mornings from 9am for about 30 minutes.

Community News

Children’s Clothing Swap

Hosted by Canberra and Region Multiple Birth Association on Sunday 4 May from 10am to 12 noon at Gan Israel Community Centre, 3 Gari Place Giralang.

Swap your pre-loved children’s clothing for ‘new-to-you’ children’s clothes. All sizes accepted. For more information contact Tiffany at clothingswap@carmba.org.au

Medic Alert in Schools Program

Your students medical information and special needs can be communicated in an emergency with a MedicAlert medical ID. The Foundation is now running a Schools program. Pamphlets are available in the school foyer or visit www.medicalert.org.au/schools.

Scouts

Do you want confidence, adventure and leadership skills?

Scouting is education for life and helps builds confidence, friendships, responsibility and leadership. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests.

Limited offer – 3 week FREE trial

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