



Palmerston Post

Issue 4 - Term 4

Palmerston District Primary School acknowledges the
Ngunnawal People, the traditional owners and
custodians of this land.



Principal's Message

What an incredible night we had together on Wednesday, joining in song and Christmas spirit! I just love all of these 'firsts' I get to experience – and Wednesday night carols was another brilliant 'first'. Thank you to all our families who were able to come along, for dressing up and getting into the fun element that Christmas brings. I have never seen so many adorable elves, pretty fairies and amazing Santa's! What a sensational hat collection we have as a school!

I would like to farewell and acknowledge Mrs Kylie Moller who has won an SLC position over at Franklin EC School, and thank her for all she has done to grow Palmerston. We wish her well as she begins another exciting chapter in her career. Of significant mention is Kylie's leadership and passion for the IEC and EALD students.

As the end of the year draws closer, we are pleased to present to you a new school initiative whereby we are celebrating the achievement of all K-5 students in an Award Presentation Ceremony next Friday, promptly starting at 2pm. As teachers, we grow a special bond with our students as the year rolls on and we wanted to introduce this Ceremony, to acknowledge the efforts of students under three categories:

- Excellence Awards
- Endeavour Awards
- Citizenship Awards

Invitations will have been emailed to you if your child is receiving an award, and we would love to see you here in the audience.

We welcome two Work Experience students to our school, Tarcia Collins from Lyneham High School and Daniel Ruuskanen from Gungahlin College. It is wonderful to see such positive young role models interested in the field of education and we thank you for the contribution you are making for students in our school. I remember my Yr 10 Work Experience at Walcha Central School back in 1980...and it was that experience with Mrs Brown and her Yr 1 class that catapulted me into definitely pursuing a career in teaching.

As Week 10 closes on a Thursday, we will send our final newsletter of the year out on Monday of Wk 10.

Kate Smith



Daniel



Tarcia



Download the SkoolBag App

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way keep up with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all school communications.

5 Easy Steps to Staying Informed



SkoolBag is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all your school's communications.

1. Download SkoolBag

Search SkoolBag in the Apple App or Google Play Store, download the FREE app:

SkoolBag: School Communication



2. Create an Account

Follow the prompts to create your account in seconds.

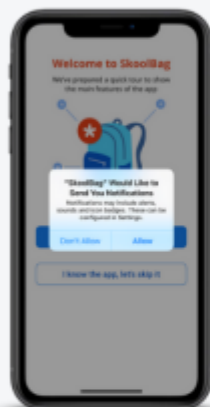
3. Add your School

Type your school's name and press enter. Tap the plus icon to add.



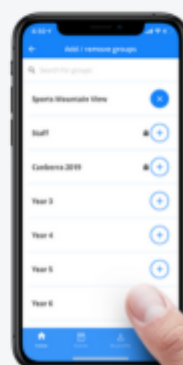
4. Allow Notifications

Ensure you Allow SkoolBag to send you push notifications when prompted.



5. Subscribe to Groups

Select Year Groups / Sports Teams to appear in your feed.





Instantly translate this newsletter to 100+ languages

With our Google Translation integration, you can access your newsletter in ANY language!

OR

Download the skoolbag multi-language App: SKB: Multi-language in the App Store

Deputy Principal Message





Helen Cox - Deputy Principal: Achievement and Potential

ACT Student Reporting

Very shortly, student reports will go home to families. Teachers of students in Kindergarten to Year 10 report on how a student is progressing against achievement standards for each learning area or subject in the [Australian Curriculum](#). The Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards describe the knowledge, skills and understandings a student is expected to learn in each subject for their year level.

The end-of-semester reports for students in Years 1 to 10 provide parents with an assessment of their children's achievement against the Achievement Standards in the Australian Curriculum for each subject studied. Grades from A to E are used to report on student progress against the standards.

When a student receives a 'C' grade, it means they have demonstrated the quality of learning described in the Achievement Standard, based on the content studied in the reporting period. If a student receives a 'C' in both semester 1 and 2 reports, it indicates that the student has made progress, and learned new knowledge and skills based on the new and more challenging material studied.

A student's report will list a grade for each subject studied.

The following A-E descriptors will appear on the report:

- A demonstrating outstanding achievement of the standard
- B demonstrating a high achievement of the standard
- **C demonstrating achievement of the standard**

- D demonstrating partial achievement of the standard
- E demonstrating limited achievement of the standard.

A descriptive scale is used to report on a Kindergarten student's achievement against the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards for each subject rather than a grade from A to E.

Teachers also write comments on the reports to provide additional information about a student's strengths and indicate areas for development and strategies for improvement.

Helen Cox



Marijana Pasalic - Deputy Principal: Inclusion, Diversity and Wellbeing

My favourite movie of all time is 1985 cult classic 'The Breakfast Club'. It is the story of a group of five high school students, with nothing in common, forced to spend a Saturday together in the school library after being given a detention for negative behaviour incidents they were involved in. One staff member, Mr. Vernon (the deputy principal), is supervising. He is authoritarian in his style, speaking down to the students, never asking the students questions, never showing concern for their wellbeing and ensuring they knew they were there to be punished. He is the boss. He decides their fate. The students are basically instructed not to talk or move from their seats.

I won't write too much, just in case you haven't seen it. I wouldn't want to give away the plot. However, it did get me thinking about how we address negative behaviours in schools today. At Palmerston, under the framework of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), we take an educative approach to behaviour management. In the classroom we do not punish students for getting things wrong, or misunderstanding learning intentions. We think about the many ways we can offer support to students to help them reach their learning goals. We re-teach the concept, we scaffold the learning and offer the required support. Misbehaviour should be treated in the same way - This means that we approach misbehaviour as a learning error and see negative incidents as a teachable moment.

One way we are doing this is to offer a safe, quiet space for students to access when things go wrong. This space is currently called The Blue Room. The Blue Room allows students to sit one on one with an executive staff member to learn vital social skills to help them interact more positively with others in the school environment. It is a place to focus on engagement. The Blue Room is not a punishment, it is not detention, it is not a place to ignore student problems as Mr. Vernon did, in the film the Breakfast Club, all those years ago. The Blue Room is a place of care, a place to rest and a place to learn. Discussions in the Blue Room are focused on restorative questions to help change behaviours and repair relationships in the school. During restorative conversations staff will ask questions that may include;

1. Tell me what happened?
2. What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
3. What have been your thoughts/feelings since the incident?
4. Who was affected and how?
5. What can we do to make things right?

The Blue Room has been quite successful to date. Students have been open and honest in their responses to restorative conversations and have worked hard to take on advice from adults. We hope to see this continue and are so proud of all the students who have made a determined effort to interact more productively and positively with those around them. This has made our school a safer, more positive, place to be.

Marijana Pasalic



Absence Notifications

An important part of our transition into the new School Administration System (SAS) is sending SMS messages to inform of student absences. You will receive an SMS message to let you know your child has been recorded as absent on the morning of their absence. We will endeavour to send this by 9.30am every day. This will reassure you of your child's arrival at school and make it easier for you to keep your child's attendance record up-to-date when they are absent.

You simply reply via SMS, with your child's name and the reason for your child's absence and this will be saved directly to child's attendance records. If you do not reply, your child's absence will be recorded as "unexplained". For unexpected absences, responding to the SMS will streamline our processes. The preferred way of explaining your child's absence will be responding to the txt message. Please note the Skoolbag absence notification is no longer available for absence notifications.. **If your child arrives at school after 9.05am they must be signed in via the front office .**

Some examples of Parent Replies:

(Student Name) is sick today, thanks *(Parent Name)*

(Student Name) *(Roll Class)* was late to school this morning because, thanks *(Parent Name)*

Hi *(School Name)*. *(Student Name)* is at home sick today, thanks *(Parent Name)*

Both *(Student Name)* *(Roll Class)* and *(Student Name)* *(Roll Class)* will be absent from school *(date)* because, thanks *(Parent Name)*.

As always if you have any concerns please contact the Front Office on 61421440.

2020 Host Families Needed

In 2020 Palmerston will be hosting a volunteer Japanese Language Teacher's Assistant (JTA), Miss Asahi Sekimoto from Kagoshima University in southern Japan. During her stay she will be assisting in Japanese language classes 3-6, while also hoping to also improve her English skills. (Please see the reverse page for more information on her.)

JTAs are home stayed within the school community and pay a contribution towards food and board of \$180 a week to their host families. Assistants need their own rooms but can share the family bathroom.

This program is widely used in ACT schools (there have been over 90 assistants since 2004) and is of great benefit to both the Japanese program and to the families who become involved. We find that families really enjoy this experience as it allows them to expand their knowledge and understanding of Japan and its' people as well as contribute to the corporate life of the school. This is an ideal way to encourage your children to engage with Japanese language and culture and make lifelong friends.

We are therefore seeking expressions of interest from families who would be willing to host our JTA for a period of 6-10 weeks (eight weeks insideal) in Terms 2 – 4 of 2020.

f you are unable to host for a longer term but are interested in offering weekend stays, emergency back up or the occasional social activity please also return the form below.

If you are able to assist us or would like more information please either return the slip attached to the front office or email me at Kristina.collins@ed.act.edu.au and I'll get in touch. This program relies heavily on the support and hospitality of the school community and your generosity is much appreciated.

Kristina Collins

Executive Teacher & Japanese Language Teacher



Japanese Language Teacher Assistant Host Family Slip

Asahi is 20 years old and is currently a student of the Faculty of Education. She plans to teach Maths in Junior High School eventually. She likes swimming and Volleyball. In College she tried drums, bungee jumping and boxing!

She doesn't like birds very much. She dislikes leeks and mushrooms, pickles and dried fruit but likes cheese, meat and dessert.

[Download](#)

I like to travel!!
I went to many places so far.



I like swimming.
Diving was a lot of fun.



I did a bungee jump.
I was very scared.



I like driving a car.
But I don't have a car.



I can wear
a yukata alone.



I like to see flowers.
I go to see the cosmos
every year.



this year.



I like to eat.



last year.

Classroom Connections

P & C/Board News



The P&C are fundraising with the Entertainment book. The Entertainment™ Book is a local restaurant and activity guide which provides hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the finest restaurants, cafes, attractions, activities, retailers and hotel accommodation. The Membership entitles buyers to exclusive offers that are virtually restriction-free, and is valid through to 1 June 2020!

The Entertainment™ Digital Membership (app) puts all of the value of the Entertainment™ Book into the customer's smartphone. With 'near me' technology and the ability to show and save using a phone, this is perfect for the person on-the-go, with no card or voucher to present.

You can purchase a book through the front office or download the app via this link

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/2487s6>

2020 Board Vacancy

Next year we will have 1 parent vacancy on the School Board. Nominations will open on the 4 February 2020 and close on 18 February. Please keep these dates in mind if you are interested in applying for this position.

Scholastic Book Club

The P & C will now only be accepting orders via the ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM (LOOP) starting from this last catalogue and continuing on through next year.

NO CASH ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

When you order and pay by **LOOP**, you do not need to fill in any order forms or return anything to school. Your order will be electronically linked to the rest of your schools order.

Visit **[scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)** or download the app.

This will eliminate issues that include: incorrect money received, foreign money received & also no name or contact details being written on orders. By changing to online orders only, it will make the process much easier for the volunteers who offer their time to manage the large numbers of orders we receive for each catalogue.

Any cash orders received will be returned to the students.

We appreciate your assistance with these changes.

P & C Parent Corner

All P & C activities, meeting agendas and minutes are available from the school website. Please click on the button above to take you there.



Dates to Remember

Preschool End of Year Celebration	10 December
Volunteer Morning Tea	11 December
Whole School Assembly	13 December
Preschool End of Year Celebration	13 December
Aqua Safe Yr 2	9-19 December
K - 5 Awards	13 December
Year 6 Graduation	18 December
Term 4 Ends	19 December



Palmerston Pride

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly.

PARTICIPATION – becoming involved, “having a go” and cooperating with others

Zandar - 2DZ Vincent - 2SH Tomi - 2SH Manuella - 1AS Omar Hussain - 1AS Violet - 2AF Owen - KGM Jewel - KMC Kale - KGS Lylah - KKA Atawhai - KKA Alisha - 1DE Zachary - 1DE Ira - 1KW Owen - 1KW

RESPECT – having respect for self, others and their property

Arnav - 2SH Maeve - 2AF Dani - 2AF Anne - 2AF Dexter - KGM Leo - KMC Allira - KFD Jack - KKA

INTEGRITY – being honest, fair, responsible and loyal

Miley - 2DZ Devine - 2AF

DETERMINATION - being persistent and resilient

Seanna - 2DZ Madison - 2MO Tristram - 2MO Tatam - 2SH Isabel - 2SH Israel - 2SH Jesse - 1AS Joel - 1AS Alexis - 1AS Thomas - 2DZ Amber - KFD Manav - KGS

EMPATHY - understanding and supporting others regardless of our differences

Junior Artist of the Month

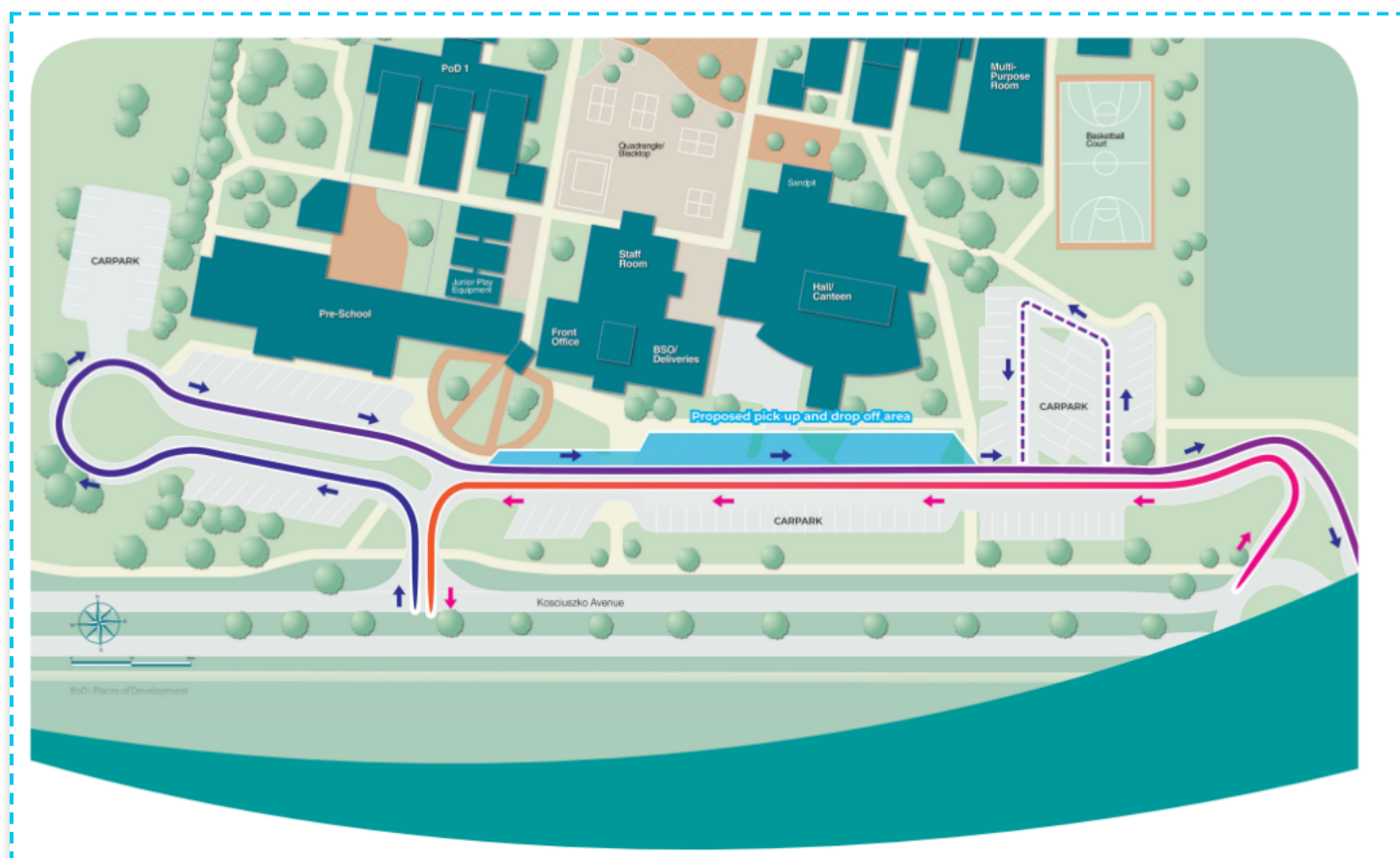
Alina - KGS

Defence News

Postings

Postings – Are you posting this year or early next year? I would love to know where you are heading for 2019/2020 so I can support your child, if your family are moving into another locality or school. You can contact me via email kristy.retzlaff@ed.act.edu.au or 6142 1440.

Parent/Carer Information



New Car Park Directions

As you are aware we now have a new car park with some changes that we want to explain and ask for your compliance to ensure safety for all, by doing the following:

- If you are entering the car park nearest the preschool end, from Kosciuszko Ave, you **must** turn left and drive down around the loop at the end of the car park, heading up towards the Administration building.
- We have a new elongated drop off zone along the school side of the car park. There is **NO** permanent stopping at all along the school side of the car park. The intention is to create a smooth flow of traffic in and out.
- There are now 14 additional car parks on the Kosciuszko Ave side of the car park.
- The two disabled car parks are located on the Kosciuszko Ave side of the car park.
- The four separate reserved car parks at the front of the school are for Principal, Deputy Principals and Executive Staff. please do not park in those car parks as these staff frequently leave the school for

Executive staff, please do not park at those car parks as these staff are not permitted to have meetings etc and must be guaranteed a space.

- If you enter the car park via the eastern end near the Hall, you will notice the central island has been removed. Please either park in the designated parks, or keep driving through the car park to the preschool end.
- You may **NOT** park behind cars parked in designated bays or along the kerb of the middle island at the preschool end - Kosciuszko Ave side of the car park.

A member of staff will be on duty until 3.15pm every day to assure everyone is driving safely and following the new structure.

Thank you for your cooperation with this change.

Community Connections



Available to all families in the ACT.

Offering a free and confidential counselling service.

Assisting & supporting parents with ideas about raising children.

The only telephone counselling service for parents and carers in the ACT.

PARENTLINE
6287 3833
9AM - 5PM

FREE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING



Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

- laptops & tablets
- lessons & activities
- uniforms & shoes
- books & supplies
- sports fees & gear
- camp & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



Contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator
Phone or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355
Email CanberraSP@thesmithfamily.com.au
Online saverplus.org.au
Find us on Facebook

Communities@Work

A new adventure every day!

December 2019
January 2020
7.30am - 6pm

Please bring:
Morning tea, lunch,
hat and a drink bottle

Hooray for Holidays

Friday 20 December

Let's celebrate the start of the school holidays with a day of fun and relaxation. Come ready to participate in Christmas crafts, enjoy some outdoor water play, or make a suggestion. Today is all about you.

In-Service

Special Delivery

Monday 6 January

Some new little pals will be delivered today in the form of chicken eggs. Today and over the next two weeks we will be learning about how to care for our new friends and doing lots of chicken activities.

All day Incursion

Big Splash

Tuesday 7 January

Our morning today will be filled with fun in the sun at Big Splash in Belconnen. Children can enjoy nine giant water slides and a water park to themselves! Back at service we'll continue summer fun crafts and games.

08:45am-12:00pm Incursion

Circus Show and Workshop

Wednesday 8 January

Adrian Dean visits today to present a show of danger, delirium and delight and the trickiest challenges nature defies. He'll teach us some amazing circus skills that we can continue to work on for an afternoon of fun.

10:00am-12:00pm Incursion

Movies: Addams Family

Thursday 9 January

Do you think your family is weird? Wait until you meet the Addams family today at Hoyts! Once back at service we will continue our theme with spooky, cooky activities all day long.

09:00am-12:30pm Incursion

Out of this World

Friday 10 January

Explore the unknown depths of space as we learn about what is and what might be out there. Whether your interest lies in galaxies, aliens, or Star Wars, today we will have space exploration for you.

In-Service

Communities@Work

A new adventure every day!

January 2020
7.30am - 6pm

Please bring:
Morning tea, lunch,
hat and a drink bottle

Questacon

Monday 13 January

Learning science is always more fun when it's interactive so today we head to Questacon for a day packed with laughter and fun-filled learning. Play with light, experience an earthquake or drop from great heights: there's plenty to do!

09:00am-12:30pm Incursion

Hakuna Matata

Tuesday 14 January

Next Move Studio brings the Hakuna Matata workshop to us today. This Lion King themed song and dance event focuses on personal development in a fun, nurturing and creative environment.

01:30pm-03:30pm Incursion

Movies: The Queen's Corgi

Wednesday 15 January

Today we head to Hoyts to see the Queen's favourite corgi. Rex embraces new adventures when he gets lost in London. Once back at service we'll engage in fun cooking and craft activities learning about the places we've seen.

09:00am-12:30pm Incursion

Water and Wheels

Thursday 16 January

Today you're invited to bring your bicycles, scooters or other wheels to service as we get active outside. Don't worry about the heat as we will have plenty of water games going as well.

In-Service

Farmer Dave

Friday 17 January

This spectacular show is filled with fun and cuteness as Farmer Dave and his furry friends teach children about acting safely around all kinds of dogs. These dogs are specially trained so even the most nervous of children love this activity.

01:30pm-03:30pm Incursion

Rainbow Warriors Colour Run

Monday 20 January

Today we participate in a mix of ninja warrior and colour run activities. This obstacle course setting will push our physical limits, encourage problem solving and promote teambuilding all under a rainbow cloud of colour.

01:30pm-03:30pm Incursion

Movies: Playmobil

Tuesday 21 January

A young woman travels to the animated world of Playmobil to find her missing younger brother, Charlie. In order to bring him back home, she must embark on a thrilling adventure. Today we're off to Hoyts to see it unfold.

09:00am-12:30pm Incursion

Big Splash

Wednesday 22 January

Our morning today will be filled with fun in the sun at Big Splash in Belconnen. Children can enjoy nine giant water slides and a water park to themselves! Back at service we'll continue summer fun crafts and games.

08:45am-12:00pm Incursion

Battle of the Bees

Thursday 23 January

The qualified horticulturalists at Hort4Kids are visiting for a hands-on gardening activity for all our little green thumbs. While we're at it we'll also learn why bees are so important and how worms improve our soil.

01:30pm-03:30pm Incursion

Marvellous Mysteries

Friday 24 January

Today we become amazing detectives as we work to solve the mysteries of the school holidays. You will need your wits to crack secret codes and solve puzzles to find the answers you seek.

In-Service



Communities@work

A new adventure every day!

January 2020
7:30am - 6pm
Please bring:
Morning tea, lunch,
hat and a drink bottle

Holiday fun at Palmerston

Monday 27 January
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

African Percussion
Tuesday 28 January
Today we will learn about the vibrancy, passion and energy of African music. Through hands-on activities we will understand how tone and rhythm can be used to celebrate, communicate, and reflect countless customs and beliefs across Africa.
01:30pm-03:30pm Incursion

Inflatable Fun
Wednesday 29 January
Last holidays we enjoyed jumping with our inflatable obstacle courses in our services. They were so popular we've decided to do them again... with water. Come enjoy our water fun day complete with jumping castles galore!
10:00am-01:00pm Incursion

Movies: Spies in Disguise
Thursday 30 January
When a super spy and scientist accidentally turn the super spy into a super pigeon, they must work together to find out how to save the world in a different way.
09:00am-12:30pm Excursion

Battle Games
Friday 31 January
Get out of the heat and into the mud as we head out to Battle Games this morning! Bring a change of clothes, a towel and your enthusiasm as children and educators enjoy a muddy obstacle course!
09:00am-12:30pm Excursion

Have an adventurous new year!

commsatwork.org/holidayprograms

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [o](#)

WHICH STORE IS TAKING 20% OFF SCHOOL UNIFORMS?

**20% OFF SCHOOL UNIFORMS
IN DECEMBER**

Majura
Shop 19 Majura Park,
Shopping Centre,
Canberra Airport, 2601
Tel: **02 6262 7887**

Gungahlin
Shop G2 /48 Gungahlin Place,
Corner of Anthony Rolfe Avenue,
Gungahlin, ACT 2912
Tel: **02 6242 4190**

Trading Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm
Public holiday: 10 am - 4 pm

Shop online: chilada.com.au (discount code: *chilada*)
Instagram: [Chilada_Canberra](#)
Facebook: [Chilada Majura](#) and [Chilada Gungahlin](#)

Chilada



Pop! Goes the Muso

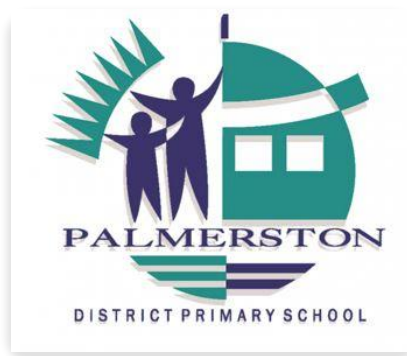
Hi Palmerston

Mr E is organising a free pop-up concert for the community. It is called Pop! Goes the Muso. See below: Pop! Goes the Muso is a free family-friendly series of summer concerts by Yerrabi Pond presented by Gungahlin Arts. The series is run to create an opportunity for Gungahlin locals to connect with each other and enjoy some live local tunes and art projects. Discover local musicians and artists, join in crafting activities and share stories in a relaxed community atmosphere. Food and drinks will be available for purchase including ice creams and cool treats from Cool Penguin ice cream van and sizzling sausages from the Gungahlin Rotary Club. Participate in the pop-up printing station run by local artist Jo Hollier and play with colour, texture and pattern using her simple and exciting printmaking technique that will allow you to explore and satisfy your creative urges. Create one print to take home with you, and another to contribute to a community quilt! The Pop! Goes the Muso stage will be powered by the Communi-fi Sound Solar Sound Bike.

Where: Yerrabi Pond District Park, Gungahlin - entry via Wunderlich Street

When: December 8th Who: Featuring local musicians: Dylan Elks, Luella Adams and Dan Bennett, CJ Shaw and Evan Buckley (The Burley Griffin).

More information at: www.belconnenartscentre.com.au/pop Or search 'Pop! Goes the Muso' on Facebook.



Palmerston District Primary School

 Kosciuszko Avenue, Palmerston ACT, Australia

 www.palmdps.act.edu.au/

 02 61421440

 Facebook

 info@palmdps.ed.act.edu.au

