Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2015 and a particularly warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us this year. We had an outstanding first day with all our Preschool and Kindergarten children on Monday and another outstanding day on Tuesday with the rest of the school.

Parent Information Evening
Our parent Information Evening will be on Wednesday 11 February at 5pm. We will meet in the school hall and then move to classrooms. This is an opportunity to hear from your child’s teacher and ask questions about the year. I look forward to meeting you there. The evening will provide:

- An introduction to new staff
- An overview of the school’s Operational Plan for 2015
- An opportunity for teaching teams to outline the year and invite parents into their classrooms

Each teaching team will present their sessions twice to enable parents to choose which session they attend based on the ages of their child/children. Term overviews will also be handed out at the information evening.
Details: Wednesday 11 February 2015

- 5.00pm General Session in the school hall with teaching staff and executive
- 5:15-5:45pm Session 1 in teaching teams (held in PoDs)
- 6:00- 6:30pm Session 2 (repeat of session 1)

For further information, please contact your child’s class teacher. We look forward to meeting you.

School Board and P&C

I would like you to consider to being part of the school community through joining either the school board this year or the school P&C. The P&C Meeting is on Monday evening 16 February at 7pm in the teacher’s staff room. The School board elections will be explained further in this newsletter. Being a member of the P&C executive or on the School Board is a great way to contribute to your child’s schooling.

This year we will be reviewing our School Vision. We last did this in 2010. We will bring in an external facilitator- Mary Brell, who has previously worked with Harrison School on their revisit of School Vision. Later this term we will be holding an evening for parents and community on revisiting our school vision. Look out for the date!

“It is a truism that we all consider education through the prism of our own experience.” Maxine McKew.

I recommend you become part of our whole school community and together we create Palmerston’s next 5 year vision of a school you want your children to thrive in. All the staff at Palmerston look forward to being part of your children’s education.

Thank you and see you next Tuesday at the Swimming Carnival and Wednesday at the Parent Information Evening.

Melissa Travers
Principal

2015 Swimming Carnival and Water Activities

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Our 2015 Swimming Carnival and Water Activities will be held next week Tuesday 10 February 2015. We will be running a junior water play and land rotation K-2, a senior rotation 3-6 and competitive races. Competitive races are open for interested children who are turning 8yrs and above in 2015. Entries for the competitive races are now closed.

The permission notes and medical notes for the water activities are due in by this Friday please. The carnival is a wonderful safe and fun day. We love to have parent volunteers and look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the school.

Mandy Lee
School Board - School Board elections will be held in early 2015
Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school’s future directions. There is one (1) vacancy for a parent representative on the Palmerston District Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017. Election of the parent representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2015 school year.

The positions for election will be:
One (1) - Parent Representative Position.
Elected positions run for a two (2) year term.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 30 March 2015.

If you are interested in being a member of the Palmerston District Primary School Board for 2015-2017 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Melissa Travers on 6205 7241. A copy of the School Board Manual is also available for perusal at the front office.

Nomination forms will be available from the school front office from Monday, 2 February 2015. If you would like to have a form before that date, please contact the school front office on 6205 7241.

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Defence News
Welcome to all our defence families to Palmerston District Primary School. There will be a Morning tea for Defence families on the 6 February at 9:30am in the Library Resource Room. I look forward to meeting you there.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA

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CHESS!
9th Feb - 30 Mar at 3:10pm in the school library. Classes run on Monday afternoons until 4:10pm. Term 1 cost is only $49 and is run by the Canberra Chess Academy.
See the notice board for further details or ask for an enrolment form at the Front Office.

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P&C News
P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE - Monday 16 February
Upcoming events:
- P&C chat-about (coffee and chat) – Fri 13 Feb, Library resource room (wk 2, even weeks) after assembly
- P&C AGM and Meeting Mon 16 Feb at 7pm (wk 3) (we would love more parents to come to this meeting)
Welcome to all 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.

Please come to the P&C coffee and chat session on Friday in the Library Resource room (after assembly) to meet other parents and see how you can become involved in our P&C. Defence families please also join us.

I am the current P&C President and have thoroughly enjoyed spending time getting to know more parents and their children over the last year. Edwina Samuelson, the Vice President, and I, have co-ordinated many events with other parents over the last year and will still be active in the P&C this year, however we will not be renominating for these executive positions.

We welcome new parents to the P&C group and look forward to showing some other people the ropes.

2015 Positions available (AGM Mon Feb 16 @ 7pm)

President, Vice President
Secretary, Assistant secretary
Treasurer (filled)

If you can help in any of these roles then please see one of the P&C executive or email palmpandc@hotmail.com and see how you can get involved at Palmerston Primary. I am at school Wednesdays and Fridays.

Enjoy a relaxing weekend!

Jo Prezzi
P & C President

Edwina Samuelson
P&C Vice President

Community News

Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
Cool Kids: A group for primary school children aged 9-12 years, focusing on teaching better ways to manage anxiety. Program delivered Fridays during Term 1.
Cool Little Kids: A group for parents of children aged 3-8 years, helping them learn strategies to assist their anxious child. Program delivered during Term 1.
For further information, or to register for these programs please contact Gungahlin Child and Family Centre intake on 6207 0120.
If you would like to find out more: Judy Marriot, who is the School Psychologist at Palmerston Primary can be contacted through the Front Office.

Come and play AFL with the Gungahlin Jets
Your local junior AFL club since 2000
Junior Registration Days: Saturday 14 and 21 February 2015
9:30am – 1pm outside Coles Gungahlin
Boys and Girls aged from 5 to 17 welcome
“Live Local – Train local”
The Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Brigade

Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Brigade are international youth organisations with a Christian orientation. They provide young people between the ages of 5 and 18 with a mix of fun, adventure and challenge. BB and GB mentors and empowers each member to reach for their potential, building their resilience and enabling them to find their place in leading and impacting their world today and into the future.

Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade recommences for 2015: Wednesday 11 February, 6:30pm-8pm at Gungahlin Uniting Church and Gungahlin Salvation Army. For further information please phone Bruce Warren 0450 356 147 or Leanne Watt 0416 242 514