President's Post

On behalf of the P&C I would like to welcome new and returning families to Palmerston Primary.

The P&C (Parents & Citizens Association) at Palmerston District Primary School consists of parents, teachers and other interested parties who care about our children's education.

Our broad role is to:

- Facilitate co-operation between parents and the School
- Foster opportunities for parent participation in the School in a wide range of activities.
- Encourage parent input on issues including the curriculum and other education areas and to maintain an open dialogue with the School.

The P&C also provides the School with much needed additional resources through our fundraising activities & events.

We run a Second Hand uniform shop; School Banking; Scholastic Book Club orders; hold special Lunch Days; and other fun Fundraising events/activities for our School Community. (raffles, Disco's, Fundraising Drives, trivia nights, Spring Fairs etc).

Opportunities for fun & involvement are only limited by your time!

So if you HAVE SOME TIME, please COME ALONG to our AGM and next meeting on Monday, 20th February at 7pm in the Staffroom.

We'd love to meet you, and to hear your input, ideas & suggestions. For more info email palmpandc@hotmail.com

Check out our P&C WEBSITE: http://sites.google.com/site/palmerstonpandc/ or ask a friendly P&C Person!

April Tinker, President

Second Hand Uniform Shop - If you need any part of the school uniform, you're bound to find a bargain at the shop. The uniform shop will be open on Monday and Thursday from 9am til 9.30am. Alternatively, you can contact Maree Somer on 0401032159 or via the P&C email to arrange an appointment.

School Banking – School Banking continues to be held on Fridays in the Staff Room after the morning assembly. Our school banking coordinator Liz Warren, welcomes any parents who might be interested in how the school banking works, or wish to pick up a banking pack, to visit them during school banking mornings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parent's action (17th February) on Public Education Funding

The ACT Council of P&C Associations invites you to participate in Parent's action on Public Education Funding tomorrow, Friday 17 February at 4.30pm in Garema Place, Civic.

The Australian Council of State School Organisation (ACSSO) and the Australian Education Union (AEU) have joined forces to raise concerns about public school funding by arranging a national bus tour to key electorates. Tomorrow the campaign bus arrives in Canberra, finishing the day with a speech and rally at Garema Place, Civic at 4.30pm.

The ACT Council of P&C Associations is asking parents not to let this opportunity to influence the Government pass you by. Please come along to Garema Place at 4.30pm to make sure the politicians know exactly how important well funded public schools are to parents in the ACT.

To find out how else you can assist e.g. by sending a letter or email or signing a petition etc., go to: http://www.forourfuture.org.au
**Community News**

**Netball ACT** is looking for teams to participate in the After School Competitions commencing from Wednesday 7 March 2012. Competitions are played on Wednesday afternoons with game times being 4pm and 5pm. Programs available are Netta 8-10 years (modified rules) and Junior Netball 11-12 years. For further inquiries please contact Christine on 02 6241 4355 or email competitions@netballact.com.au

**Hook in2 Hockey – Come and play**
As a fast and fun sport, hockey is one of the fastest growing sports world-wide that can be played at any age. Three registration days are being held across Canberra in the coming weeks. For more information about registering to play hockey and for information on our wide range of participation opportunities visit: http://www.hockeyact.org.au/

**Academy Calisthenics** have resumed classes for 2012, early afternoon, weekly classes, for all ages, girls and boys. An invitation is extended to new participants to try two obligation free classes in either Mitchell or Palmerston, dependant on age groups. Calisthenics offers exercise, dancing, performances, excitement, team participation. Enquiries/bookings call 62882858 or 0418386113. Explore www.mycala.com/academy

Need some excitement? **Come play AFL** with your local club, the Gungahlin Jets, the ACT Junior Club of the Year. Australia’s indigenous sport is a game of skill with both hands and feet played in a safe, family-friendly environment. Boys and Girls aged 5-18 welcome. Rego Days at Gungahlin Marketplace (just outside Woolies) on Sat 18 and 25 Feb, 9.30 till 13.30 or contact juniors@gungahlinjets.com.au

**Frogwatch** is a community frog monitoring program that aims to involve large numbers of volunteers of all ages to undertake frog monitoring and protect frog habitats. To express your interest call 6278 3309 or frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.corg.au

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

**Message from the ACT Chief Health Officer**
After recent summer rain, ACT Health have issued another reminder not to pick wild mushrooms. Death Cap mushrooms often grow near established oak trees, and are found when there is warm, wet weather. In Canberra this usually occurs in autumn, but as Canberra is anticipating more summer rain, it means Death Caps can be found growing now.

The fully-grown Death Cap mushroom cap is silky smooth, and its colour varies from white to greenish-brown. The gills are white – unlike the pink or brown gills of the common field mushroom. The stem is white to pale yellow-green. High on the stem is a skirt-like white ring, which is sometimes missing. The bottom of the stem emerges from a white cup, which is partly buried in the soil. The small button Death Cap can be very difficult to distinguish from an edible mushroom.

All parts of this mushroom are poisonous, and eating just one mushroom can be fatal. People should not eat any mushroom unless they can be absolutely certain that it is not poisonous. It can be difficult for even experienced collectors to tell poisonous and safe species of wild mushroom apart.

So unless people are completely sure, they should avoid any wild mushroom, and anyone who suspects they might have eaten Death Cap mushrooms should seek urgent medical help, preferably at a hospital. The sooner treatment begins, the better the patient’s chances of survival.

If you see them, please call Canberra Connect on 132281 to report the location.
Important Reminders from the Front Office

Please use a Palmerston payment envelope when making payments for excursions or voluntary contributions. The envelopes are available at the front office. The envelope has a place for the students name, class and method of payment. This allows us to ensure your money is allocated to the correct activity and child. We accept cash, cheques, direct deposit and credit card payments. If you are making a Direct Deposit payment, please make sure you include the student’s name, class and what the payment is for.

Online Banking Information
Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062 987
Account #: 10002750

Lost Property is now located in the hall foyer. Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled, including clothing, lunch boxes and bags. The P&C is also running a fundraiser for U-Can label it labels - great for making sure your property is returned to your child! Brochures for U-Can Label It can be collected from the Front Office.

If your child needs First Aid or if they need to take medicine while they are school they need to come to the First Aid room. The room is located adjacent to the front office. Please keep us informed of your child’s medical requirements so we can best support them whilst they are at school. Please remember that an Authority to Administer Medication must be completed for us to give your child medicine at school. You can contact the Front Office to receive the form.

Do you want to receive your NEWSLETTER electronically? . . .
Please email us at antia.cox@ed.act.edu.au if you would like to receive your Palmerston Post electronically. Please include your child/ren's name and class in the message.

Your front office staff – Sonya Campbell, Anita Cox and Janet Abbott
Palmerston District Primary School Board Election 2012

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 are two (2) vacancies for the parent representatives on the Palmerston District Primary School Board for the period of 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014. Election of the parent representatives will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2012 school year as set out below.

Nomination period: commences 11:00am, 20 February 2012 and closes 11:00am, 5 March 2012

Voting period: commences 11:00am, 12 March 2012 and closes 11:00am, 19 March 2012

The successful candidates will be announced on Thursday, 22 March 2012.

If you are interested in being a member of the Palmerston District Primary School Board for 2012-2014 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Melissa Travers. A copy of the School Board Manual is also available for perusal at the front office.

A nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter. Further copies can be obtained from the front office.

Raymond Russell
Assisting Returning Officer

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is here!

The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

Taking part in School Banking is easy.

- If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every Friday morning (or Tuesdays for the Monday/Tuesday preschool classes) using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or collect one from the Student Banking volunteers who meet in the staffroom on Friday mornings to process school banking.
- If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no forms to fill in! Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for School Banking. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as driver’s license and birth certificate), you will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it is that easy.
- Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online. Another option is to download a paper-based application form from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. Please note this option may take up to 2 weeks before a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book is sent to your home address to start banking at school.

Thank you for supporting our school and teaching your child good savings skills.

Parent/Carer Seminars:
Turning your child onto reading.

Parent/carers are invited to attend this seminar to gain ideas about the process of reading and learn ways to support children at home with fun, exciting and practical reading activities (Years K-10).

Seminars will be conducted at:
- University of Canberra, College Street, Bruce Thursday 23rd February 2012: 7.00 – 9.00pm
- Canberra High School, Bindubi Street, Macquarie Tuesday 6th March 2012: 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Sessions are free of charge and are conducted by Literacy Advisors from U-CAN Read. To enrol please email ucanread@canberra.edu.au with the preferred seminar date and names of attendees.
Sign in/out book
Parents who bring their children to school after 9.15am will need to sign in their children. The sign in book is located in the foyer. If you need to take your child home early, then please sign them out as you leave. Teachers will require a note for a child arriving late and leaving early as they will record this as an absence for that time they are away from school. If your child is away from school, you will need to provide a note explaining the absence. If you know in advance, please notify the class teacher or call the front office on the day and leave the teacher a message.

Animals at School
From time to time a family may bring a pet in to visit a class or a class may keep a class pet. If you have any issues with your child having contact with animals at school please drop a note in to the front office about your child’s needs with animals.

Thank you for reading the above information, as we endeavour to communicate all the important reminders each year. In our newsletters you may see an article from Michael Gross on parenting. The school subscribes to these to support you in the very important job of parenting. It is the most important job that we are ever given – being a parent.

Have a lovely week with the sunshine and see you on Friday for the Information Evening.

Melissa Travers
Principal

“Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.” Dr Suess
Happy reading

PIPS – Performance Indicators in Primary Schools for Kindergarten
Each year Kindergarten children are assessed using the PIPS Assessment Program. This assessment occurs in Term 1, weeks 3 and 4 with a second assessment in Term 4 which looks at the progress made. The assessment looks at early Literacy and Numeracy skills with a one on one assessment conducted by their teacher. Parents also receive a copy of the report sent to the school. If you have any further questions on PIPS please see your class teacher or Ms Collis.

Schools Clean Up Day
Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians help clean up their environment. On Friday March 2 Palmerston Primary will be joining schools across Australia to demonstrate their support for caring for the environment through participating in Schools Clean Up Day.

We ask that children bring in a pair of gloves, tongs, and a plastic bag to assist in the clean up. Please put gloves and tongs in the plastic bag and be sure to label the bag with their name. In order to be ready for our school wide clean up day, each classroom will have a box for students to store their supplies.

Thanks for your support.

Compost and worm bins
The gardens are in full swing. Classes have spent time weeding and harvesting this week. We have a lot of garden waste and weeds that are in need of a compost bin to call home. If you have any compost or worm bins in working condition that you would like to relocate please feel free to drop them off with Ms. Levinson at the Environmental Science room.

Education Tax Refund
You may be aware of the Education Tax Refund – a federal government initiative that lets parents receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A claim up to half the cost of many school expenses. The education Tax Refund covers a wide range of expenses including textbooks, laptops and uniforms. I’ve made up a straightforward envelope for parents to keep their receipts so they don’t get lost by tax time. The other handy thing about the envelope is there is a list on the front reminding parents what can be claimed. Envelopes were handed out to the youngest child in Palmerston families last week. Information on the refund is available at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au, or by contacting me at Andrew.Leigh.MP@aph.gov.au or 6247 4396.
Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our regular newsletter. We send out our newsletter on even weeks of school and an update/reminder on the odd weeks. As I walk around classes this week, I have seen students actively engaged in their lessons and an excitement about what they are learning. This Friday we are holding our information evening for parents – commencing at 5pm in the hall to meet teaching staff. Interviews with teachers are optional and you can leave a message at the front office for the teachers to contact you.

I thought this week we would update you on a few important reminders about school.

**School Times**

I have noticed that some students are arriving early to school. There is no direct supervision before school, but if students need assistance, they should contact the front office or the staff member around the assembly area. School commences at 8.55am with a morning assembly and children should be dropped off as close to that time as possible. Assembly is a time where we can provide important information to students about the day. This may include notifying which teachers are away and welcoming relief teachers, which clubs are on, and any special events that may be occurring. It is important that all students arrive on time to school. School finishes at 3pm and students need to be collected from outside classrooms at that time. Students need to go directly home after school has finished.

**Bikes and Scooters**

Many students ride to school. This is a wonderful way to encourage your child to develop independence. I would like to remind families that bikes and scooters be walked inside the school grounds and placed in the bike enclosure for the day. Our Building Services Officer (BSO) will lock up the enclosure at 9.05am. This is 10 mins after school commences and open it up again 10 mins before school ends. The Department has requested that we remind families that they place their bikes and scooters in there at their own risk as the enclosures are not theft proof.

**Valuables**

School is not a place for valuables. If your child would like to share a valuable then a parent or carer can accompany the child to show it and take it back home. Precious articles and toys can be lost or broken at school and this may distress the child. We have children bringing in a toy called “Trashies” which is a trading toy. Please advise your child to leave these at home, as they can cause fights and are easily lost and we are unable to identify who owns which toy.

Mobile phones may assist young children walking to school by themselves, but are not appropriate for a classroom environment. All students with a mobile phone, ipod or electronic device will need to leave them at the front office.