Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of another school year it is a good time to reflect on all we have achieved together. This year we embarked on the journey of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) as a staff and we put into practice the knowledge from our training earlier this year. At our PLC meeting this week we reflected on our achievements this year. At Palmerston we have many committees that work together on academic areas, student wellbeing and engagement. The committees have achieved some excellent results:

The Literacy committee organised and achieved the following:
- A range of author visits and shows
- Purchasing of new quality literature and library resources
- Parent sessions for reading and writing
- Literacy/Numeracy Week; NSS, Book Week
- PALLs team
- Presentations by staff at ALEA conference in Darwin
- Staff reflection on school vision for teaching English

The Numeracy committee also had a number of highlights this year including:
- Purchasing resources for Middle Years Mental Computation Program

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Term 4 Week 8  4 December 2014
Ph. (02) 6205 7241  Fax (02) 6205 7242
www.palmdps.act.edu.au

Board Members: Parent Reps: Amy Phillips, Saravanan Thavamanikumar and George Villaflor
Board Chair: George Villaflor  P&C President: Jo Prezzi
Principal: Melissa Travers Acting Deputy Principal: Sylvia Headon
Executive Teachers: Kate Flynn, Rebecca Hewat, Jennifer Holland, Haeley Simms and Georgina Sofatzis

Preschool to Year 6

Next P&C Meeting Monday 8 December at 7pm

Recent Notes Home
Celebrate Carols Night

Assembly Dates – Friday at 9:00am
12 December  Graduation Assembly

Dates to Remember
4 Dec  Christmas Carols Night
      at 5pm
5 Dec  Parent Helper Morning Tea
      P&C Coffee and Chat
8 Dec  P&C Meeting at 7pm

9 Dec  Preschool Concert & Kindergarten Information Session
9 Dec  Boomerang Club excursion
11 Dec  Preschool concert & Kindergarten Information Session
12 Dec  Year 5/6 Indonesian cooking
12 Dec  Reports sent home
16 Dec  Graduation Assembly
17 Dec  Year 6 Celebration Disco and lunch
2/3WW and 3/4 Celebration in the Park
17 Dec  SRC Talent Quest
17 Dec  Last day of school for 2014

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- Purchasing additional resources to support teachers including Big books
- Purchasing of guided readers with mathematical concepts for use in literacy
- Continuing to support and implement Mathletics across the school
- Holding a whole school Mathematics morning to engage and inform the community about Maths at Palmerston

The Healthy Child at Palmerston committee was actively involved in community events including:
- Having a variety of hands on learning experiences run in conjunction with Red Cross (Preschool)
- Becoming a part of Fresh Taste and organising visits from Busy Broc and Posh Pear
- Continued to introduce healthy eating in the canteen (P&C)
- Nutrition Australia launched their *Food and Me* program at Palmerston
- Running parent information sessions (Nutrition Australia)

The KidsMatter School committee include:
- Successfully implemented Friendly Schools Plus
- Successfully implemented Everyone, Everyday
- Successfully implemented of Peer support and Palmerston PRIDE lessons
- Filmed lessons of Everyone, Everyday for media coverage of awards
- Parent and teacher surveys completed

Some of our other committees include the Mentoring committee, Gifted and Talented committee and Student and Community Events committee. Across the year we have held many events: Carnivals, Active After Schools sports, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day celebrations, Car Boot Sale, SRC, IMP, ICAS, Rostrum, Trivia Night and Walkathon to name a few! All of these events have been a huge success and each and every event is for the students.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff at Palmerston for this involvement in our school committees. I’d also like to thank all the parents, volunteers and organisations that are involved in supporting the work of our committees here at Palmerston. A big thank you to our P&C and the work they have achieved over the year.

The final P&C meeting is next Monday at 7pm, I look forward to seeing many of you there.

School Vision
In 2015 we will be revisiting our school vision and priorities. We will be calling on community to participate in this review. We have a fabulous community and we value your input and ideas. There will be more information on our school vision next year.

Christmas Concert
Our annual Christmas Concert is on tonight! The children have all been busy practising and look forward to sharing their performance items with you. At Palmerston we all love this community event and the joy it brings to all.

Reports/Interviews
Next Thursday we will be sending home school reports.

The scheduled times are between Monday and Wednesday, week 10. A big thank you to all the teachers for their hard work in assessing and reporting on student achievements. The reports reflect all the amazing learning and achievements over the year at Palmerston. If you would like to book an interview, then please call the front office to book a time. Our 2014 NAPLAN and PiPs results continue to show a pleasing increase in our students’ learning. We met our 2014 targets, this will be highlighted in the
Board Report which will be on the website in March 2015. We are proud of each and every student at Palmerston and the growth they have made this year.

**Active After-School Sports**
Palmerston has run Active-After School Sports again sport this year. This involves teachers volunteering their time after school to run a variety of sports led by professionals. This program has been enjoyed over the four terms by many of our students. Active After-School Sports was funded by a federal grant and we have been informed that the programs funding will be ceased this year. We have been fortunate to secure teaching materials from the program to use during school hours and we look forward to using them in physical education lessons next year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our teachers you volunteered their afternoons, all the students who participated in the program and to all the professionals who joined us over the year to share their expertise.

**Christmas at Crace**
Kindergarten will be singing at the Crace Christmas carols event this Saturday 6 December. Our performance time is at 3pm. This is a community event to which Palmerston was invited to participate in. I would like to thank the kindergarten teachers and students for participating in this great community event.

**Graduation**
Our year 6 students will be graduating a special assembly next Friday 12 December and their farewell lunch and disco will follow. Our 5/6 students have worked together the raise money over the semester for this special event. Their team work in raising money demonstrates their commitment to the school. I know all the parents and family members of our graduating students are very proud of them, as are we. A big thank you to the 5/6 teaching team – Jennifer Holland, Mandy Lee, Justine Martin, Steven Landman and Todd Richardson, for their hard work.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many events we have before the end of the year.

*Sylvia Headon*
A/G Deputy Principal

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**ACT Office of Regulatory Services (ORS)**
The ORS is responsible for a wide range of regulatory and support services in areas such as workplace safety, business and industry licensing, transport regulation, fair trading and consumer protection. We will displaying information about these issues on school notice boards.
Writing Awards – Outstanding Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who received writing awards for achieving their goals on Friday 28 November:

Grace (1CG)

Palmerston PRIDE Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a PRIDE Award at assembly on 28 November:

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

**RESPECT** – respect for self, others and their property

Savannah (KGS), Melvin (KGS), Danny (1CG), Leanne (1CG), Robbie (K6TF), Georgia (1HS) and Madelene (1VS)

**INTEGRITY** – being honest, fair, responsible and loyal

Dona (KFC), Lachlan (K6TF), Kayley (2VS) and Thisuri (1VS)

**DETERMINATION** - being persistent and resilient

Zac (1VS), Zayma (1HS), Keira (1HS), Sarah (1HS), Molly (1HS), Asha (1CG), James (K6TF), Daniel (KFC), Jordan (KFC), Sofina (KFC), Owen (KGS), Oliver (KGS) and Antonio (KGS)

**EMPATHY** – understanding and supporting others, regardless of our differences

Caitlin (2VS) and Avik (K6TF)

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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.

Assistant Returning Officer

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2015 Stationary Pack Orders – Important Information

The Palmerston District Primary School 2015 Stationery Pack lists were sent home with your child/ren earlier in the term. Please read the instructions sent home. Notes are also available on the school website. To have your order delivered to Palmerston complete your order online by Friday 19 December 2014.

To place your orders please go to: http://www.officemaxschools.com.au/ and follow the steps below.

1. Search for your school: Palmerston District Primary School
2. Enter the school password: 2PALMPRBTS
3. Enter students name and select their 2015 year level
4. Select items and quantities required the ‘click’ Add to Cart
5. Review the items in your shopping cart and proceed by clicking ‘Order Online’
6. Review contact and payment details and click ‘Place your Order’

If ordered after Friday 19 September packs will be delivered to home and will incur a delivery cost of $18.90. 2015 Stationery Lists can also be found on the school website.
**2015 Swimming Carnival**

Our 2015 Swimming Carnival will be in the second week of first term. The start of the year is always a busy time so we have sent out notes earlier this term, to assist families.

We will be running a junior water play and land rotation for K-2 students. For senior students in years 3-6 we will have rotations and competitive races. Competitive races are open for interested children who are turning 8yrs and above in 2015.

To assist with organisation, we ask that you return the permission notes that have been sent out by next Friday.

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 via the front office.

Mandy Lee

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**Preschool**

I would like to take the time in the final newsletter of the year to thank all families for their support throughout 2014. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of the children and their families this year. We appreciate all the help that families have given to us in preschool such as helping in the classroom and sharing skills and preparing special food. I would like to particularly thank Jenni Palombi who has been a great fund raising co-ordinator for the year. Thank you Jenni!

I would like to thank Leanne, Emma, Kim, Margaret and Bec who have worked tirelessly this year. Throughout the year they have strived to meet the needs of all the children in our preschool unit and have worked together to create a well informed and exciting teaching and learning program. Our preschool looks lovely! This year we have managed to accumulate many new resources such as books, outdoor tables, trucks, dirt piles, fairy wings and soccer goals. The children have loved using all of these new resources and have had a great deal of fun. We wish them well as they head off to primary school.

Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas,

Kate Flynn
Executive Teacher - Preschool
Defence News

Next Tuesday, 9 December, will be a special Defence Club. As this is the final one for 2014, it will be a Christmas celebration just for Defence children. Each child has received an individual invite and a letter to all families has also been sent home detailing the event. Please note that the children will still require lunch on the day, I will be supplying snacks only.

Defence club will resume in early 2015 once everyone has settled into the new school year.

Regards,
Marina Pilicic
DSTA.

Passion Projects

Last week the Cap classes held an evening celebrating their Palmerston Passion Projects. Students from the Gifted and Talented classes presented their Passion Projects to families and friends. There was singing, dance, music, videos, posters, scientists, artists, creators, cooks and much more. The teachers even presented their passions. We all enjoyed Mr Landman’s piano playing accompanied by the flute. A big thank you to all the students, teachers and families involved.

New Introductory English Centre

A new Introductory English centre (IEC) for newly arrived schools students in primary school will be established at Palmerston. Ms Burch, Minister for Education and Training said “We know that some students need extra help when they arrive in our community. Intensive English programs equip newly arrived students with the language skills they need to transition into a mainstream school, and to learn and thrive.”

Students will be able to enrol at the new Gungahlin IEC in time for the first day of school in 2015. Palmerston looks forward to the opening of the IEC and welcomes the new students into our school community.

Thank you to Chilada for supporting the Palemrston IEC with a generous donation.

Chilada offer 20% off all school uniforms in December. The discounts are available in both their Gungahlin and Majura shops.

Gungahlin location: Shop 140, Gungahlin Square 43 Hibberson Street Gungahlin Tel: 02 6162 1828
Majura location: Shop 19 Majura Park Shopping Centre, Canberra Airport Tel: 02 6262 7887
Thank you Palmerston for your part in the Heart Foundation ACT Celebrity Challenge

Local celebrity announced as Canberra’s Biggest Heart

More than $52,000 has been raised by a group of high profile Canberreans to support the life-saving work of Heart Foundation ACT.

Heart Foundation ACT presented Melissa Gelonese, Manager of the Canberra Raider’s cheer squad, The Emeralds, Palmerston District Primary parent and owner of Entourage Productions with the ‘Canberra’s Biggest Heart 2014’ award.

Melissa raised an impressive $9,375 the highest individual fundraising achievement of the 11 celebrity challengers who participated in the Canberra Celebrity Heart Challenge. A challenge set by the Heart Foundation ACT and with the aim to improve heart health and raise funds.

“With multiple businesses, children and household responsibilities it’s easy to get side tracked. The Canberra Celebrity Heart Challenge was the push I needed to get my health back on track,” said Gelonese.

Melissa’s fundraising included multiple activities including donations from the sales of The Emerald’s Calendar 2015.

“I’m am humbled by the generosity of my community, friends and family and their support over the past 12 weeks”, says Gelonese.

Heart Foundation ACT CEO says, with 63% of local adults being overweight or obese and 50% being insufficiently active for health the Challenge provided participants with the right building blocks to turn their heart health around.

“Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations go to Melissa and all the celebrity heart challengers. Not only have they contributed much appreciated funds but they’ve showed us that no matter how busy you are, it’s important and possible to prioritise health,” said Tony Stubbs.

As a group, the 11 Canberra celebrities lost more than 75kg and more than 200cm from their combined waist measurements. They each received expert nutrition advice from the University of Canberra and had the opportunity to join weekly personal training sessions with renowned celebrity trainer Lee Campbell from B.Firm.

The Canberra Celebrity Heart Challenge fundraising website will be open for another two weeks at www.canberrahearts.org.au

NDIS Information Evening for Students in Year 7 - 12

A representative from the National Disability Insurance Agency will present an outline about the processes involved in transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Representatives from Disability Education will also attend the evening to answer any questions you may have from a school perspective.

Where: Lyneham High School Library - Goodwin Street Lyneham
When: Wednesday 10 December – 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Who: Parents, carers and interested staff of students in Year 7 – 12
(An information evening for students in Preschool – Yr 6 will be held early 2015)
If you have any questions about this evening please contact Kyrie Douch at Disability Education on 62052714 or kyrie.douch@act.gov.au
P&C News

P&C Meeting - SAVE THE DATE - Monday 8 December
The last P&C meeting for 2014 is on Monday 8 of December at 7pm in the staff room. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our successful year. Meetings are short and fun!

Items to be discussed include calendar items and ideas for 2015. Suggestion forms will also be available if you can’t make the meeting or would prefer to make suggestions anonymously.

As a P&C in 2014: What did we do well? What should we do differently next year?

Congratulations everyone!
This year the P&C in conjunction with the school held the following events:- Parent welcome BBQ, Carboot sale, fortnightly coffee & chat, Mother’s day stall, discos, school open day, Father’s day stall, cupcake day, World Teacher’s day afternoon tea, Trivia Night, and the canteen has been open 2 days a week.

Palm Café canteen
Kids can buy healthy, tasty food at the canteen on Tuesday and Friday recess. The fruit slushies and popcorn are popular. Some students from Ms. Weston’s 3/4 class have been doing a great job serving too. Please support their great work. Thanks to Leanne Harvey for doing another bake-up and to Sara, John (from afters) and Tracy for their continued efforts in the canteen.

Christmas Carols
The P&C support the Christmas Carols evening and will be holding a BBQ, selling drinks and raffle tickets on the evening.

Christmas Raffle
There will be a box in the foyer for donations of Christmas items for our Christmas Raffle. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase during the Christmas Carols evening.

Trivia Night - THANK YOU!
Needless to say there was great company, great questions, great dress ups and great food!

Thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed themselves and played a few games. There were lots of winners on the night (and a whole table of LOSERS). A shout out to the Runaway Brides table for their fantastic dress up effort!

Again, thank you to Edwina Samuelson, Fiona Allen and Syliva Headon for their huge efforts in putting this night together. Thanks to all the staff and parents who helped in lots of ways.

Hold on and enjoy the Christmas festivities!

Jo Prezzi       Edwina Samuelson
P & C President   P&C Vice President

Community News
Music Stars – Music Education in 2015
Music Education will be operating music lessons after school at Palmerston in 2015. They offer keyboard and guitar tuition in small groups. For more information contact them at info@musiceducationaustralia.com.au, phone 1 300 889 179 or www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au.

The Alliance Française of Canberra is offering Summer Intensive French courses during January 2015. The courses run for two weeks on the following dates:
Pre-School, Kindergarten and Primary School age children from 9:30am to 11:30am (inclusive):
Tuesday 13 January;
Thursday 15 January;
Tuesday 20 January; and
Thursday 22 January.

Enrolments can be completed online, by telephone on 6247 5027, or in person at the Alliance Française in Turner.

Alliance Française de Canberra
66 McCaughey Street, Turner ACT 2601
enquiries@afcanberra.com.au
Alliance Française de Canberra website.