Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning Achievements

Last week NAPLAN testing took place for students in Year 3 and 5. The NAPLAN tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how students are performing as they progress in their learning. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement. NAPLAN tests are just one aspect of our school’s assessment and reporting process and ongoing assessments are made by teachers about student’s performance. We look forward to sharing the results with you later this year.
Students in 3-6TD have been comparing the similarities and differences between supermarkets in Australia with the ones from their native country. They captured their learning on posters that are now hanging in their room. It was very interesting to see the kinds of food some countries sell in their supermarkets.

It was Colonial day for students in Year 3 and 4 on Tuesday. They have been learning some aspects of our Australian history such as The First Fleet and colonisation. The experience was a positive reflection of the student’s hard work and commitment towards this unit of study.

Congratulations to our athletes that represented our school at the North Gungahlin Cross Country carnival on Tuesday. We are very proud of how hard they competed as well as the sports - personship they displayed.

Walk safely to school day is an initiative that encourages families to walk, ride, run or scooter to school. We encourage everyone in our community to leave the car behind on Friday and find a different way to school.

The Billy Tea Bush Dance was a wonderful community event. Students participated in dance workshops during the day which helped them learn the required movements. Their learning culminated in a whole school bush dance disco for the final session of the day. It was pleasing to see the entire school being enthusiastic participants.

As we move into the colder months, more and more families are driving their children to school. This places increased pressure on the capacity of our car parks. Please ensure we continue to act in a safe and sensible manner in and around our school.

Public Education week is next week. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the great work our public schools play in educating our children.

If you are available, please join us for the whole school assembly tomorrow hosted by Year 1.

Ben Hall
Deputy Principal

High Impact Poetry Workshop Year 3-6
On Tuesday 26 May, years 3-6 will be participating in a poetry incursion with Michael Salinger and Sara Holbrook. Sara Holbrook is a Poet, Author and Educator. Michael Salinger has been writing and performing poetry and fiction for over 25 years.

Year 2-6 Parent Information Reading Workshop
There will be an information session for parents of children in years 2-6 on reading. The sessions will take place on Tuesday 26 May at 8:30-9am and Wednesday 27 May 5-5:30pm.

Preschool
I would like to take the time to acknowledge the hard work of Leanne, Freya and Richa. Over the last few weeks they have been spending numerous out of school hours compiling a development summary for each child. The purpose of these is to provide comprehensive and accurate feedback regarding the progress of your child. These developmental surveys reflect both the philosophy of Palmerston Preschool as well as the learning outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework. This framework is utilised to support all curriculum decision making in order to extend and enrich children’s learning from birth to five years. The developmental summary will be sent home at the end of week 9 this term.
We thank the families who were able to attend our information session regarding preschool in 2016. It was a cold night and we appreciate families coming into the preschool to discover what we offer. To complement this we are conducting tours on a Monday and Friday morning at 9:30am during the month
of May. We are more than happy to operate tours out of these time if needed. Please contact our staff on 6205 7241 for more information.

We have some exciting excursions and incursions occurring over the next few weeks. We are looking forward to the incursion from the staff at National Parks and Conservation as well as attending an excursion to the Botanical Gardens. I’m certain that these will be a great deal of fun as well as meeting the educational aims of creating links and connecting children with the community.

School photos have been taken this week. It was lovely to see the children in their school uniforms and to provide the opportunity for some children to have a family photo with their siblings from “the big school”. Watch this space for information around the return date for these photos.

Have a lovely week,
Kate Flynn

Preschool Enrolments 2016
Preschool Enrolments for 2016 opened on Tuesday 28 April 2015. Children enrolling for Preschool in 2016 need to turn 4 years of age by 30 April 2016. Enrolment forms can be found online at the link below:
Application to Enrol in an ACT School

Semester 1 Reports 2015
Reports will be sent home with children in week 9. Preschool children will receive a developmental summary report. If your child is in Kindergarten you will receive the school report. Children in Year 1-6 you will receive a copy of the school report and an A-E report.

As parents/carers you have the option of withdrawing your child from the A-E reporting process. This means that your child will still be awarded an A-E grade in the key learning areas, and a copy of the A-E report will go onto their school file. However, an A-E report will not be sent home with your child. You will receive only the school report.

If you choose to withdraw your child from the A-E reporting process, please advise the school in writing.

Please indicate below whether you require duplicate copies of your child’s report.

Request for duplicate reports – please return to the Front Office – Semester 1, 2015

I will require a duplicate copy of my child/ren’s report.

My child/ren’s name/s are _________________________________

class __________________

class __________________

class __________________

Please address the duplicate report to: (please include name & address)

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

In Kindergarten this year we have been busy learning all about our numbers, shapes and patterns. In maths, our program focuses on developing early maths strategies and building understanding and application of number strategies. Here are some photos of students in Kindergarten participating in a range of maths activities.

In English lessons we are becoming fantastic readers and writers. Each day we participate in English rotations, which focus on giving the students skills and knowledge to build on their reading and writing. Here are some photos of the students engaging in literacy activities.
Mathletics and Reading Eggs Subscriptions are ending this term
As the natural progression of information technology and education develops, and after great discussion, we have elected to discontinue our subscription to Mathletics and Reading Eggs. Teachers, students and parents are using numerous other apps, websites and games to assist in the development of numeracy and reading skills, therefore we are finding that these resources are not used as frequently as before. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Palmerston P & C for their contribution of funds towards these resources that have assisted many students at Palmerston. If you would like to continue to use these resources at home, there are family subscriptions available online. The school subscription will expire at the end of this term.

Athletics Carnival 2015
Our annual athletics carnival will be held on Thursday 11 June. All participating students will earn points for their house group, the house groups are as follows:
Gudgenby: yellow
Snowy: blue
Cotter: red
Murrumbidgee: green

Parents are welcome to attend as spectators or can volunteer to assist on the day. Please find below the estimated running time of the carnival, if you would like to attend for your child’s race.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:15-10:30 | 10yrs, 800m  
11yrs, 800m  
12yrs, 800m  
8yrs, 70m  
9yrs, 70m  
10yrs, 100m  
11yrs, 100m |
| 10:30-11 | Preschool and Kindergarten, 50m  
Yr 1 and 2, 70m |
| 11:30 | Novelty events K-6 |
| 12-1 | 12yrs, 100m  
8yrs, 100m  
9yrs, 100m  
10yrs, 200m |
| 1:50-2:30 | 11yrs, 200m  
12yrs, 200m  
Teacher race if time allows |

Defence News
I hope everyone had a great time at the Billy Tea bush dance last Friday night. Events like this help to build a strong school community, which benefits us all. If anyone is interested in helping out at school, there are a variety of ways to be involved. Volunteers are always needed for many jobs from school banking, covering library books, helping at sports carnivals and helping out with events such as the bush dance. It’s a great way to meet people and make friends whilst getting to know more about the school. If you’re interested, just let me know.
Attendance at courses for professional development is a requirement of my role as DSTA. As such, I will be attending a course on Friday 5 June and there will be no Defence Club on this day. Please discuss this with your child. I hope this doesn’t cause too much disappointment.

Regards,

Marina Pilicic
DSTA

---

**Gold Creek School Open Night**

On Thursday evening we welcomed over 200 parents and carers to the Senior Site for our Year 7 2016 Open Night. During this time we shared our IB MYP journey and our commitment to the development of the whole child. If you missed the evening, information is also available on our website. Enrolments for 2016 are open and we encourage families to complete the online enrolments in preparation for 2016. For those who attended the evening, we ask that you take a few minutes to provide us with some feedback. Please follow the link below to complete the survey.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YQJK3F3

Priscilla Wray
Acting Principal Gold Creek School

---

**P&C News**

**Entertainment Books**


Or purchase with cash at the front office. For any questions, please contact Jenni Palombi on 0416 180 225

---

**Community News**

SDN Children’s Services is now offering services for children with diagnosed developmental delays or disability in the ACT who have an NDIS plan. Our focus is to enable families with children to participate and be included in their community. Our service, based at Namadgi School, is called Early Childhood Links and we will work with families across the whole of the ACT. Our focus is on supporting families to achieve the dreams and goals they have for their children (birth to 8 years) through therapeutic supports from our team of professionals. We are an approved provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and have teachers, physiotherapists, social workers, speech pathologists and occupational therapists as part of our team. Please call for more information 1300 407 746 or view our website at [http://www.sdn.org.au/support-services/ndis-services-in-the-act/](http://www.sdn.org.au/support-services/ndis-services-in-the-act/)
Queanbeyan Winter 2015 Cartooning Camps – The Illustrating Man
We are coming to Queanbeyan to run our special week long cartooning workshop in July 2015 school holidays for children. Dates: 6-10th July 2015
Please see website for further information: https://www.illustrating-man.com