



Palmerston District Primary School Newsletter Issue 2 2023

Principal



Yuma families,

Week 6 over and what a big week it has been!

SCHOOL REVIEW

Many thanks to the families involved in our recent School Review – giving us your time to talk with our panel about our school this week and adding to the overall picture of our school's performance across the last four years.

Every five years, schools in the ACT undergo a School Review – this is a time where we are ranked against nine domains within the National School Improvement Tool. In preparation for School Review, late last year we submitted written statements against the nine domains and selected evidence to support the claims we made. This took over 100 hours of work in selecting the most appropriate pieces of work across the last 4 years.

The panel arrived this week, Graeme Hall from ACER in QLD, Nicole Nicholson- Principal of Charles Weston School, and Bec Smith from School Improvement Team within our Directorate.

The panel met with all members of the leadership team, over 30 teachers, LSA's, Front Office staff, Mr Phil, parents, students from Yrs 3,5 and 6 as well as colleagues from the Directorate. They read, listened, observed, synthesised all of the input and ranked us against four levels within each domain.

Today, the panel shared the entire report findings with the leadership team, and we were incredibly proud of the consistent ranking of high levels, we felt immensely proud. Then the whole staff listened to the presentation of the panels: commendations, affirmations and recommendations to consider for our next five year Strategic Plan.

It was heart warming to hear many positives, with the highest rating possible for Domain 3 – A culture that promotes learning and Domain 8 – Effective Pedagogical Practices. We are proud that the strategic direction we shaped in 2019, has lead us strongly, with integrity and equity, to where we are today. Even through the uncharted times of Covid 19 and remote learning and all the new

demands bestowed upon us – we were relentless in our approach and kept the pulse of belonging and learning strong. Today, we are justifiably feeling very proud of our entire learning community.

FOCUS PRIORITIES FOR 2023

From attending our Information Evening back in week 3, and from seeing the PowerPoint presentations, you will already know our two priorities for 2023:

- Improve students' reading capabilities
- Improve students' ability to connect with learning

Very soon, we will be announcing Parent Reading workshops, and throughout the year several more Parent Workshops, we really hope you can come along --- you are our valuable partners in learning and giving your child the best support from home. Please keep an eye out for upcoming dates.

CONNECTIONS IN ALL DIRECTIONS

This is our motto for the year, and we are still hoping that families can contribute to every classroom, words from the many different languages we know are spoken across our multicultural families. We would dearly love to know how to write, spell and pronounce greetings of hello/goodbye... and other frequently used words/phrases. We would love to know vocabulary such as mathematical terms – square, triangle etc... we would love to see how 10 minutes of your time in writing words in your scripts and their meaning could be brought into every classroom – please help us achieve this vision!

Until next time, enjoy living and learning on Ngunnawal Country and making connections in all directions.

Kate Smith

Principal

Deputy Principal



It is always such a joy to speak with people about how wonderful our staff and students are here at Palmerston District Primary School. Over the past week alone I have had many opportunities to congratulate students on a job well done, to learn from our teaching and support staff and to hear wonderful feedback from parents about what is happening for their child here at school. The K-2 assembly was a hit! I don't think I have seen so many parents in our school hall before, in fact we

had to keep adding rows of chairs to accommodate everyone. It was such a joy to see students waving at parents/carers/friends. Our students displayed exceptional manners, confidence and pride in their presentations. I am looking forward to many more reasons for us to all gather together. Shortly, there will be information coming to you about the end of term Easter Hat Parade – such a wonderful way to share our creativity and have fun together. It has also been wonderful to see K-2 staff and students participating in Mindful Monday activities that are focused on supporting students to be safe, respectful learners. There is a sense of belonging in each pod and it is so wonderful to walk into learning spaces and see students engaged in various activities.

Our students are deep into their inquiry learning units. Concepts being explored are identity, connections and discovering items and ways of living in the past, compared to the present. Students are posing questions and exploring many resources to make connections in all directions of their learning.

Our students have been focused on reading, as well as writing and work in Mathematics. Our students are taking home readers and little reading nooks are popping up in almost every classroom. It has been wonderful to see Year Six students stepping up and being a wonderful support to Year One. The reading buddy program is a beautiful way for students to demonstrate their leadership skills, be trustworthy role models and also have a little fun.

Our furry friend Constable Kenny Koala will be visiting K-2 students on the 31 March 2023. He will be focusing on how to Stay OK every day: Decision making and consequences. Each session will run for 30 minutes and the themes covered are:

- thinking about every day choices
- immediate consequences of actions/decisions
- how actions can affect others and themselves.

I hope the first half of your term has been as beautiful as mine and I look forward to the second half being just as amazing!

Marijana Pasalic

Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal



Dear parents and carers,

Reading

Teachers are really getting to know how students in their classes read and what their strengths in reading are. There are conversations happening about the types of books children like to read and how to choose an appropriate level book, or a good fit book. This year teachers are using the workshop model to teach reading, which provides the opportunity for whole class teaching, small group work and independent practice time for students. Perhaps you could ask your child/ren about the books they are enjoying at school. Most classes are also enjoying a class novel which you might like to ask about as well.

Concept based inquiry

This year we have changed the number of concepts that students learn about over the year. Teachers plan using the skills and knowledge in the Australian Curriculum to support student understanding of the focus concept. Learning this way encourages deep thinking by students as they make connections between the content and the concept. Rather than reproducing facts from google, this becomes the starting point, and then students are required to use these facts to come up with their own ideas and opinions. Lots of thinking is required. The following concepts are currently being learned about: Year 3 – Traditions, Year 4 – Influence, Year 5 – Survival, Year 6 – diversity. You might like to ask your child/ren what they have been learning and thinking about in inquiry.

Protective Behaviours

We are in the process of purchasing a protective behaviours program for the school. In term 2 we will have a focus on protective behaviours from Preschool to year 6, with each year level learning about age-appropriate behaviours and knowledge. Students will be empowered to protect themselves and it will help build resilience and assertiveness. This will form part of our SEL (Social and emotional learning) program.

Regards,

Emma Campbell

Deputy Principal







Key Dates



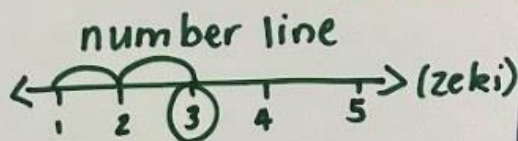
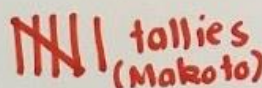
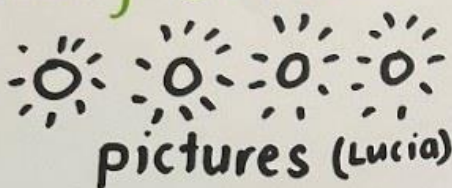
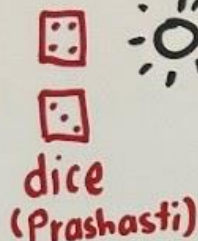
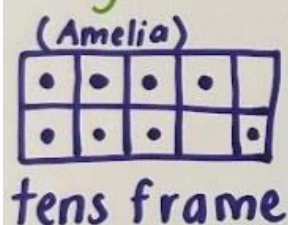
- **13th Mar** - Canberra Day Public Holiday
- **15-27th Mar** - NAPLAN
- **24th Mar** - Harmony Day
- **31st Mar** - Constable Kenny Visit - K-2
- **3rd April** - Beginning of week preschool Easter Hat Parade
- **6th April** - End of week preschool & K-6 Easter Hat Parade
- **6th April** - Last day of Term 1

Class Connections - Kindergarten

Kindergarten have been learning all about numbers and how they can be represented. We do daily number talks and small group activities, where students can investigate and demonstrate their understanding of concepts learned.



Kinder Green can show numbers in many different ways:



Six
word (Ian)

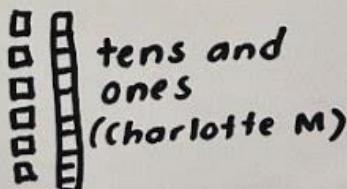


4
numeral
(Alessia)

2 3 4
number
before + after

Is it odd or even?

$1 + 2 = 3$
number fact
(Isla)







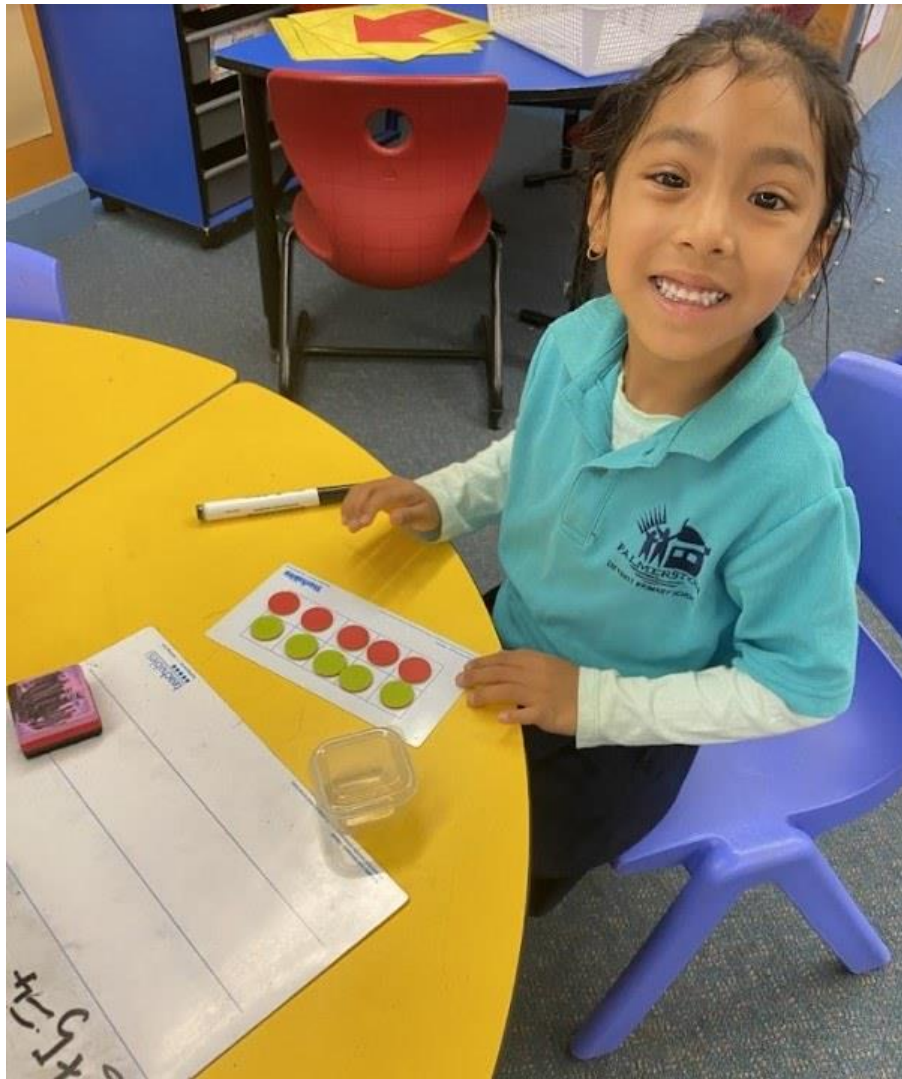


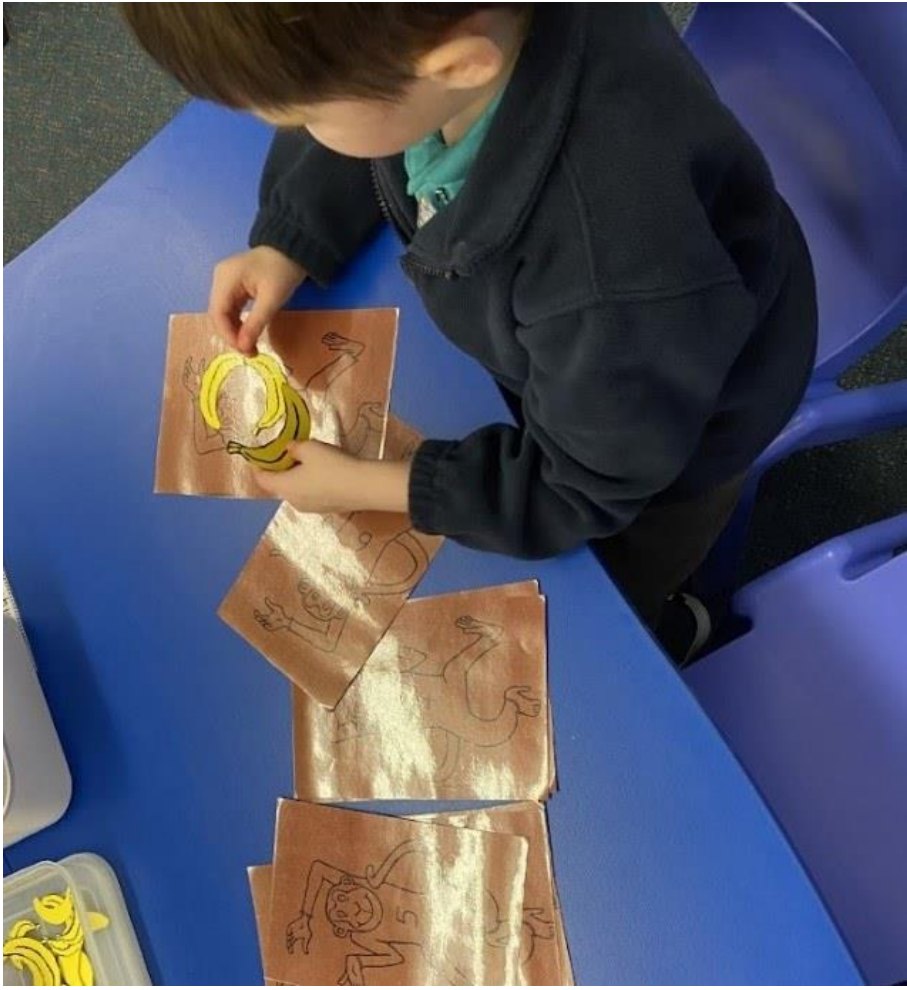












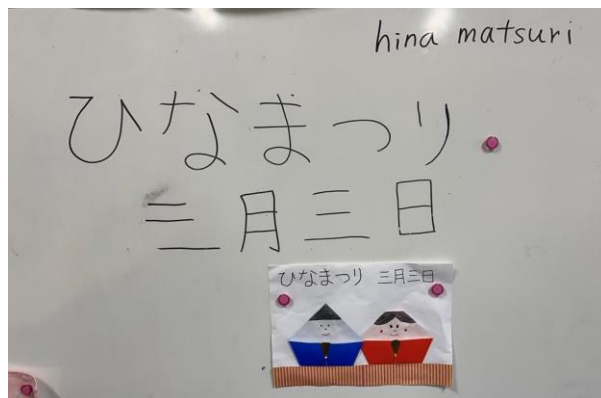


Class Connections - Specialist Programs

Japanese

In Japanese this week we are learning about Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day or Doll Festival) which occurs on 3 March each year. Students in Years 2-4 have been making origami hina ningyo representing the Emperor and Empress.

Our Japanese Teacher's Assistant Takuto has enjoyed meeting all the classes and helping students with their Japanese. He is working with a keen group of Year 5 students to prepare a traditional Japanese dance for our Harmony Day assembly - we can't wait.



Sports News & Information

Rugby- Come and have a go!

Palmerston District Primary School is offering a FREE Rugby come and try program again over the course of the year beginning on Thursday 16 Feb, 2023 (week 3).

The program will run for 4 consecutive weeks at 3:10- 4:00 on Thursdays on the school oval. A Gungahlin Eagles Rugby Club junior coordinator and coach Leigh Hancock will facilitate the learning and fun activities, giving students a great introduction to Rugby.

There will be a teacher present for the program however parental supervision is encouraged to support the smooth running of this great program.

No equipment is required of the students and there is no cost. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate running shoes, appropriate clothes, and a labelled drink bottle each week.

Term 1: years K-2

Term 2: years 3 and 4 (commencing Thursday 4th May)

Term 3: years 5 and 6

Term 4: years TBA

Please email Natalie.edwards@ed.act.edu.au¹ with their name, and class if you are interested in your child participating.

For information on enrolling in Gungahlin Eagles to play rugby this year please visit <http://www.gungahlineagles.com.au/>

Thank you for showing interest in Rugby.



2023 will be a great year for sport at Palmerston District Primary School. We are bringing back team sport gala days with the following sports:

Term 1- Netball for years 3/4 and 5/6

Hockey for years 3/4 and 5/6 (Coach required)

Term 2- Touch Footy for years 5/6

ACT Tennis (online entry only)

AFL for years 5/6 (Coach required)

Rugby for years 5/6 (Coach required)

Buroinjin for years 5/6 (Coach required)

Tennis for years 5/6 (Coach required)

Term 3- Basketball for years 3/4 and 5/6 (Coach required)


Tennis for years 3/4 (Coach required)

Term 4- Rugby League for years 3/4 and 5/6 (Coach required)

¹<mailto:Natalie.edwards@ed.act.edu.au>



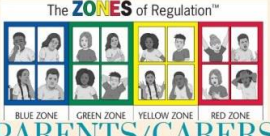
Drop in @ Drop Off




DROP IN @ DROP OFF

SESSION FOCUS: ZONES OF REGULATION

This session is open to all parents/carers and will be run by our School Psychologist Haley Caldwell and our Executive Teacher of Student Wellbeing Dugald Stranger. They will present a short seminar on the Zones of Regulation where they will discuss what the Zones of Regulation are, how we use them effectively in school and discuss how these could potentially be incorporated at home.



WHO: OPEN TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS
WHEN: 9-9:30 AM MONDAY 20TH MARCH (WEEK 8)
WHERE: THE STAFFROOM



Student Achievements

We would like to congratulate the following students for being selected for the ACT Instrumental Music Extension Ensembles 2023.

Isabel - Yr 6 - Primary Concert Choir

Jewel - Yr 4 - String Ensemble

Elaine - Yr 4 - String Ensemble

Sereivissot Yr 5 - String Ensemble

Emma Yr 5 - String Ensemble

Natalie Yr 6 - String Ensemble

Leila Yr 6 - String Ensemble

Isabel Yr 6 - Primary Concert Band



Library News

A couple of weeks ago two Year 6 student requested I help them find books about establishing a small business, and the share market. At the time I was unable to locate anything to meet their needs. However, I am happy to say that I have now passed on two books to the Year 6 teachers to suit both students needs. One book, *Better than a lemonade stand! small business ideas for kids*, was on the shelf and just needed to be found. The other, *Barefoot Kids* by Scott Pape, was kindly donated to the school through a local Buy Nothing Group.

As a Teacher-Librarian nothing makes me happier than seeing the right book in the hands of students. If your child has a request for a book please encourage them to come and see me. I will try and do my best to meet their needs.

Rebecca Cameron

Teacher-Librarian



Palmerston Maths Day Celebration

On Tuesday 14th March students at Palmerston Primary school will celebrate International Day of Mathematics. On the day students will participate in mathematical based activities ALL day. Activities in their class could include making artworks that involve Mathematics, reading stories about mathematics such as 'Math Curse' by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith, coding and cooking using fractions and measurement. We encourage students to dress up as their favourite number, mathematician or a career that uses Mathematical understandings. A gold coin donation is also encouraged and the money will go towards resources for technology that can be used in mathematical lessons.



Harmony Day

Harmony Day 2023 @ Palmerston District Primary School

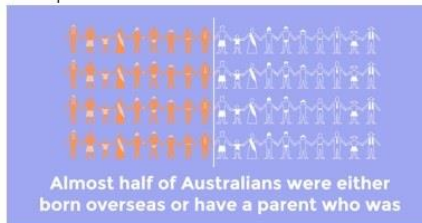
Friday 24th March

Dear Families, As Harmony Day this year is at the start of Ramadan we have elected to discontinue our plans for class lunches to be inclusive of all students. We hope to include this aspect in 2024 if we can schedule our celebration early in the week. We appreciate your efforts to celebrate our wonderful multicultural school.

9.15am Multicultural Parade on the Blacktop – Hosted by Yr6 School Leaders- come dressed in traditional cultural clothing or wear something orange.

Rotations of craft, dance, games across the school in K-2 and 3-6 multi-age groups.

2.15-3.00 Multicultural Assembly Hosted by Yr 6 Leaders on the Blacktop



Palmerston Parent Reading Program



Palmerston Parent Reading Program

Do you want to help your child with reading?

Are you interested in becoming a parent reading helper?

We are offering our parent and carers a reading seminar in Week 8

Thursday 23rd March from 4:30 in the Pod 10 (temporary office area).

The session is designed to prepare parents/carers to be effective volunteers at school and guide anyone who would like to further develop their skills in supporting their children with reading at home.

Once you have attended the training session you can register your interest in volunteering. You will be allocated a time and be ready to formally begin the program in week 1 Term 2.

If you need any other information or to RSVP for the seminar, please email nicole.taylor@ed.act.edu.au or call on 6202 1451.

Many thanks

Nicole Taylor

Additional Information

ThinkUKnow presentation

Palmerston District Primary School will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on 14th March from 6 pm-7:30 pm in POD 10 (Current Front Office) and all parents & carers are encouraged to attend.

ThinkUKnow Australia is an evidence-based education program delivered nationally to prevent online child sexual exploitation.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The program is delivered in collaboration with policing partners New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police, as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation is pro-technology and addresses topics including self-generated child abuse material, online grooming, sexual extortion, and importantly encourages help-seeking behaviour.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

Due to the nature of what is being discussed, we kindly ask that young children not attend.

For more information, you can visit www.thinkuknow.org.au² or contact Dugald Stranger, Executive Teacher: Student Wellbeing at: dugald.stranger@ed.act.edu.au³

Staying COVID Smart in 2023

Being COVID Smart remains a priority for all ACT public schools in 2023.

Students, staff and visitors are reminded to:

- Stay home if unwell and get tested for COVID-19
- Stay up to date with your vaccinations
- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Physically distance from others when in public places

Individual schools may implement additional measures to manage COVID-19 if deemed necessary in a particular setting. Any changes will be communicated to parents and carers.

If your child has COVID-19, you must let the school know. We recommend keeping your child home for at least five days.

RATs are again available from the school for students in term 1 from the front office.

You can read more about how we are being COVID Smart in ACT public schools at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/covid-school-arrangements>

Safe parking around schools

The start of the school year is a particularly busy time in our school carparks and surrounding streets. It's important that we park safely and legally to support the safety of students.

Parking on a footpath, nature strip or roadside verge can:

- Cause safety risks for pedestrians as they are less visible to oncoming cars
- Increase the risk for vulnerable members of our community like children, people who are visually impaired, and those using a wheelchair or pram
- Restrict the line of sight for other road users
- Restrict access for emergency services vehicles.

Parking on nature strips can also damage trees, footpaths, gutters and underground pipes and cables. Please also remember not to park across driveways or block neighbouring residents' properties.

As students return to school remember to also slow down and stick to the 40km/h limit around our schools between 8am and 4pm.

²<http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>

³<mailto:dugald.stranger@ed.act.edu.au>

Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe.

If you cannot find a car park in our school car parks, we suggest parking a little further away and walking or riding the rest of the way – it's a quick and easy way to get in some exercise too.

Let's all work together to keep our kids and community safe!

More information about travelling safely to school is available on the Transport ACT website⁴.

Well Being Journals

Thank you for your patience in purchasing the "My Wellbeing Journey" book from the school.

The school "My Wellbeing Journey" books are now available to purchase at the front office via EFTPOS.

The prices are as below.

Years 1 – 5 - \$15.

Year 6 - \$10.

Please note, If a school book pack was purchased, there is no need to purchase the additional book.



⁴<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/travel-options/schools/travel-safely-to-school>

Defence News



Students are engaging in a number of activities with the outcomes of connecting with each other in our school community and the wider Canberra community.

We are working on a banner with all our existing and past defence students placing their handprint as a visual representation of them making their mark here at school. The banner has engaged many students interested and brought a sense of pride to be a part of a defence family. Students have been excited to see how many hands were on our banner already and brought smiles to faces when they saw how many students were just like them. This banner will be displayed in our commemorative ceremonies and then hung up in the library. This will be an ongoing activity and all new students added as the years go on.

Our memorial garden has sparked a lot of little green thumbs during lunch time clubs. The junior students have prepared the garden bed, ready to help me plant more flowers over the next couple of weeks. An updated photo will come. The senior students have been busy painting rocks in their defence colours which will be placed in the garden to add a pop of defence colours. The students have been working hard, with lots of laughs along the way and I'm very proud of their efforts.

Another activity is about to be in the works and I look forward to sharing it with you in week 10.

Kristle Cross | Defence School Mentor

Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au⁵

⁵<mailto:Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au>





Community Connections



26 Weingarth St
Holder ACT 2611
Phone: (02) 6205 1277
Email: Child.Development@act.gov.au

Child Development Service Referral Information for CDS Stakeholders

The ACT Government's Child Development Service assists families who live in the ACT and have concerns about their 0-6-year-old child's development. This may include concerns about a child developing skills slower than others of the same age in areas such as, speech and language, movement, hand skills, self-care, and social development. Parents and guardians can refer their child to the Child Development Service. With parent/ guardian permission, others may make a referral, including early childhood educators, teachers, GPs, nurses, paediatricians and case workers.

Concern	Children 0-6 years	Referral pathway	Contact
Speech (sounds) Language (understanding and speaking) Fluency Social communication		Speech Pathology Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice Call Intake: 6207 8884
Feeding / eating concerns		Online referral Form Email Phone call	https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice child.development@act.gov.au Intake: 6207 8884
General/lower limb posture concerns Gross motor development Clumsiness Difficulties with catching, throwing, kicking balls		Physiotherapy Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice Call Intake: 6207 8884
Hand skills (excluding Handwriting) Self-care concerns Sensory concerns impacting on participating in activities of daily living Play skills		Occupational Therapy Drop In Clinic	For a copy of the Drop In Clinic Timetable Visit: https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice Call Intake: 6207 8884





Child Development Service
26 Weingarth St
Holder ACT 2611
Intake Phone: (02) 6207 8884
Email: Child.Development@act.gov.au

CDS Speech Pathology/Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy Clinics

For Drop-In-Clinic Timetables and current health advice, please visit:
communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice/drop-in-clinics

What is Drop In Clinic?

Child Development Service Clinics provide parents in the ACT with an opportunity to discuss concerns about their child's development with a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. These clinics take the form of an informal discussion and screen of skills; it is not an assessment. If assessment and/or intervention is recommended following the clinic, a referral will be made to the appropriate service.

Who should come to a Clinic?

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend a Drop In Clinic or call our Intake Service if they have concerns about their children in any of the following areas:

Physiotherapy	Speech Pathology	Occupational Therapy
General/lower limb posture concerns Delays in gross motor development, e.g. sitting, walking, jumping Clumsiness Difficulties with catching, throwing, kicking balls	Speech (sounds) Language (understanding and speaking) Fluency (stuttering)	Fine motor skills e.g. grasping toys, using pencils and scissors. Self-Care skills e.g. dressing, toileting Play skills e.g. playing with toys and alongside others Difficulties participating in everyday activities due to sensory responses

Please note that CDS Drop In Clinics are only available for children 0-6 years who have a residential address in the ACT and are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

- CDS does not provide services for
- Injuries, back conditions, and painful joints (refer to your doctor)
 - Voice disorders
 - Handwriting concerns, literacy, and numeracy concerns
 - Baby head shape, talipes, neck issues where there are no current concerns about development

For concerns about feeding or swallowing or further information about Drop In Clinic please contact our Intake Service Ph: 6207 8884 Email: child.development@act.gov.au

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

WHAT DOES THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE DO?

The Child Development Service (CDS) assists families who have concerns about their child's development by providing developmental assessments, referrals, and information.

Concerns may include a child developing skills more slowly than their peers in the following key areas:

Talking, Understanding, or Feeding

- Talking
- Listening/Understanding
- Speaking clearly
- Speaking without stuttering
- Feeding, chewing, and swallowing (for children over 8 weeks of age)



Movement

- Rolling, sitting, crawling
- Walking, jumping, running, climbing
- Balance



Play Skills and Self Care

- Playing with small toys
- Drawing
- Dressing, using buttons and zips
- Using a spoon, drinking from a cup
- Toileting



The Child Development Service may also assist families by linking them into other services and programs, such as playgroups, parenting programs, and health or allied health services.

***The Child Development Service does NOT offer assessment for non-developmental concerns such as musculoskeletal concerns, injuries, talipes or head shape.**

***The Child Development Service is not an intervention service and cannot provide ongoing therapy services.**

AUTISM ASSESSMENTS

The Child Development Service also provides Autism assessment for children aged up to 12 years.

A paediatrician or child psychiatrist can refer children to the Child Development Service for assessment where there are concerns regarding a child's social communication and interaction, including restricted or repetitive behaviours that may be indicative of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Children from birth up to and including 6 year old's, who reside in the ACT, and who are NOT eligible for supports through the NDIS or their partner in the community, EACH, are eligible for CDS services.

Additionally, children up to 12 years old, who are ACT residents may be referred by a paediatrician or child psychiatrist, for Autism Assessment with CDS.

HOW DO I ACCESS THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE?

Parents, guardians, or other referrers (with parent/ guardian permission) who have concerns about a child's development may:

Telephone

- Call the Child Development Service Intake Line on 6207 8884

Email

- Email us at child.development@act.gov.au

Drop-in Clinics

- Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy Drop-in Clinics are held at the Holder Centre and the Child and Family Centres at Gungahlin, West Belconnen and Tuggeranong.
- Information about dates and time of drop-in clinics can be found on the CDS website: www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentsservice
- ***Assessments for feeding concerns are not available at drop-in clinics.**

Online Referrals

- Submit an online referral form via our website: www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentsservice

Enrol now

Your local public school has a place for your child to learn, develop and reach their potential. Online enrolment in the ACT can be made for children from Preschool through to Year 12, for ACT residents and NSW residents in the region surrounding the ACT.

Online enrolment for the current school year can be made using the relevant links below. Enrolment applications are assessed throughout the year when submitted.

If you have any questions about enrolment or schooling, such as setting up healthcare supports or inclusion and access adjustments for your child, please contact your local school⁶ as soon as possible to discuss how we can best welcome, support and include your child.

2024 online enrolment

Online enrolment for the 2024 school year will open late April 2023.

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school>⁷

Contact Us

You can contact our school using our details below.

Palmerston District Primary School

80 Kosciuszko Ave

Palmerston, ACT

6142 1440

⁶<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/school-enrolment-email-addresses>

⁷<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school>

info_palmdps@ed.act.edu.au⁸

Visit us on the web at www.palmdps.act.edu.au⁹



⁸mailto:info_palmdps@ed.act.edu.au

⁹<https://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/>