



Palmerston District Primary School Newsletter Issue 1 2023

Deputy Principal



After some unexpected leave late last year I was so excited to return to work to start the 2023 school year. It has been wonderful to see our youngest students across Preschool, Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two settle back in to school routines and demonstrate their eagerness to learn and excitement to play. Our classrooms across P-2 are looking fabulous with student artwork and goals proudly displayed, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) systems up and running and the creation of fit for purpose areas. It is most certainly wonderful to be back and such a positive start to the year.

This year our motto is connections in all directions. Each year level across preschool to year two have been thinking deeply about what this means. Not just in their delivery of the curriculum and we can learn knowledge and skills that helps us to learn across all areas, but also how we connect with our students, parents/carers and outside agencies to ensure we are able to achieve the best possible social and educational outcomes. It has been wonderful to see so many parents/carers at school meeting with teachers to discuss the needs of the children. I have also been lucky enough to sit with many teachers to hear about their plans for the year and collaborate with them to create engaging programs, and I look forward to continuing this journey throughout 2023.

In 2023 Palmerston District Primary School will also be continuing our PBL journey. We have solid systems in place across all school settings and have clear expectations of what we expect here at school. We are continuing to use our Djurra tokens to acknowledge students who demonstrate safe, respectful learner behaviours and continue to strive for consistency when responding to negative incidents. We are focused on relationships, creating fabulous environments for our staff and students and being active in our supervision. Palmy popped in on day one of this term to wish students a successful school year and was greeted by smiles, hugs and high fives. He tells me the other palm trees on the island are a little jealous.

Once again welcome back! I am beyond thrilled to be working with staff and students at Palmerston District Primary School and wish everyone a successful and positive term one and beyond.

Marijana Pasalic

Deputy Principal

Key Dates



- **21st Feb** - Information Evening **Yr K-2** 6pm-6.30pm **Yr 3-6** - 6.40pm-7.10pm
- **3rd Mar** - Swimming Carnival (for competitors only)
- **13th Mar** - Canberra Day Public Holiday
- **15-24th Mar** - NAPLAN

Class Connections - Preschool

Welcome to Preschool at Palmerston for 2023!

We have now finished our third week of preschool and things are gearing up for a truly fabulous year of growing and learning in our classrooms and outdoor learning space.

We know that Early Childhood is an important and special time for exploring, wondering, and deepening our knowledge of the world. Our teachers and educators have worked hard to make beautifully vibrant, inviting, welcoming and inclusive spaces and opportunities to ignite curiosity and creativity in the students. It has been wonderful to finally see children engage in, and lead learning in, these carefully planned and curated environments! The joy and genius that has been visible over the past few weeks has been inspiring!

We have had a strong focus on establishing consistent routines and patterns of behaviour to support high levels of engagement in the preschool program. Already, our students are showing a clear sense of belonging and community identity in the way they care for their belongings, exercise resourcefulness with the preschool tools and materials, and demonstrate agency and leadership in caring for our shared spaces and each other.

We're ecstatic to see what incredible learning adventures await us in 2023! So far, we've had: jungle safaris, picnic lunches, outdoor relaxation breaks, complex artistic patterns, painting and exploring colour, an historic game of marbles, fantastical dress-up parties, lunchbox negotiations and

deliberations, role-play explorations, nail-biting insect races, imaginative eateries, wonderous wishing-stone experimentation, and of course a very late caterpillar train, just to name a few!

Another exciting event of note has been the rekindling of our close partnerships with our preschool families! These connections and conversations have been a true delight and we thank our families for their ongoing support, reflection, and insight in these early days of preschool. We are looking forward to connecting with families in a more casual way at our Preschool Community Picnic Evening (Wednesday 22nd February, 4:30pm – 6pm) and hope to see you there!

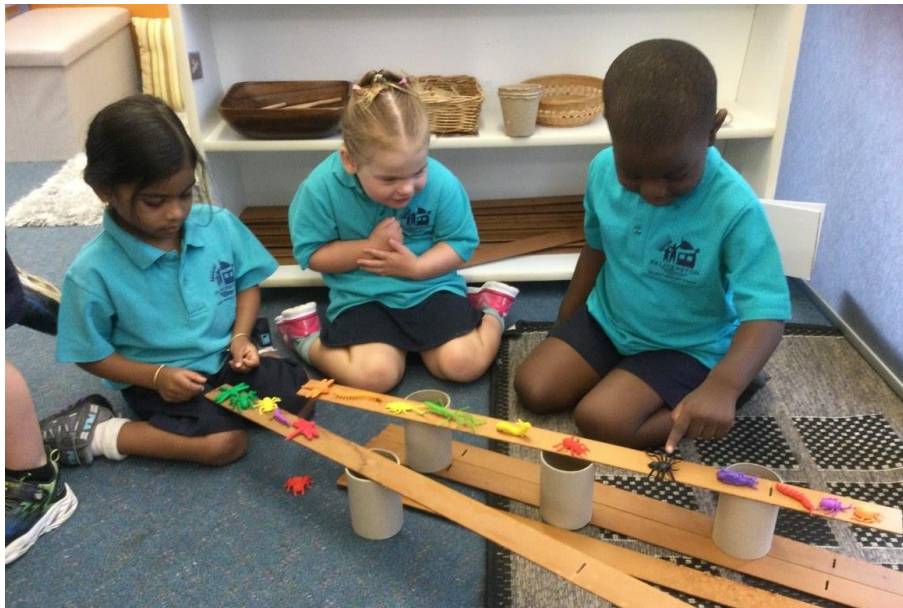
We'll be reporting back on more great things later in the year. Until then, best wishes to you all.

The Palmerston Preschool Team



















Class Connections - Specialist Programs

We are pretty excited that with the expansion of the specialist teaching teacher at Palmerston we now have a Jnr and Snr PE specialist and a Jnr and Snr Arts Specialist. Ms Cameron, our Teacher Librarian, continues to work with all teachers across the school. This year Ms Fitzpatrick has joined the Japanese Teaching team. We also welcome this Friday our Japanese Language Teacher's Assistant from Kagoshima University. Takuto will spend 2023 volunteering in our Japanese classes.

Mrs Datson in the Snr Arts role will also be supporting our 5-6 IMP Band program and the Year 3-4 Stings Program. Mrs Ryan will be running Junior Ukelele Club before school on Tuesdays. So many great opportunities!



HPE

Kindy to year 2 are kicking off week 3 by setting personal goals for Health and Physical Education.



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

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.

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

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)

Library News

The library is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday's first half of lunch for borrowing.

Rebecca Cameron

Teacher-Librarian

Additional Information

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.

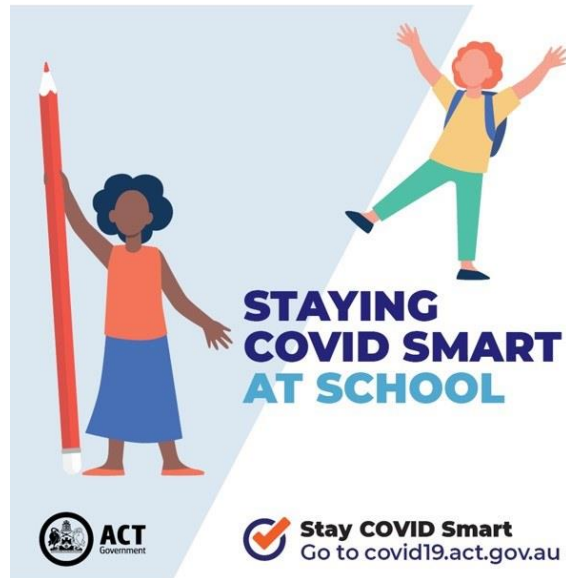
Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe.

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 website².

²<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/travel-options/schools/travel-safely-to-school>



Defence News



Welcome to our Defence families for 2023!

My name is Kristle Cross. I am the Defence School Mentor (DSM) here at Palmerston District Primary School and I would like to extend a very warm welcome into our school community.

The DSM program aims to support students and their families of Defence backgrounds and raise awareness of the unique needs of a military lifestyle.

The role I play at school is based on four key areas- welcoming, integrating, parental absence support and farewelling.

My days on site are Thursday and Friday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. I am located down in the library.

I run a lunchtime club on Thursday and Friday. The club provides the students the opportunity to connect with other defence students in our school and form meaningful and lasting relationships.

Senior students, years 3-6 Thursdays at first break in the art room

Junior students, years K-2 Fridays at first break in the year 1 pod.

If you have any questions, please never hesitate to contact me at Kristle.cross@ed.act.edu.au³.

I look forward to working with you all.

Kristle Cross | Defence School Mentor

Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au⁴

Community Connections



³<mailto:Kristle.cross@ed.act.edu.au>

⁴<mailto:Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au>



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/childdevelopmentsservice Call Intake: 6207 8884 |
| Feeding / eating concerns | | Online referral Form Email Phone call | https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentsservice/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/childdevelopmentsservice 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/childdevelopmentsservice Call Intake: 6207 8884 |

A program of



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/childdevelopmentsservice/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 school⁵ 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>⁶

Contact Us

You can contact our school using our details below.

Palmerston District Primary School

80 Kosciuszko Ave

Palmerston, ACT

6142 1440

info_palmdps@ed.act.edu.au⁷

Visit us on the web at www.palmdps.act.edu.au⁸



⁵<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/school-enrolment-email-addresses>

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

⁷mailto:info_palmdps@ed.act.edu.au

⁸<https://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/>