



Palmerston District Primary School Newsletter Issue 3 2023

Principal



Yuma families,

Term 1 of 2023 has been an explosion of big thinking and big results – so early in the year.

During Week 6, we underwent our 5 year School Review, where we provided statements, evidence supporting the nine domains of the National School Improvement Tool:

- 1. An explicit improvement agenda
- 2. Analysis and discussion of data
- 3. A culture that promotes learning
- 4. Targeted use of school resources
- 5. An expert teaching team
- 6. Systematic curriculum delivery
- 7. Differentiated teaching and learning
- 8. Effective pedagogical practices
- 9. School-community partnerships

An external panel of three professional and experienced moderators spent the week in our school looking through classes, scrutinising documents, interviewing staff, parents, students and Directorate folk and after pulling all of their findings together, they delivered a report to acknowledge our strengths and areas to focus on in our next Five Year Strategic Plan.

I am incredibly proud to announce to you that the shift in our school from 2018 to 2023 has been highly significant. Our results in Domains 1,3,4 and 8 demonstrated our highest achievements with ratings in the highest categories. Our relentless focus all through COVID 19, remote learning and returning onsite meant a *Culture that Promotes Learning* - as our most significant result, positioned

as Outstanding in the Report – we are so proud, as the whole world was tested, yet our school kept the vision and we are now bathing in very high results.

Soon, the Commendations, Affirmations and Recommendations will be released and posted on our website for all to see.

But...there is always more to do.

We have the energy.

We have the collective willpower/skills and attitude to do more and plan new ambitious goals balanced with realistic short term, medium and long term goals.

Building school -community partnerships will be a central foundation in shaping our work forwards. Working with our families, closely, regularly, hearing your voice, creating projects with you, embarking on partnerships that add value to the life of our school is key work for us... but we need our community to be willing and step up as partners.

Please respond to our newly formed, highly excited P&C in upcoming comms when they are asking for your contributions.

If you haven't yet paid Voluntary Contributions, it isn't too late, so far, we have received \$7000 from our community – we would dearly love to see payments occur across the year – any amount! Funds raised will go towards creating new, innovative outdoor learning/play spaces... we have a way to go, as we aim to raise at least \$75 000 by the end of 2024.

We **get** to do this.

We now **get** to build this school from great to outstanding in all that we do.

We **get** to make '*connections in all directions*'!

Kate Smith

Principal

Deputy Principal



We can learn some pretty cool stuff from little people in our lives. They are wise little souls who have a lot to offer the world. I have had some great conversations with some awesome students in my time walking the halls, playgrounds and classrooms of Palmerston District Primary School. I

have been introduced to new apps that all the kids are using, I have been taught how to be a Pokémon master, I have been part of dance demonstrations, I have been gifted words to add to my vocabulary and have reconsidered different ways of doing based on feedback from our students. Last Friday I received another type of education through observations and listening. While I had the honour of hosting the Harmony Day Parade last Friday, I was truly grateful for the lessons I was taught and values I was reminded of. What I saw on Friday were students who wore their traditional dress and the colours of Australia, who spoke effortlessly using foreign words and signs, who danced with joy and smiled with pride as they walked confidently around the black top. Next Thursday is our Easter Hat Parade! If anyone knows me they know I do love a good dress up. I have been busy preparing for the parade and I am just so excited. An email has been sent home with details about the parade. Please reach out if you require further information. This week Kenny Koala will be visiting to speak with students to chat about decision making and consequences. This is a free program provided by the Australian Federal Police. Each grade will spend half an hour visiting with our friend Kenny and they will be learning about how we think about and consider every day choices, the immediate consequences of our choices and how actions can affect others, as well as themselves.

Next term P-2 staff and students are looking forward to commemorating ANZAC Day together, recognising the important and valued role Indigenous people play in our learning about country and culture for Reconciliation Day and NAIDOC Week, gathering to celebrate learning and working hard to achieve our academic and social goals. Kindergarten health checks will also take place. Have a safe and happy break. See you next term!

Marijana Pasalic

Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal



Dear Parents and carers,

Inquiry

Teachers are in the process of finalising units of inquiry for next term. There is lots of exciting work being planned for students. Part of the learning is allowing the students to learn about problems in the real world and to make connections to what happens outside the classroom walls. Part of this process is being provided the opportunity to listen to adults talk about their work or something they are passionate and knowledgeable about. Teachers may send out Seesaw messages asking if there is anyone who would like to be a guest speaker about different areas of learning. For example, we might want a guest speaker who knows about building and designing playgrounds, or someone who knows lots about river systems and looking after our waterways. If you receive a message and are able to help out, our teachers and students would be grateful.

Reading

Reading at home is an essential part of learning. Reading should be an enjoyable part of home life. Do you get the opportunity to read with your child/ren or do they ever see you read? Reading can be a really great part of a going to sleep routine, with children either reading before they go to sleep or sharing a story with you before sleep time.

Over the holidays it is important that students continue to read. They may have books from the school library, the local library, or books that you have bought for students. Reading on computers or iPads is still reading, and our older students can easily access several sites to read online. Graphic novels and comics are also great reading resources.

Emma Campbell

Deputy Principal

Key Dates



- **31st Mar** - Constable Kenny Visit - K-2
- **3rd April** - Beginning of week preschool Easter Hat Parade
- **6th April** - Expression of interest due Yr 5 and 6 camp

- **6th April** - End of week preschool & K-6 Easter Hat Parade
- **6th April** - Last day of Term 1
- **24th April** - First day of Term 2
- **25th April** - ANZAC day public holiday

Class Connections - Year 1

Year 1 have been exploring the concept of 'Identity'. Students have learnt about all the things that contribute to their identities. Students participated in an identity immersion activity, they explored a range of items and brainstormed some possible identity traits of the people who owned them. Students have learnt about how family history, culture and traditions contribute to their identities.











New Graduated Teachers

Presenting our three recently graduated teachers from University of Canberra – Bachelor of Education Program, 2023.

From left: Ms Mae Keown – Yr 6, Ms Courtney Bacon – Yr 3 and Ms Kayla Forrest – Yr 1

We are incredibly lucky to have you as part of our Palmy Army and wish you every possible success for a long, healthy, happy and colossal career!



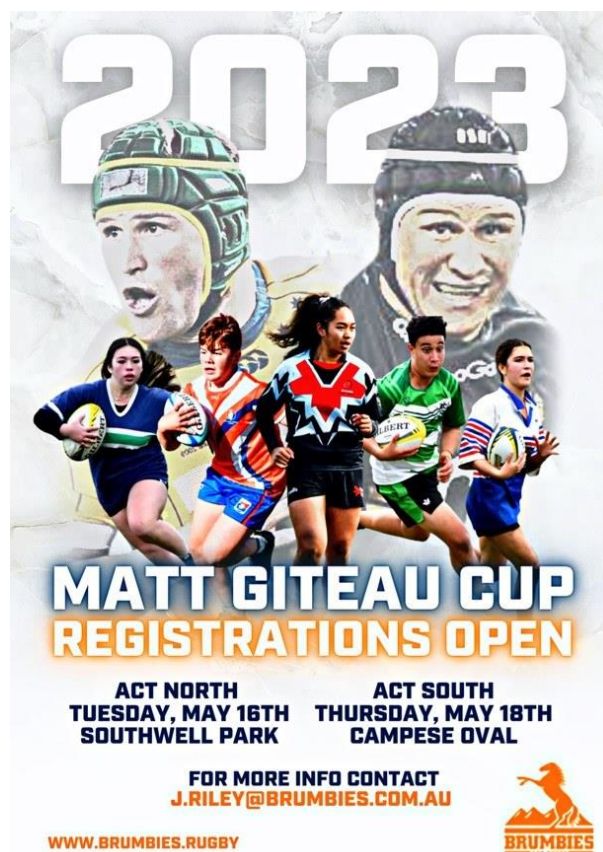
Maths Day

Thank you to all those parents who created wonderful costumes with their children for Maths day. They were truly fantastic. Students right across the school had a wonderful day participating in maths activities that were fun and engaging. Many students were amazed that Maths is all around us and is not just a drill and practice activities. With the help of the year 6 leaders collecting the money we were able to raise \$368.60. This money will be used to purchase technology equipment for Mathematical learning.

This year the school has purchased a program called Maths Seeds (year Kinder – 2) and Mathletics (Kinder to year 6) Both programs offer students activities that support their learning in the classroom with further practice. They are generally game based activities. Please watch this video to learn more about the programs and how students can access the programs at home.

Mathletics: <https://youtu.be/tDStsOk24zg> When students are lost for something to do at home perhaps you can guide them to play some Mathletics for a little while.





This competition has two age groups, with two divisions within each age to ensure equal competition - Yr 3/4, Yr 5/6. Being apart of this gala day gives students an opportunity to be active and compete with a range of schools from across the ACT. This gala day isn't just for traditional rugby schools, but also a great entry point for first time schools and players to be apart of an inclusive rugby community. Please contact Natalie Edwards at Natalie.edwards@ed.act.edu.au¹ if your child would like to participate in the Palmy Team.

Natalie Edwards

Junior School HPE Specialist

WHS Representative

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.

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

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.au² 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)

²<mailto:Natalie.edwards@ed.act.edu.au>

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



P&C 2023

After a very successful and largest turnout of parents at our recent P&C, I am thrilled to announce we do have a functioning P&C for 2023.

Our Office Bearers are:

President – Sarah Rullis

Vice President - Siobhan Jones

Treasure – Jamiilee Evans

Assistant treasurer – Tom Mullins

Secretary – Gareth Gardner

Assistant Secretary – Belinda Connor

Council Delegates – Amanda Mellors and Elspeth Langford

Fundraising – Amie Benge

Public Officer – Amie Benge

I feel that we are going to be able to offer our school some exciting community experiences this year. Please join with me in thanking the above parents/carers for stepping in and forging forwards in the Palmy Army.

Please know there is always a warm welcome for you to attend and help in different sub committees such as Working Bees, Discos, Fundraising etc... the more the merrier as we grown **connections in all directions!**



P&C Easter Egg Guessing Competition

On Thursday during the Easter Hat Parade the P&C will be selling Easter raffle tickets for \$1 each. Please bring you gold coins !



Library News

New books in the library

Last week I attended a Book Club hosted by the ACT Directorate of Education's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education office and Lyneham Primary School. At the Book Club PDPS was gifted four books for the library. The books were:

***Come Together* by Isiah Firebrace and Jaelyn Biunaiwai** shares introductory information about First Nations knowledge on 20 key topics including Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, Songlines, Elders, and Significant Annual Events. It is a great starting point for exploring a diverse group of topics *every Aussie kid should know about the first peoples*.

***Say Yes: A Story of Friendship, Fairness and a Vote for Hope* by Jennifer Castles and Paul Seden** is a fictional recount of two best friends and how the results of the 1967 referendum changed their lives. It contains both drawn images and reprints of actual photos and documents from the period.

***The Cockatoo Wars* by Helen Milroy** recounts the need of cockatoo clans to work together to care for their sacred forest rather than fight over who is the actual caretaker of their home.

***The Old Frangipani Tree at Flying Fish Point* by Trina Saffioti and Maggie Prewett** recounts the story of when Trina's mother dressed as an island princess for a fancy dress carnival. It touches on the nervousness she felt coming to school in a home-made costume and her pride when she won the carnival.

These books are now available to borrow in the library.

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 website³.

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.

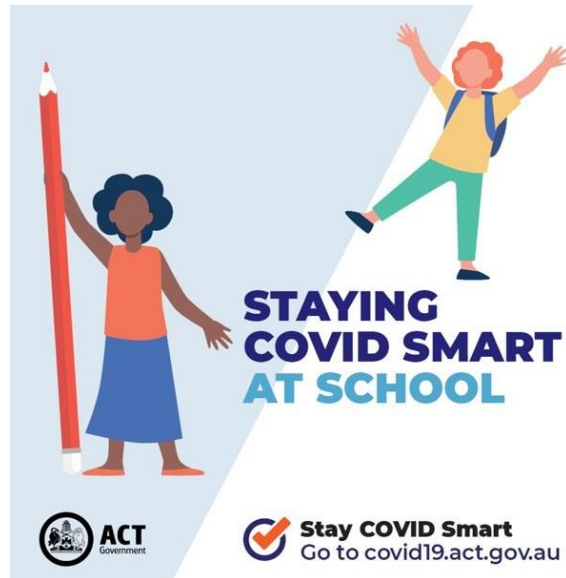
The prices are as below.

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.

³<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/travel-options/schools/travel-safely-to-school>



Defence News



What a busy term we have had. The students have been engaged in a variety of activities this term and I am so proud of all their efforts and I have loved seeing how much joy the lunch time clubs have brought the students. We have been busy with crafts making tanks, submarines and ships for a display. Planting and continuing to maintaining our memorial garden. The rocks in the garden were painted over 2 club sessions, they represent our defence students at PDPS in their family's force colours- Navy light blue, Army green and Airforce navy blue. Students chose red and purple flowers to represent those men, women and animals who have served for our country. Rosemary is planted to help us remember. It has brought a really lovely visual representation to our school and students are very proud of the garden.

ANZAC ceremony this year will be a video. As Anzac Day is day two of the first week of term and we have year 3 and 4 students away the second half of the week on camp we have decided to prerecord a commemorative video, which will then be ready to be played in term 2 to classes on the Monday afternoon in preparation for Anzac day on Tuesday. I apologise that this now means we will not be

having a ceremony in person for families to join us. I look forward to welcoming you on site for our Remembrance Day ceremony and morning tea later in the year.

Kristle Cross | Defence School Mentor

Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au⁴



⁴<mailto:Kristle.Cross@ed.act.edu.au>







Lambs!

The lambs that were visiting Palmerston last year are doing very well at Mrs Edwards' farm. They have joined the rest of the flock and are living their best life. They are very friendly thanks to the children interacting with them when they were at school.





Community Connections



ACT EASTER HOLIDAY CRICKET CAMPS

18 - 20 APRIL 2023

9:00am - 3:00pm
after-hours care may be available
for additional charge on request

Reid Oval
Chr Eiree St &
Limestone Ave

Suitable for ages 6-16
(groups within the program to be
age appropriate)

What's included?

- A structured & enjoyable program with a wide variety of cricket drills, activities and games
- A fun, team-based learning environment
- Coaching that covers all aspects of the game including batting, fast and slow bowling, fielding, running between wickets, and wicketkeeping
- Technical, tactical & game sense tuition
- Qualified & experienced coaches
- T10 Challenge Cup
- Daily & weekly prizes up for grabs!

For more info, please contact Holly Halford-Smith on 0400125342
or activeallsports@outlook.com

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SCAN ME



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 Enrolment Timeline

- **26 April 2023 (6:00am) – 2024 online enrolments open via the ACT Education Directorate website**
- **2 June 2023 (11:59pm) – Bulk round completed. Enrol by this date to receive an offer from 24 July 2023**
- **Applications made after 2 June 2023 will receive an offer later in the year**

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

- Families can enrol for 2024 at any time during the year after April 26 2023
- September to December 2023 - Communication sent to families regarding 2023 school year/orientations
- Monday 29 January 2024 - All new ACT school students commence first day of Term 1 2024

<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



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/>