



Palmerston District Primary School Newsletter Issue 7 2023

Principal



Hello Families of Palmerston,

Welcome back to term 3, we are all already making connections in all directions.

As the weather warms, we look forward to a busy term where we host different learning experiences that welcome families onsite. Book Week is always a favourite celebration – costumes for favourite books and a healthy competition amongst the teaching/leadership teams for Best Costume! We love having families join us and it is always a great time to get good ideas for next year's costume.

The Athletics Carnival is another great day out in the sun (we hope) where our PE teachers get to shine. We welcome families to come along and join us in cheering, and if you are able to help out – we love that as well.

Learning Journeys' are a special end of term celebration of learning achievement, where each class will display learning experiences for you to look at, participate in, and provide feedback on – grandparents, neighbours – anyone is welcome to come along and get into classrooms and be taken on a learning journey by your child.

In all that we do at Palmerston we work hard to communicate respectfully and politely to parents, carers, other family members and external health providers that come into our school supporting the needs of some children. I am seeking your reciprocity towards our teachers, support and office staff – everyone is busy during school hours, and everyone comes to work intentionally to have a great day – we remind our families that we expect respectful communication in a timely manner – to ensure we leave each day feeling positive. Thank you, a little shift in understanding will make a big difference.

Thanks in advance for the creations of costumes, attendance and participation in our upcoming events this term.

Finally, I am in awe of the intentional work currently undertaken by our leadership team. Today, Mrs Trish Foster addressed the North/Gungahlin Principal Network Meeting, hosted here at Palmerston, outlining our Coaching and Mentoring Framework for teachers at our school. This left a deep impression on the Principals and Deputies who attended and was a true showcase of the work Trish undertakes with our New Educator's and other teachers across the school. Ms Pasalic and Ms McNeice have just built Palmy's Learning Portal designed from feedback from parents around homework. Our intent is to provide you with relevant English, Maths and Inquiry tasks to do at home that link directly with the Term Overview. Please let us know your thoughts on this new initiative.

Putting a spotlight on excellent practice makes our school stronger and builds connections with our network of colleagues. Recognition of a 'job well done' is always an important thing to do.

Looking forward to seeing you at our events soon,

Regards,

Kate Smith

Principal

Split classes

We recognise that change can be difficult for our students. Similar to the last few years, we still struggle on a daily basis some days, with being able to cover a class when a teacher is away. We have two dedicated Staffing Officers who track absences and do their very best, with available staff onsite each day, to make the best possible decision about coverage for classes. Split groups are formed and all staff know the regular splits, however, we cannot predict, across the night, who might dial in sick and sometimes lately, that has resulted in not enough teachers on one year level, therefore students being split up to the next year level has occurred.

We are actually in a very fortunate position to have a couple of inbuilt relief teachers, we use specialist teachers, we use executive teachers and deputies when needed. Teachers work very hard to welcome students into their room and continue learning where the split is the same year level.

Please support us, by supporting your child about change and that teachers all across our school are 100% dedicated to welcoming any split students into their room. We honestly observe very happy adjusted children as the day progresses, and this is testament to their ability to adapt – an incredible life skill.

Our school, along with every other school in the ACT do our absolute best on a daily basis to continue learning. Our teachers plan collaboratively which also assists in common tasks being completed. Chromebooks and programs such as Mathletics have tasks assigned that align with the class program.

Please help us by showing support and understand we do what we can do.

Deputy Principal



I'm not a chef by any stretch of the imagination but my mum is an amazing cook. Sweet or savoury – you name it. She can cook it, and cook it well. There have been many times growing up, and as an adult, when I have been blessed to be part of the cooking process in mum's kitchen. I have learned so much. I have listened intently as we made delicious sweets treats before Christmas, as she spoke about her childhood and helped me understand more about my Bosnian heritage. I have carefully followed instructions as she demonstrated how to create the perfect cabbage roll at Easter, and felt an immense sense of pride when she said I had done well. These experiences have brought us closer together and solidified our mother/daughter bond. In fact, sitting down as a family, talking about a myriad of topics and eating together is still a highlight of my day. Growing up I didn't fully appreciate the life skills I was learning along the way. My ability to speak two languages grew! My Mathematics skills were practised as we measured and poured and set temperatures on the oven! My English and literacy skills improved as I wrote recipes and read labels! The importance and benefits of these experiences no doubt made me a better learner and better person. This week our term overviews were sent home, along with a new Google Site – Palmy's Learning Place, created to better support families to understand the learning that takes place each day in the classroom and provide resources and activities to support parents/carers to help their child at home. Within the pages of this site you will find songs, activities and everyday tasks (like cooking) to engage your child in activities that will compliment the learning taking place in the classroom. The term overviews look a little different, as we shift the focus to the content being taught at school. A big thank you to our teachers for organising these. On another note, you can't even my imagine my excitement when my Book Week costume arrived this week in the mail. I can not wait for the parade in week six, and look forward to seeing all the boys and girls dressed up to celebrate!

Marijana Pasalic

Deputy Principal

Key Dates



6th August

• Book Club due (online sales only)

7th -10th August

• Basketball Clinic Year 3

8th August

• ICAS Writing

11th August

• School Athletics Carnival P-6

12th August

• P&C Bunnings Gungahlin BBQ

15th August

• Year 6 photos

16th August

• Palmy's Got Talent

17th August

• K-2 Assembly 9:15am School Hall

18th August

• 3-6 Assembly 9:15am School Hall

25th August

• Book Week Parade

6th-8th September

• Year 5 Camp Cooba

15th September

• Learning Journey Preschool-Year 6 8:30-10:30am

18th-22nd September

• Year 2 Aqua Safe

19th September

• Learning Journey Preschool BoW 8:45am

19th August

• Book Week Parade

20th-22nd September

• Year 6 Camp Borambola

Class Connections - Year 5

Year 5

Last Term, Year 5 students created their own countries in our inquiry lessons. Their countries had certain characteristics including, tropical rainforests, coal deposits, deserts, tropical beaches and temperate rainforests. Students also had to form a government for their country, create tourism advertisements and conduct an experiment which formed the basis of their water cycle in their country.





Water cycle experiment:



Students create their own fair tests to figure out how to collect clean drinking water for the residents of their country. Some groups created filtration devices or placed water in different climates.

Students then got the opportunity to apply their knowledge of how to conduct a fair test to complete an experiment using coke and mentos.



Tourism Advertisements:

Students created advertisements to encourage people to visit their country. We have included some below.

Celecia Reef¹

Veil²

Looking forward to another great term in Year 5

PDPS Community Engagement: Reading

In response to a recent community/parent survey, we are seeking availability and expressions of interest to support a new initiative here at Palmerston District Primary School. The intention of this new initiative is to address our School Priority: Improve students' reading capabilities. Our strategies include developing a word conscious culture in which learners are immersed in quality texts daily to promote thinking and learning, and for students to engage in meaningful reading experiences every day. This is a wonderful opportunity and experience for both families and students that will provide collaboration with families to promote literacy.

Mystery Reader is a reading initiative that we hope to implement on Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8 of each term on Friday in every year level at 9am. Preschool will have a "beginning of the week' family on the Tuesday and an 'end of the week family' on the Friday of Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8. We are inviting our Palmerston Community Members too! If we get enough interest from this form we will start as soon as possible.

The interested parent/carer will be given a timeslot for their child's year. The year level will meet in the common meeting area. The parent/carer will bring in a special book from their childhood or one they are reading to their child now. The child of the parent is welcome to sit at the front with their parent/carer. Reading should only take about 10 minutes. The idea of the mystery is that the students don't know until the time who will be the Mystery Reader. We intend to build excitement and anticipation alongside the joy, experience and learning that comes from reading. Students will ask 3 questions at the end of the reading under the teachers' guidance.

If this is something that you would like to support and collaborate with the school in, please can you add your details and availability below. More information will follow regarding the outcome of this EOI.

Regards,

PDPS Executive Team

¹https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j3BiUA47dObAPXBnjWra5Hhwcgp2t1ud/view?usp=sharing

²https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zK5OncGkW2XjtYrOcF3fA_LiTw1u5pVeEnVriZsfaDw/edit?usp=shari ng

Our Community Floriade Garden



We discovered a bulb munching bunny or bunnies have been very busy delighting themselves on the bulbs at our community garden. After speaking with a parent, we learned that bulb-munching bunnies do not like citrus. We obtained some citrus spray from Bunnings and sprayed our community garden. We were relieved to see that some of our bulbs have started to appear! The garden design was inspired by the Aboriginal symbol for community. Our year 2 students and the Palmy Patch kids have been watering our community garden. As the weather warms again, we need to keep up with regular watering. If you can help with watering, please contact Mrs Trish Foster. Look out for the sign near the school entrance and round about.





Sports News & Information



Athletics Carnival

Our annual Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 11 August 2023 from 9:15am to 3:00pm at the Palmerston District Playing Fields next to school. All students participating will score points for their house group and those in SENIOR carnival events have the opportunity to qualify for the school team that will participate at the North/Gungahlin Region Athletics Carnival on Thursday August 31st.

In relation to qualification for the Region Carnival, 8 and 9 year old students will be permitted to qualify for only the 70m and 100m races. Shot put and discus will still take place for 8 and 9 year old students for school house competition only. This was a decision made by the Regional School Sport Advisory Group at the end of last year in the following communication to all schools:

To reduce the confusion for and frustration of students and parents, SSACT Primary Track and Field events would no longer combine the turning 8, 9 and 10 year olds as entries to the Regional event. Due to time constraints within the delivery of the Program, there is no time to conduct separate turning 8 and 9 year old events apart from the 70m and 100m. Please communicate this with your parent community as entries will not be permitted for other events. Turning 8 and 9 year olds are not eligible for State Team selection as the School Sport Australia 12&U Championship parameters are for turning 10 -12 year olds only.

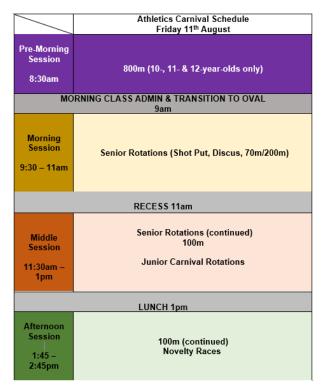
The SENIOR carnival will consist of track events (70m, 100m, 200m) and field events (discus, shot put) for children 8 years and over.

The 800m events will be held at 8:30am. If your child wishes to participate in the 800m and is aged 10, 11 or 12 this year, please have them meet at the oval before 8:30am on the day.

The JUNIOR students, under 8 years of age (born 2016 or later) will participate in a rotation of novelty activities and races.

We are also looking for any parent volunteers who would be interested in helping run field events (discus and shot put) for the Senior Carnival. If you are able to assist for a few hours between 9am-

1pm on the day, please email Mr Downey (jacob.downey@ed.act.edu.au³) with your name and mobile number.



Inter-House Basketball Competition

For Term 3, the Year 6 Sports Leaders are proud to announce a weekly inter-house basketball competition, taking place in Term 3 each Tuesday and Thursday. Students from Years 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to represent their sporting house in a round robin format competition. They may be out on the court, helping with coaching, assisting with scoring or leading cheer squads for their house colour. More information will come out at the start of next term, but if you are interested in helping out, just ask your friendly Year 6 sports leaders out on the playground when you see them!

Rugby Come and try

Each Thursday from 3:10-4pm in weeks 2-5 Preschool to Year 6 students are invited to come and try rugby on the school oval. This is a free opportunity. Last week on Thursday we had a good turn out from most year levels. This week Nate will be supporting Leigh from Gungahlin Eagles to learn some new skills. There will be a teacher present however I ask that a parent is also present to supervise your child. I look forward to seeing you all this Thursday.

³mailto:jacob.downey@ed.act.edu.au



Important Dates Ahead Term 3

Rugby Come and Try – Resuming Week 2 Thursday 27th July (K-6) 3pm-4pm @ School Oval (4 Week Program)

School Athletics Carnival – Week 4 Friday 11th August

Regional Athletics Carnival – Week 7 Thursday 31st August

Todd Woodbridge Cup Tennis Gala Day Year 3-4 – Week 10 Wednesday 20th September

P&C 2023

Huge thanks to the sponsors who supported the P&C Trivia night. There were lots of crazy questions, laughs and yes we made paper airplanes! Big effort from the P&C team Jamii-Lee, Elspeth & Amanda who helped raise over \$3k!

Palmerston Family Photo Sessions - 16 & 17th September. \$20 family photo session at Yerrabi Pond. Great way to get lovely pictures to send out for Christmas! All money raised goes to the P&C. Bookings available online -



1 - Book Club

Look out for Issue 5 of Book Club and please place your orders via online via LOOP by Sunday 6th August.

There is a free book giveaway when you spend a certain amount for this issue. PLUS the P&C earn credits for the teachers and school to buy resources for the classrooms!

Save the date Bunnings Gungahlin BBQ - Saturday 12th August. Volunteers needed to cook and people who love a sausage sizzle to buy up! Please email pdpspandc@gmail.com⁴ to sign up to help out!

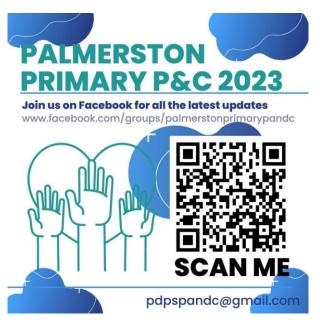


Dates to Remember

• 6th August Book Club due (online sales only)

⁴mailto:pdpspandc@gmail.com

- 12th August P&C Bunnings Gungahlin BBQ
- 15th September P&C Mufti Day
- 16-17th September P&C Family Photo Session
- P&C Disco P-3 & 4-6 (more details to come soon!)



Meeting dates for P&C term 3 are:

- face to face & virtual- Wednesday 2nd August 1.45-2.45 (pod 10)
- virtual only Wednesday 20th September 7.30-8.30pm

Canteen





Canteen News

Canteen News

Its lovely to see your students using the School Canteen. We would like to give you a few ideas to make their canteen experience a fun one.

Each week the canteen will have a "lunch special " that will be advertised on Face Book which you can select on the app.

Lunch & Recess orders can be placed via myschoolconnect.com.au Tuesday - Fridays

Recess – Over the counter & online daily.

Please remember to look at the recess & lunch snack and drink menu and ensure your child has enough money for what they wish to purchase over the counter. Prices start from \$1.00 in the Canteen.

We would appreciate it if you could not send large notes to school with your child.

Recess & lunch menus attached.

We would welcome any parent/career who would like to volunteer in the Canteen. You would need to have your WWVP card.

Thank you from the HKA team.

HEALTHY KIDS ASSOCIATION -PALMERSTON DISTRICT PRIMARY

Over the counter sales Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday lunch & recess

DRINKS:

PLAIN MILK	\$2.50
JUST JUICE	\$2.20
FLAVOURED MILKS-CHOCOLATE/STRAWBERRY	\$3.50
CHILL J	\$3.50
FROZEN:	29
QUELCH STICKS	\$1.00
FROZEN JUICE CUPS	\$2.00
VANILLA ICE CREAM TUB-Light	\$2.00
TWISTED FROZEN YOGHURTS	\$3.00
PADDLE POPS-rainbow/chocolate	\$3.00
SNACK FOOD:	
POPCORN	\$1.00
MILO COOKIE	\$1.50
BANANA BREAD	\$2.00
MUFFIN	\$2.00
JELLY CUP OR CUSTARD CUP	\$2.00
SEASONAL FRUIT	\$2.00
MOUSSE	\$2.50



tealthy Kids Canteen Menu Palmerston District Primary School Order online at myschoolconnect.com.au



\$6.50 \$5.50 \$5.50 \$5.50 \$6.50 \$6.50 \$6.50

Sandwitches High Link All sorder winktmal break entropy state Mark Sold Print Margarino) X 3000 Presso & entropy Link Vogennie (with margarino) X 3000 Cheese & V X 4000 Hann A stata X 5000 Linka I stock & mayo X 5000 Cheese V X 5000 Linka I stock = mayo X 5000 Cheese V X 5000 Cheese V X 5000

Wednesday: Thursday: Friday:	Chicken nuggets Crispy chicken burger wrap Stone baked pizza	\$6.50 \$6.00 \$6.50
Snacks		
Fruit salad Popcorn Cheesy garlic t Banana bread Fruit jelly cup Homemade min Corn on the coi Chocolate mou Milo cookie	ni muffins b	\$4.00 \$1.00 \$2.50 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$1.50 \$2.50 \$1.50
Drinks		
	nango, apple, apple/blackcurrant) (choc, strawberry): 300ml nl	\$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.50 \$2.00 \$3.50 \$0.50
Frozen		
Frozen juice cu Twisted frozen Quelch sticks		\$2.00 \$3.00 \$1.00

skip the canteen line with





Library News



BOOK WEEK

This year Children's Book Week will be held between 19th and 25th August. We will be running a variety of activities in the library to celebrate Australian books. The culminating event will be our Book Character Parade.

The Book Character Parade

A Book Character Parade is a time to dress up as a book character and showcase your favourite book. Students, teachers and families are encouraged to all dress-up. Costumes do not need to be fancy - think a red and white striped t-shirt and beanie for *Where's Wally*, or a box painted red with a face painted on it for *Mr Strong*.

For the start of the week preschool students the parade will occur on Tuesday, 22nd August at 9:15am. For the end of the week preschool students and students in K-6 the parade will occur on Friday, 25th August at 9:15am. We look forward to seeing you all there.

To get you thinking about costumes, here are some photos of teachers from last year

Rebecca Cameron

Teacher-Librarian





Defence News



Hello Palmerston community!

This year, Legacy is celebrating 100 years of service and support of Defence families. As this is such a big milestone, Palmerston Primary will be showing its support and selling Legacy merchandise from our school during 'Legacy Week' and raising money for the organisation.

Legacy Week starts on the 28th of August and lasts until the 3rd of September. During this time, Defence students and families will be selling Legacy badges, wristbands, bears and more.

There are posters up around the school with information as well as a list of merchandise we will be supplying.

We hope you can support Legacy with us!

Ella Braban

Defence School Mentor

Additional Information

Managing Staff Absences

As the colder weather sets in, we expect to see a higher number of staff away at times due to seasonal illness and COVID-19.

To ensure that we continue to provide all students with quality learning with minimal disruption, we may be implementing temporary changes to our learning programs.

If required, some classes may be combined for short periods of time. We may also deliver student self-directed learning onsite using either online modules such as Google classroom or hard copy resources.

The school may also take the opportunity to temporarily modify timetables or work with external providers to deliver some programs. There may also be a need to postpone excursions and other extra-curricular activities until there is enough staff to support them.

Every school will implement these measures differently and has the flexibility to make choices that best meet the needs of their school community.

If changes are required at our school at any time, we will write to you to let you know. We will also ensure we keep you up to date on how long we expect any changes to be in place.

As always, we remain committed to providing our students with high quality learning experiences in a safe and welcoming school environment.

Thank you for your understanding.

Staying COVID Smart at school

To help minimise the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses in our school please remember the following:

• Students who are COVID-19 positive or displaying symptoms (including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever) should test and **must not attend school while unwell.**

- If your student is COVID-positive let us know.
- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Keep up to date with vaccinations.

You can access free rapid antigen tests from the front office. Nasal and saliva tests are available.

For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the ACT's COVID-19 website⁵.

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 was 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 website⁶.

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.

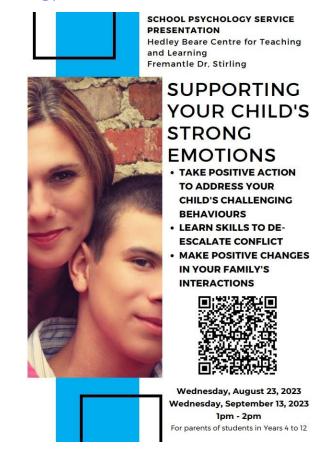
Years 1 – 5 - \$15.

⁵<u>https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/home</u>

⁶https://www.transport.act.gov.au/travel-options/schools/travel-safely-to-school

Year 6 - \$10.

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



The School Psychology Service

The School Psychology Service Early Intervention team are providing two parent presentations in term 3 that are aimed at supporting parents in responding to their child's strong emotions. During these presentations parents/carers will learn strategies to take positive action to address their child's challenging behaviours, learn skills to de-escalate conflict, and learn how to make positive changes in their family's dynamics. Sessions will be held on Wednesday, August 23 and Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm at Headley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning. Parents can sign up to attend directly through the QR code on the flyer, or by registering online through https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx=MqjU8SFsdUSb91zH6QRKKdp1CpbcloJBnMoinD

Community Connections





Phone 1300 347 224 WWW.DISABILITYTRUST.ORG.AU



ACT Instrumental Music Program

Secondary Extension Ensembles – 2024

The ACT Instrumental Music Program is seeking students who will be in Years 7-12 in ACT public schools in 2024 to audition for secondary extension ensembles.

Current Year 6 students continuing to a public secondary school in 2024 can apply for:

- Junior Concert Band (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion): Years 7-8 students in ACT public schools in 2024
- Percussion Ensemble (Percussion Only): Years 7-12 students in ACT public schools in 2024
- Senior Concert Choir (Singers): Years 7-12 students in ACT public schools in 2024 Students auditioning for Junior Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble must have previous experience on their instruments. These groups are not suitable for beginners. Students auditioning for Senior Concert Choir may or may not have previous singing experience. Auditions will be held online in Term 4 (30 October 10 November). All audition requirements and pieces will be available on the IMP website by the end of Term 3. The ensembles are an excellent opportunity for hard-working, skilled and committed young musicians to work together in an enriching environment. The groups are active performance ensembles and the families of students auditioning will need to be prepared to make a strong commitment to rehearsal and performance attendance for the year. Further details and information about how to apply for an audition are available from the Instrumental Music Program website at http://www.imp.act.edu.au/our_ensembles/auditions The form to register for an audition can be accessed in the following three ways:
- <u>http://www.imp.act.edu.au/our_ensembles/auditions</u>
- <u>https://forms.gle/ExeEwb8EwLJ9UP148</u>
- QR code Information cards and posters will be available from the Music/Arts teacher at your child's school from Term 3 Week 5. Applications close Monday 16 October.



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 school⁷ as soon as possible to discuss how we can best welcome, support and include your child.

2024 Enrolment Timeline

Applications made after 2nd June 2023 will receive an offer after the 21st August

- Families can enrol for 2024 at any time during the year after April 26th 2023
- September to December 2023 Communication sent to families regarding 2024 school year/orientations
- Monday 29th 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-schoo8l

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.au9

Visit us on the web at www.palmdps.act.edu.au¹⁰



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

⁸https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school

⁹mailto:info_palmdps@ed.act.edu.au

¹⁰<u>https://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/</u>