PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

You have no doubt heard by now that our school was the target of some threatening phone calls last week. These calls proved to be hoaxes and caused a lot of disruption to our learning programs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the school for the professional manner in which they responded to these two situations. When events like this occur the safety of our students will be the main priority. We have well established lock down and evacuation procedures and staff are well versed in carrying them out. These procedures meet Australia and New Zealand Standards and have been prepared with oversight from the Education Directorate. We conduct evacuation and lockdown practice during the year so students know what to expect if and when we need to carry out one of these procedures.

When we receive threatening calls like we did last week we will try to inform parents and carers as soon as practicable, however there will always be some lag time as we need to take guidance from the emergency services that attend and the Education Directorate. At the conclusion of both the evacuation and the lock down we held a debrief with students and informed parents through publishing a message on the school’s Facebook page and followed up by sending a note home in the afternoon. I would like to thank our community for the wonderful support we received in managing these difficult situations and also for trusting us to act in the best interests of all students at Ngunnawal Primary School. I must also make special mention of Coles in Gungahlin who delivered not only 800 bottles of chilled water but a large box of bananas for students. We were very grateful to receive this generous act of kindness.

Last week we held our Getting to Know You Interviews, to help us make informed decisions about how best to meet the needs of students here at Ngunnawal Primary. If you were unable to attend last week I encourage you to make a time with your child's teacher this week. Unfortunately Larry Stackpoole and Estelle Stanton-Yeaman were unavailable last week and will contact parents and carers to reschedule meetings upon their return to school.

Last week I had the pleasure of teaching 4LS. They have been working very hard to learn about early settlement of Australia and after reading about the First Fleet's trip to New Holland did some learning about the types of questions to ask to find out information. If your child is in 4LS and you get some time this week ask them to tell you what they learnt about questions. I have been really enjoying my time in class rooms and look forward to sharing more of my teaching time in future newsletters.

As always please contact myself, Danielle or any member of the executive team to discuss or clarify any concerns you may have. Appointments can be made through the Front Office by phoning 62058182.

Have a great week

Kristine

Kristine Stewart
Principal
NPS students attend weekly specialist music lessons and focus on listening, composing and performing. They learn about the elements of music—rhythm, pitch, dynamics, form and timbre through singing, instrument learning, movement and a range of musical activities.

**Students in K-2** will learn to differentiate between their singing voice and speaking voice and how to create a steady beat. In lessons students learn how to play percussion instruments and progress onto the djembe drum and recorder. In groups students have opportunities to perform for each other and learn how to be an active performer and a reflective listener.

**Students in Years 3 -6** develop their musical knowledge and skill through singing and instrumental learning. At Ngunnawal Primary we are privileged to offer learning on one or more of the following instruments—the djembe drum, recorder, ukulele, guitar and glockenspiel.

Lessons focus on learning to read music notation, creating and refining pieces and performance skills. Musical games and activities reinforce and develop aural skills and understanding of the elements of music.

- Senior choir-Friday morning 9:40-10:30am in the music room

Students work together to learn and refine songs, develop and improve singing skills and to fine tune performances. Our students enjoy performing and have opportunities to sing at assemblies and other special occasions throughout the year.

**Lunchtime Drumming Club**

Each Thursday lunch time in the music room students can participate in an African drumming session. Students will learn simple rhythms and practice how to play together as a group.

Senior students 1:20-1:40pm
Junior students 1:40-2pm

**Choir**

Students may choose to become involved in the Junior Choir (Yr1-2) or Senior Choir (Yr3-6) which meet and rehearse each week.

- Junior choir-Friday afternoon 2:10-3pm in the music room.

Belinda Robertson
**Spotlight on Learning!**

**Year 3**

During the beginning of this term, we have been getting to know each other as we learn to construct purposeful questions that can be used to survey our peers about their individual characteristics as well as interesting facts such as our favourite breakfasts and birth month. We also created a survey about our favourite play time activity and utilised this data to inform our lunch club play time activities for this term. Students have learnt the terms survey, data and graph within these real life contexts. In addition to this, all students have been practising effective behaviours which we model daily so as they can continue to develop and monitor through the use of class graphs read to self stamina as well as writing stamina. As a whole group we have been developing lists about a variety of concepts and ideas the students are passionate about and then modelled writing structures around this to foster motivation, engagement and stamina during reading and writing.

In Health we have been learning about safety, particularly understanding the early warning signs that our bodies give us when we don’t feel safe. We have designed class anchor charts about our bodies give us when we don’t feel safe. We have designed class anchor charts as well as individual posters. These are based on being mindful of our senses and the messages they send to support us in making safe decisions.

During Mathematics we have been learning about place value as well as strategies for addition and subtraction with 2 and 3 digit numbers. Number activities include interactive card games and reading and writing numbers within small groups so as to target individual student needs as well as develop and consolidate fundamental number skills.

As a whole year group we have formed a joint agreement which underpins all of our learning: In year 3 - we love to learn, make friends and have fun. We encourage parents and carers to continue to foster inquisitive learning by facilitating discussions about your child’s learning each day.

Tanya, Elise and Sarah

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**SENIOR AND JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL**

Ngunnawal Primary School will hold its Cross Country Carnival on Tuesday 8 March 2016. Students in years 2-6 will compete in the Senior Cross Country race. Students turning 8 or older will have the chance to represent Ngunnawal Primary School at the District Carnival, which is to be held in Term 2. Only two boys and two girls from each age group will qualify to go to the District carnival.

**Senior Cross Country Carnival** events will begin at 12.00pm and continue through to lunch. Students will assemble on the oval near the cricket pitch and will remain there as spectators until the carnival is over. Students will need to bring appropriate running shoes, clothing suitable for running long distances, a hat and a water bottle. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the day.

**Junior Cross Country** will take place at 11.20am to 11.50am for all students in Pre-school, Kindergarten and Year 1.

Parents are most welcome to cheer on the students. **Approximate times for events are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate Times</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.20</td>
<td>Pre-school, Kindergarten and Year 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>11yrs</td>
<td>3000m (3km)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>8yrs</td>
<td>1000m (1km)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.20</td>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>3000m (3km)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>2000m (2km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.40</td>
<td>9yrs</td>
<td>1500m (1.5km)</td>
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**House Colours are:**

- Bradman – White
- Coombs – Blue
- Freeman – Red
- Jackson - Green

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**Nikki**

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**Time for volunteers and visitors to renew their WWVP registration**

Parents and other adults who volunteer, or work in some paid capacity, at school are required under the Working With Vulnerable People Act to be registered with Access Canberra. There are however some exemptions.

Those who registered in 2013 will need to apply to renew their registration during 2016.

If your card is over three years old it has probably expired and you cannot lawfully have contact with children as a volunteer or visitor in a school-related activity.

If you are uncertain, you should contact Access Canberra on 13 2281 or accesscanberra.act.gov.au, or in person at an ACT Government shopfront.

If you think you may be exempt under the Act, you should contact the school.

Registration for (unpaid) volunteers is free. Registration for employees and paid visitors is $76 for three years.

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**READING AT HOME**

We encourage nightly reading at home for our students. It is a chance for children to practise their reading skills with a family member. When reading at home it is just as valuable for children to hear fluent adult readers as it is for them to read out loud. To support this, we have changed our home reading books to a coloured sticker rather than number scheme. This may mean that sometimes your child will bring home a book that is easy, a time to work on fluency and expression or a hard, a time to listen to a more experienced reader.

Either way, there is no pressure to read the book from school if you have books at home your child prefers. We just offer these as a supplement to children’s reading repertoire. We will be offering workshops for families who want more information about how to support reading development on Tuesday 8 March at 9:15 am and again at 5:00 pm in the library. Please RSVP to the front office if you can make it.
**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 2016**

Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school's future directions.

An election process is underway to fill the second parent representative vacancy. Two nominations have been received.

**Voting period:**
- Opens - 11:00am on Thursday 3 March 2016
- Closes - 11:00am on Thursday 10 March 2016.

Voting instructions and ballot papers will be sent home with students on Wednesday, 2 March.

Successful candidates for all Board positions for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018 should be announced by Monday, 28 March 2016.

*Jennifer Lewis, Assistant Returning Officer*

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Combined Gungahlin Churches will present the Term 1 Christian Education program (Kinder to Year 6) at Ngunnawal Primary School on **Wednesday 23 March 2016 (week 8)**.

If you wish your child to attend the Christian Education sessions in 2016 and have not previously done so, please complete the permission slip below and return to the school.

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**PERMISSION NOTE - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

I give permission for my child/ren to attend Christian Education sessions in 2016.

Child's Name: __________________________ Class: ______

Child's Name: __________________________ Class: ______

Child's Name: __________________________ Class: ______

Parent/Carer Signature: ______________________________

Parent/Carer Name: (please print): ____________________________

Date: ________________

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**NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES**

If your child is absent from school, please call and advise the front office staff on 6205 8182 by 9:15am.

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**NGUNNAWAL FACEBOOK PAGE**

Did you know we have a facebook page? Please take a couple of seconds to check it out. We often post information about what is happening at school, provide updates and amendments when we have to.

Please like it and share it with our community.

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**NGUNNAWAL ANGELS**

- meet on Wednesdays, 9:10am to 10:40am in the Library, straight after assembly (drop in when you can)
- open to all parents/carers
- chat and contact
- help your children’s teachers
- children are welcome (there are toys to play with!)
- stay as long as you can, whenever you can

Hope to see you there!

*Nicole Butterworth, Co-ordinator*

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**Ngunnawal Primary School PAYMENT DETAILS**

Payments can be made via Quickweb at: [www.ngunnawalps.act.edu.au/payment](http://www.ngunnawalps.act.edu.au/payment)

*OR*

By direct deposit into the School’s bank account.

Bank account details for direct deposits are:
- Bank: Westpac Bank
- BSB: 032777
- Account No.: 001738

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR CHILD’S NAME AND REASON FOR DEPOSIT IN THE REFERENCE SECTION.**

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**Sometimes a school bus has a break down**

From time to time school buses may break down and require a replacement bus to be called. On these occasions drivers will ask students to remain on the bus until the replacement bus arrives. This may result in some delay but it is a much safer option than children leaving the bus. Parents may wish to remind their son or daughter to ensure they stay on the bus on these occasions.
Refresh your travel routine

Your school is part of the Ride or Walk to School program, encouraging and supporting students to use active travel. Riding and walking to school is not only a great way to increase daily levels of physical activity but to reduce traffic congestion around your school. Getting kids more active as part of their daily routine can also improve educational outcomes.

A new school year presents a great opportunity to try something different and perhaps establish a new routine for getting to and from school. In a busy household it can be hard to make changes that suit everyone so start small – you don’t need to walk or ride every day. You might like to try committing to riding or walking just once a week initially to see how it works for you and your family.

Another idea is to find a Part Way point where you can park the car and walk the rest of the way – it’s also a great way to avoid the traffic congestion around school.

Hints and tips to prepare for active travel

Plan the best route with your child – this term your school will receive a personalised walking and riding map that will show a variety of safe routes and part way drop off points. Alternatively you could use Google maps to customise a map from your home to school, utilising crossings and underpasses where possible. Take some time to walk or ride the route options together and decide on the best one. Make sure your child knows the route well if they plan to travel independently.

If your child is travelling independently help them to prepare – talk about safety and road rules, work out a plan for what to do in an emergency, make sure their bike is in good working order and they have a helmet.

Talk to other parents in your school community to see if your children can travel together or if you have younger children you can work out a schedule for your children to travel with an adult.

This program contributes to the ACT Government’s Healthy Weight Initiative. It is implemented in schools by the Physical Activity Foundation and supported by ACT Health.
School Banking Information & Account Opening Session

Ngunnawal Primary School offers School Banking to all students.

School Banking is designed to help your child develop strong financial literacy skills for the future. It is a fun and interactive rewards based program that encourages regular savings participation. The program is about how often your child makes a deposit, not how much.

Every deposit earns your child a Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

There is also a family holiday to Australia Zoo up for grabs to eligible bankers.

Benefits to our school include a generous commission paid by the Commonwealth Bank and last year we earned $1525 – Wow!!

School Banking day is every Thursday and books are handed in at class.

We will be holding an information and account opening session on Monday 7th March from 2.30 to 3.30 at the school.

Forms can be prefilled by accessing the link below:

Complete Pages 1&2 only and remember to bring your Drivers Licence, Passport or Proof of Age Card. Identification is NOT required for existing Commonwealth Bank customers.

DISCLAIMER
The school, its staff and the Territory are not aware of, and make no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information provided in advertisements appearing in this newsletter. Readers should make their own enquiries in relation to the information.