PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are only into the second week of the 2017 school year. Students across the school have settled well into their class routines and are engaged with their learning. I have been particularly impressed with our younger students at the school. I spent some time last week in our preschool and the children impressed me with their ability to try new things and their independence. Kindergarten students have adapted quickly to the Big School environment and are engaging confidently with their class teachers. Thank you to our parents who have worked with us and supported their children so that their transition to school has been smooth. I truly value the partnership we have with families, as I strongly believe it is when we work together as a team we will achieve positive outcomes for our students.

At Ngunnawal Primary School we are always looking for ways that we can enhance our communication with families. It is very important for us to know important information makes it way home to everyone so families can meet important deadlines and know what is happening at the school. The most important communication channel we have is the school newsletter. It includes dates for upcoming events such as excursions, assemblies and whole school events. You may elect to have the newsletter emailed to you or receive a hardcopy each Tuesday. If you choose to have a hard copy sent home with your youngest child please let the front office know so they can arrange this. Each week after the newsletter is published it is uploaded to the school’s website www.ngunnawalps.act.edu.au and the link is published on the school’s Facebook page. The other way the school communicates is via the large noticeboard in the main carpark and on the Facebook page. Individual classes also write information on the whiteboards located outside of the classrooms. Note days at Ngunnawal Primary are Tuesday and Thursday, if your child is away on either of these days any notes that were sent out will be sent home with them when they return to school.

To further enhance communication and to provide an opportunity for our parents to find out more information about how the school operates I will be introducing a Coffee and Chat morning each term. The first one will be held in week 5, Wednesday 1 March, after the assembly. The focus for the first gathering will be student wellbeing. I look forward to seeing you there.

Remembering that communication is vital, please feel free to make an appointment to come in and speak to us about any concern you may have. In the first instance it is best that you speak with your child’s teacher, however you are able to make an appointment to speak with the executive teacher who oversees your child’s year level. Executive teachers for year levels are as follows:

- Preschool and Kindergarten: Stacey Naden
- Year 1 and 2: Will Powell
- Year 3 and 4: Jo Pearce
- Year 5 and 5: Vernetta Rolls and Anna McGown

Have a great week and keep smiling.

Kristine
Kristine Stewart, Principal
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our swimming carnival will be held at the Gungahlin Leisure Centre on Tuesday 28 February (week 5). All students who are turning 8 years or older this year are eligible to attend.

The event will include competitive swimming races for those wishing to participate, as well as a range of water and land based activities for all students.

Students will be cheering on and earning points for their house groups during the carnival. If your child is not sure of their house group they can check with their classroom teacher. Our school houses are Coombs (blue), Bradman (white), Freeman (red) and Jackson (green). Your child can wear their house colours on the day.

All students must return their permission and medical notes and payment by Friday 10 February (week 2). Late notes and payment cannot be accepted after this date.

An alternate program will be run for students not attending the carnival.

If you have any questions, please contact the front office.

Laurie Imhoff

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.

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!

NGUNNAWAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 2017

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.

There is one (1) vacancy for a parent representative and one (1) vacancy for a staff representative on the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019. Election of the parent representative and the staff representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2017 school year as set out below.

Nomination period:
- Opens – 11:00am on Monday 30 January 2017
- Closes - 11:00am on Monday 13 February 2017.

Voting period (if election is required):
- Opens - 11:00am on Monday 20 February 2017
- Closes - 11:00am on Monday 27 February 2017.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 14 February 2017.

If you are interested in being a member of the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for 2017-2019 and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please contact the Principal, Kristine Stewart on 6205 8182. A copy of the School Board Manual is also available for perusal at the front office.

Nomination forms are available from the school front office from Monday, 30 January 2017.

Jennifer Lewis, Assistant Returning Officer

PAYMENT DETAILS
Payments can be made via Quickweb at:
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.
Whole School Assembly
1 February 2017
**SENIOR CHOIR**

Students in Years 3-6 have been invited to participate in the Ngunnawal Primary Senior Choir. Last Friday afternoon an information session was held for interested students where an overview of what to expect was discussed. During choir time students participate in vocal warm ups, learn singing techniques and rehearse songs for performances. There is an expectation that students will commit to choir for a minimum of one semester and will attend each choir session. Students participating in choir this year will be asked to return a signed note and a choir code of conduct. Senior choir meets at 2:05pm each Friday afternoon in the music room.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Belinda Robertson.

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**COMMONWEALTH BANK SCHOOL BANKING 2017**

Join the Dollarmites on a savings adventure into the future with School Banking!

In 2017, School Banking is getting children excited about the future with a brand new look for the Dollarmites. As Future Savers, students will join the Dollarmites on a journey to reach the Savings Hover Park, an amazing playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech city.

There are **8 new reward items for 2017** from the Future Savers range:
- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones

**WIN a family adventure holiday at Tokyo Disneyland**

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky School Banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they’ll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo Disney Sea. Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2017 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 from the Commonwealth Bank when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). In 2016 the school received $1,492.25 in commission from the Commonwealth Bank. As in previous years the Student Council will discuss how they would like to spend this money in consultation with the School Board. All Kindergarten children should have now received the parent packs and all existing school banking students will receive their new perforated rewards chart to let the children know what reward is available throughout the year over the coming weeks when they make a deposit. Could parents please ensure that the children’s new class for 2017 is written on the deposit wallets.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to register.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Thursday is School Banking day! We are always after volunteers to help process the deposit books between 9.00am and 10.00am so if you have a spare hour you are most welcome.

Should you have any further questions you can contact me at tokleyfamily@bigpond.com

Julie Tokley, Ngunnawal Primary School Banking Co-ordinator

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**NGUNNAWAL PRIMARY’S NEWSLETTER HAS MOVED INTO THE ELECTRONIC AGE!**

The newsletter can be accessed each week via the Ngunnawal Primary School Facebook page or the school website at: **www.ngunnawalps.act.edu.au**

The newsletter link will be emailed to families who request this option.

Paper copies of the newsletter will be provided to families who do not have access to the internet.

Please complete the form below indicating your preferred option(s) for accessing the school newsletter each week and return to the school as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUEST FOR EMAIL REMINDER OR PAPER COPY OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Name:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Name:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(youngest attending Ngunnawal Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent/Carer Signature:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>[ ] Please send an email reminder with the newsletter link to our family each week. Our email address is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Please continue to provide our family with a paper copy of the school newsletter.</td>
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Four parenting priorities for 2017

By Michael Grose

The following four priorities are both current and significant, deserving to be top of mind for parents as the 2017 school year begins.

1. Time to tackle technology

Want to travel along Parenting Easy Street? That's easy. Make tackling this parenting game-changer your priority. It’s no point being all doom and gloom about technology because tablets, mobile phones and smartphones are here to stay. They connect us, educate us and entertain us like nothing has before. It takes a lot of parental backbone to swim against the current all-encompassing technology tide. You can’t hold it back, but you can slow it down. You can suggest it sits on the metaphorical shelf for a while or at least while you eat dinner together. You can insist that social media isn’t the only way to stay in touch with friends and show them that Dr Google may be clever but he/she only knows so much and that accurate and current information can be found offline. When it comes to kids and technology, don’t be an onlooker. Make this a year for getting in the game with kids, tech boots on and all.

2. Promote physical and mental health

Finally, good mental health habits are top of mind in Australian schools. A focus on student wellbeing is now a well-established pathway to academic success for children and young people. But kids’ levels of physical activity need a boost. Recent research tells us that children’s physical activity peaks at around four years of age in Australia and gradually decreases every year from there. It makes a mockery of the image of Australian childhood spent in the great outdoors. Remember the old “healthy body, healthy mind” maxim that past generations so fondly spruiked? Well, it’s true. Physical and mental health are inextricably linked. So this year while we encourage our kids to practise mindfulness; get a good night’s sleep and ensure they relax and unwind, let’s also make sure kids get plenty of physical activity, preferably outdoors.

3. Put the spoon back in the drawer

As reported in Fairfax Media recently, “In 1970’s only one in five under-30’s in Australia lived with their parents but now it’s one in two.” This high dependency of children and teenagers on adults is the exact opposite of what adults have done in the past, which is to develop their children’s independence and achieve the most important parenting outcome of all – their own redundancy. In 2017 remove the spoon, put it back in the drawer and make independence building a high priority in your family.

4. Put integrity top of the pedestal of character traits

Every parent wants their child to have the strength and fortitude to do the right thing and not follow the crowd. This is easier for young children because the pull of the group and the allure of the media doesn’t have such a strong hold as it so often does in adolescence. Strong-willed children and those who like to have their own way can also find doing the right thing less of struggle. But the development of integrity and related traits such as respect, honesty and fairness is an important part of a child’s moral compass that will help him/her make smart decisions when you’re not around. Generally, integrity is developed in childhood and put to the test in adolescence.

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Ngunnawal Primary School P & C
Annual General Meeting –
Monday 27 February 2017
Nomination for P&C
Committee Members 2017

Name: ________________________________
Ph Number: __________________________
Email: ______________________________

I wish to nominate for the following position:

[ ] President
[ ] Vice President
[ ] Treasurer
[ ] General Volunteer
[ ] Secretary
[ ] Fundraising Co-ordinator

Please complete this form and return in an envelope to the front office to:

Kristine Stewart, Principal
P&C Committee Position Nomination Form

Please note that ALL nominees need to attend the P & C AGM.
The Ngunnawal Primary School P&C Association runs a **second-hand uniform shop** once a month during school term. We have a range of items and sizes. Jackets, jumpers and dresses are $2 and hats, tops, shorts and pants are only $1 each.

To be notified of the dates and times, ‘like’ us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Ngunnawal-Primary-PC-Association-221250924740393

Donations of clean items in good, wearable condition are very much appreciated. Just drop them off at the canteen!

**Personalised name labels for school**

*Stuck on You* have labels for everything your child owns. Their personalised labels stick to just about everything from lunchboxes and drink bottles to clothing, books, school supplies and sports equipment. Dishwasher safe, microwave safe and scratch-resistant, the labels are definitely up to the rough and tumble of the playground and beyond.

**Never lose a hat or drink bottle again!!** They're a must for every parent!

To order go to: [www.stuckonyou.com.au/fundraising/npspca](http://www.stuckonyou.com.au/fundraising/npspca) and 20% of all sales will go to the Ngunnawal P & C Association to buy books, equipment and other supplies for students.

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**Online ordering now available at the School Canteen!**

The Ngunnawal Primary School Canteen now offers **online ordering and payment** through Flexischools! Available from your mobile or computer, you can place canteen orders and pay securely online anytime, anywhere! Just go to flexischools.com.au and click ‘register’. More information is available from the Canteen.
2016/17
Rural and regional school travel

Frequently asked questions
Can I still apply using a paper form?
Carbon copy forms are no longer being accepted after Term 2, 2016. To download a paper form visit apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

How can I apply if I don’t have Internet access?
Call 131 500 for assistance with your application.

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?
Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. For travel after school hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to purchase a ticket.

What if there’s no public transport in my area?
In areas where there is no public transport, eligible NSW residents may receive a subsidy for transporting the student to school by private vehicle. For details visit transport.nsw.info/school-students.

How do I apply if the student is in a shared parenting situation and needs to travel from two addresses?
Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to make a separate application for each address. The same eligibility criteria apply.

What’s new
From 12 May 2016, applications for free school travel in rural and regional NSW will need to be completed online instead of using paper forms.

This change makes it easier to apply, as you only need to complete one form that covers all situations including journeys that involve multiple transport operators.

It’s also easier for schools and bus operators, as Transport for NSW will now handle the applications.

This change only affects the application process; no changes to any public transport services are planned.

Who can apply
To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)
There’s no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)
1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)
2.0km straight line distance or 2.8km walking.

Who needs to apply
A new application is only required if the student has never been approved for free school travel before.

However, you need to update student details online if the student:
• Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
• Is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
• Is changing schools or campuses
• Is changing address

How to update your details
If the student has already been approved for school travel and their address, school or name changes, or the student is entering Years 3 or 7, you will need to update your details at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updatedetails.

Applications for 2017 open from the start of Term 4, 2016.

Step 1
Once you have confirmed your 2017 school enrolment, complete the online application form at transport.nsw.info/school-students, nominating your home address and which bus company or transport operator the student needs to travel between home and school.

Step 2
Print, sign and date the completed application, then return it to the student’s school for endorsement.

Step 3
The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. You will receive an email confirming the outcome of your application. If the application is approved, Transport for NSW will inform your local bus or transport operator who may send a school travel pass (where applicable) to the student’s school, or in some cases will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

Want to know more?
For more information call 131 500 or visit transport.nsw.info/school-students.

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Transport and Interpreting Services (TIS) 131 450

Appellez le Service de traduction et d’interprétation ou TIS (Translating and Interpreting Services) au 131 450 pour demander de l’assistance dans votre langue.

Um Hilfe in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten, rufen Sie den Übersetzungs- und Dolmetschdienst unter 131 450 an.

La información puede obtenerla en español, llamando al Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (Translating and Interpreting Services) al 131 450.

Par recevoir assistance en italien, contactez le Service Traduction et Interprétation (TIS) au 131 450.

Les parents intéressés dans la langue française peuvent joindre le 131 450 du Service de traduction et d’interprétation (TIS) pour obtenir des services de traduction.

Para obtener más información en español, llame al Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (Translating and Interpreting Services) al 131 450.

Pou obtenir plus d’informations en français, appelez le Service de traduction et d’interprétation (TIS) au 131 450.
Our Bookfairs raise the major portion of funds needed to keep our local 13 11 14 crisis support and suicide prevention service available to people in need.

**FOOD DRIVE**

We’re collecting donations of non-perishable food for Communities@Work and their community pantry program, which supports people in our community experiencing hardship. If everyone brings at least one item to donate, we can make a huge difference!

The **Dollarmites** are heading to the savings Hover Park and there are 8 awesome new rewards to earn plus one lucky banker could win their family a trip to Tokyo Disneyland.

**SCHOOL BANKING DAY** is every Thursday during school terms.

If you require any information on School Banking please ask for a Parent pack at the office or talk to our wonderful School Banking Coordinator Julie Tokley or visit


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**Holy Spirit Catholic Parish**

**Confirmation Dates for 2017**

*children in Year 6 or older:*

**Parent and Child Information Session:**
- Wednesday 15 February at 1:00pm or 7:00pm

**Commitment Mass followed by Enrolment:**
- Saturday 18 February at 6pm or
- Sunday 19 February at 9:30am or 5:30pm

**Celebration of the Sacrament:**
- At Masses on 9 May, 10 May and 11 May at 6.15pm

Please stay in touch via our parish website

www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au or Facebook page

More details concerning the Sacramental Program are available in the foyer of the Church, Burdekin Ave, Amaroo or contact the Sacramental Coordinator via email: pastoral@livani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au

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**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.