

# NGUNNAWAL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

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*Ngunnawal Primary School acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of the land we are on, the Ngunnawal people.*

## Newsletter No. 03 – 14 February 2017



### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Monday 13 February  
– Friday 25 February**  
PIPS – Kindergarten

**Wed 15 February**  
Junior School  
Assembly, 9:15am

**Monday 20 February  
– Friday 25 February**  
Getting to Know You  
Interviews, Yrs 1-6

**Monday 20 February  
– Friday 3 March**  
Getting to Know You  
Interviews, Preschool.

**Wed 22 February**  
Whole School  
Assembly, 9:15am

**Monday 27 February**  
P&C Annual General  
Meeting, 6pm

**Tuesday 28 February**  
School Swim Carnival  
(students turning 8  
years or older in 2017)

**Wednesday 1 March**  
Parent Coffee/Chat  
following Assembly.

**Monday 13 March**  
Canberra Day Public  
Holiday

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

What a relief the cooler start to this week has been. Let's enjoy it while it lasts because it will begin to warm up again towards the end of the week. When we experience extreme temperatures like last Friday, we do implement measures here at the school to support children and adults to cope. Buildings, including classrooms that are not air-conditioned do have ceiling fans and have been designed to maximise cross ventilation, students are encouraged to keep themselves hydrated and we limit physical activity. We will at times close the oval at break times and open up the hall for an alternative area for students and fully utilise the air-conditioned library and computer lab. The school is also very fortunate to have plenty of shaded areas that can provide an option for outside. Let us hope that the extreme temperatures experienced last week will not return, but if they do please be assured that the school will implement the above measures to reduce the stress that can be caused by extreme heat.

Last night the School Board met for the first meeting of the year. The Board's role is to oversee school finances and governance. Last night the Annual Action Plan for 2017 was shared and discussed. One of the goals for this year is to improve communication and as mentioned in last week's newsletter we will be holding a *Coffee and Chat* morning on Wednesday 1 March. We will meet after the assembly and I will share the school's approach to student wellbeing. Please

contact the Front Office to let us know that you will be attending.

Last week our term newsletter went home. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide you with an overview of the learning program for the term and to inform you of important dates throughout the term. If you did not receive a term newsletter, please contact your child's teacher and they will arrange for one to be sent home with your child.

Notes will be coming home today about term one's *Getting To Know You* interviews that will take place in week four (20 – 24 February) for kindergarten to year six and in weeks four and five (20 February – 3 March) for preschool. The letter will contain a unique code for PTO, the online booking program we use at the school. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not receive this code as you will not be able to book an interview without one. I encourage all parents and carers to make time to come in and speak with their child's teachers as it is an ideal opportunity to share information that will support teachers to personalise learning for their students.

As always please do not hesitate to make a time to come into the school and discuss a question or concern you may have.

Have a great week

*Kristine*

Kristine Stewart, Principal

## BOOK PACK WINNERS

We have drawn the 2017 Book Pack winners and the lucky winners are:

Pre School	Zara
Kindergarten	Kai
Year 1	Dhanishta
Year 2	Jiya
Year 3	Kalani
Year 4	Alex
Year 5	Mithil
Year 6	Himesh

## 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.

**Late notes and payment cannot be accepted after Friday, 10 February.**

An alternate program will be run for students not attending the carnival. If you have any questions, please contact the front office.

*Laurie Imhoff*



## 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!

## 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.**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held for:

**Kindergarten to year 6 - 20 to 24 February (Monday to Friday)**

and

**Preschool – 20 February to 3 March (2 weeks, Monday to Friday).**

Parents/Carers can book interviews online via the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) system.

Notes with instructions on logging in to PTO and a PIN were sent home with students today.

**Please make your interview bookings as soon as possible.**

## 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.**

## YEAR 5/6 CAMP – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest notes for the Year 5/6 Camp

**MUST BE RETURNED BY**

**WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY (week 3)**

so that numbers and bookings can be finalised.

**No notes will be accepted after this date.**

# Moving beyond asking, “What did you do at school?”

## Supporting social management development

By Michael Grose

Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school? “So, how was your day? What did you do at school today? What did you learn?” If these are your default questions the chances are that you’ll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.”

These answers don’t really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don’t ask a great deal. So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

### Set the atmosphere

It helps to create the right atmosphere for conversations. A quick “How was your day?” as you pick a child up from after-school is a rapport-builder or mood checker, but little more. If you drive you may learn a bit on the trip home, particularly if you keep the radio off and are able to keep some distance between kids and mobile devices. Alternatively, walking home together may loosen up your child’s tongue and put them in the mood for talking.

### Create conversations rather than ask questions

The dinner table makes a great place to talk, if all televisions are off, mobile devices are left behind and you take the time to make it more than a pit stop. One way to kick off a conversation is to ask kids if they’d like to hear about your day. From my experience kids are often interested in the most mundane things that go on in an adult’s day so don’t think you have to make it sound grander than what it is. This gives kids permission to talk about their own days; your story can stimulate conversations which provide openings for kids to ask questions and share a little or in some cases a lot about their own day at school.

### Interesting questions lead to interesting conversations

The questions you ask to prompt a conversation will often say a great deal about you and what you value.

If you focus only on academic or learning questions then it indicates that’s what you value.

It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child’s school life but also an indication of your child’s interests, social skills and welfare. Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

- 1 Tell me what made you laugh today?
- 2 Who did you play with at recess today?
- 3 Did you do anything that was brave?
- 4 If I spoke to your teacher, what would he/she tell me about you?
- 5 What did your teacher talk about today?
- 6 Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?

- 7 Where’s the best place to hang out/play at school?
- 8 Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
- 9 Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
- 10 Did anyone push your buttons today?
- 11 What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
- 12 What’s something you learned with a friend today?
- 13 What’s your teacher’s most important rule?
- 14 If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
- 15 If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

*The Friendly Schools Plus Implementation Team*

### FROM THE NEW CHAPLAIN

Hello! My name is Bel Young and I am very excited about being given the opportunity to join your community as the new school Chaplain. I have worked previously at Stromlo High in this role and am looking forward to working with parents, the staff and the students to tailor Chaplaincy to suit the Ngunnawal community.



As a Chaplain, my job is to work to ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of the students, this role is primarily one of pastoral care and emotional support – someone to chat with when things aren’t going well on the playground, or a person to sit with when they’re feeling a bit off one day or need some time out.

The Chaplaincy role extends also to the staff and yourselves as the school community. I am here to support you in your role as parents and carers in similar ways as the students—as a person to chat with about any emotional issues, family challenges, shoulder to cry or vent on etc. The school counsellor Courtney, will continue to be the main resource for higher level concerns where technical counselling expertise is required. I look forward to meeting you all and hope that you will make contact with me in the coming weeks and months.

I am a high school teacher by training, and have taught in single-sex and co-ed schools in Tasmania and the ACT.

In my past lives I have worked in Youth Work and Pastoral Care- I worked for a year at Bimberi Juvenile Justice center here in the ACT which was a unique and eye-opening experience. At home, I’m mother to Maddie (Yr 6) and Mitch (Yr4), who attend Mother Teresa School in Harrison.

Again, I am so pleased to have been given the privilege of joining this wonderful school community. If you see me around, please come and introduce yourself as I would love nothing better than to hear all about your children, and what’s happening in your lives at the moment! If you have any concerns regarding your child that I may be able to support-please contact Anna McGown!

Many thanks,

*Bel Young*

**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.



**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](http://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](mailto:tokleyfamily@bigpond.com)

*Julie Tokley, Ngunnawal Primary School Banking Co-ordinator*

**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](http://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.



**REQUEST FOR EMAIL REMINDER OR PAPER COPY OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
(youngest attending Ngunnawal Primary)

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an email reminder with the newsletter link to our family each week. Our email address is:

\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Please continue to provide our family with a paper copy of the school newsletter.



# P & C News

The Ngunnawal Primary School Parents and Citizens (P & C) Association plays an important part in supporting our wonderful school. We run the school canteen and a second-hand uniform shop, as well as organise events such as school discos and the Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls during the year.

To find out more about how you can get involved in the P&C, come along to a meeting (details below), send an email to [ngunnawalps\\_pandc@outlook.com](mailto:ngunnawalps_pandc@outlook.com) or like us on Facebook.

We meet at 6pm in the school staff room at the front office. Our meeting dates for 2017 are:

27 February (AGM)	7 August
27 March	11 September
15 May	30 October
19 June	4 December

Joining the P&C is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable.

## 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.**

### 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.



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!

### CANTEEN - HELP WANTED!!

- Where:** Ngunnawal Primary School Canteen
- When:** Any weekday during school term
- Hours:** Anytime between 9am and 3pm  
Stay for an hour, stay all day or anything in between!
- Experience:** None! We'll show you everything you need to know
- Salary:** A warm fuzzy feeling for helping your school community.
- Bonuses:** Your children are happy to see you on their turf! And you'll meet new people and make good friends.

Please drop in to the canteen or send an email to [ngunnawalps\\_pandc@outlook.com](mailto:ngunnawalps_pandc@outlook.com).



Thank you in anticipation 😊

### 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](http://flexischools.com.au) and click 'register'. More information is available from the Canteen.

# Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

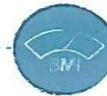
All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check



VISION CHECK



HEARING CHECK



HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND  
BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)



If you have not returned your child's Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire



**FIND** – Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1



**SIGN** – Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire



**RETURN** – To your school by 20 February 2017

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.



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www.health.act.gov.au | www.act.gov.au | Enquiries: Canberra 13ACT1 or 132281



## The home of Aussie Rules in Gungahlin

The Gungahlin Jets is a family friendly community club providing you with an opportunity to have fun, get fit and play Australian Rules Football.

New and experienced players welcome in all grades, Junior and Senior.

- ⇒ **Auskick:** Girls and boys aged 5 to 7 years.
- ⇒ **Juniors:** Girls and boys U8 to U14, boys to U17
- ⇒ **Youth Girls:** U10, U12, U15 & U18
- ⇒ **Seniors:** Rising Stars, Men and Women.

Registration details at:  
[www.gungahlinjets.com.au](http://www.gungahlinjets.com.au)



## 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](http://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.theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au](mailto:pastoral.theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au)

### DISCLAIMER

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