

# 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. 04 – 21 February 2017



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

**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**  
Senior School  
Assembly, 9:15am  
(3/4WL & 3/4KT)

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

**Monday 13 March**  
Canberra Day Public  
Holiday

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last weeks I have been spending some time in the preschool. Our youngest students have quickly adapted to the preschool routines and are very engaged in their preschool program. I have been able to dance, paint, play games and share a story or two with them. The children have even taught me some of the songs that they sing in preschool and I am looking forward to continuing my time in preschool over this term.

Year five students participated in the IMP music assessments for the *Year 5 Band* and letters of offer will be sent home soon. As in previous years a place in the IMP Band program is highly sought after and not all students will be successful in gaining a place. All students at Ngunnawal Primary will have the opportunity over the year to participate in a variety of musical programs run at the school. Junior and senior choirs have begun and specialist music classes are in full swing with students using a variety of instruments to create musical compositions. Tallera and Caleb shared a percussion piece with me today. They wrote a piece of music and played it using clapping sticks and a djembe drum. It sounded fantastic! I am looking forward to hearing more of our students' musical compositions over the course of the year.



Getting to Know You interviews are being held this week and are an important part of the new school year. They provide families with the opportunity to share information about their child with the teacher so they are best able to meet their needs. Please contact your child's teacher if you have not yet made a time to come and speak with them.

Another reminder that the *Coffee and Chat* morning is on Wednesday 1 March (Week 5) in the library after the assembly. I will be sharing the school's approach to student wellbeing. Please contact the Front Office to let us know that you will be attending.

### Anaphylactic Allergy Alert - NUTS and EGGS

Parents are requested to support the safety and wellbeing of all our students. A number of children at Ngunnawal Primary School suffer from severe, life threatening allergic reactions when exposed to or ingesting specific foods, known as anaphylaxis. To prevent potential exposure to these foods, we ask that **NO NUTS or EGGS** be brought to school at any time. This includes nut products such as peanut butter or Nutella, egg sandwiches or fried rice that includes egg. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Have a great week

*Kristine*

Kristine Stewart,  
Principal

Please see **NOTES HOME & REMINDERS** page 3.

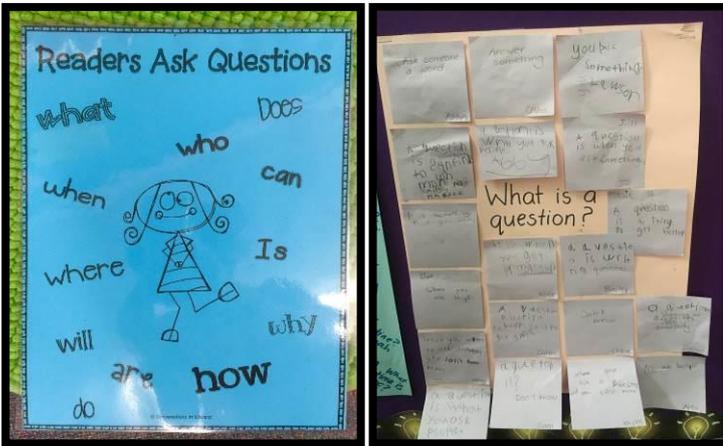


# Spotlight on Learning!

## Gundaroo

### Reading

Year 1/2 students have enjoyed reading a variety of books already this year. Students have been taught to choose "just right" books to read. This ensures they are reading books that provide opportunities to extend their reading skills. Classes have begun taking readers home and are attending the library once a week to ensure students are exposed to a wide variety of texts.



### Writing and Reading

We have commenced our inquiry learning by learning to ask questions and gather new information. Students answered some wonderings on 'What is a question?' and 'What makes a good question?' These questions lead to interesting ideas and discussions in all classes.

When reading we are using the strategy of asking questions - before, during and after reading. This is helping to build curious readers who want to find out more and have their questions answered whilst reading.

In writing we have begun to look at what an interview is; the structure and the importance of good questions. This will help us in History inquiry later in the semester.

### Mathematics (Number)

Students have been engaging in number lessons this term with a focus on place value. We are learning two, three and four digit numbers to identify the place value of the different digits in a number and are using concrete materials to support our understanding. Students will also extend their number knowledge by calculating 10 less and 10 more, 100 less and 100 more, 1000 less and 1000 more than a given number, using number charts and number lines.

As a *getting to know you* activity we participated in 'All about me maths'. Students wrote their age, their birth dates, number of people in their family, number of pets and so on. We learned a lot about each other and extended our mathematical understanding.



### Science

Year 1/2 students are beginning to wonder about how living things grow and change. They have engaged in hands on experiences during a school yard safari, making predictions and exploring the oval for small creatures. Later in the term, students will have the exciting opportunity to observe how mealworms grow and change over time.

Ashley, Cath, Estelle, Kunjal, Nancye

## Do you let your kids amaze you?

By Michael Grose

*"I'm amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/ pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too."*

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: "What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?"

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children's independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I've long believed that **adults are the gatekeepers for children's independence.**

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop **self-help skills** (*carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms*); provide them with **real responsibility** (*feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals*) and give them **autonomy** to make some of their own decisions (*choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending*).

We close the independence gate when we **do too much** for children (*tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks*); **rescue** them from learning opportunities (*take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines*) and **neglect** to build scaffolds to independence (*such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport*).

It's a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children's abilities to the detriment of their development.

### Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children's independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves **redundant** from the earliest possible age of a child's life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet **physically** (*Don't we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!*), **emotionally** (*with support, of course*) and to **navigate their world** without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they've mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It's those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won't happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2017

Our swimming carnival is fast approaching. It will be held at Gungahlin Leisure Centre on **Tuesday 28 February** (week 5).

**Students must arrive at school on time as the buses will begin leaving at 9:10am.**

There will be both land and water activities for all students to engage in throughout the day. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours to help cheer their house group:

Freeman – red	Bradman – white
Jackson – green	Coombs – blue

We are looking forward to our day of 'school at the pool'.

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

Laurie Imhoff

## NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

### Reminders

- **General Medical Consent Form** (bright yellow card) – please return these as soon as possible as this information is needed for excursions during the year. **Students attending the swimming carnival next week MUST RETURN THESE FORMS no later than Friday 24 February.**

### Notes Home:

- **Year 5 Camp (Borambola), 3 - 5 April 2017** – permission notes and payments due by Monday, 27 March.
- **Year 6 Camp (Cooba), 3 - 5 April 2017** – permission notes and payments due by Monday, 27 March.
- **Aqua Safe Program, 27 March to 7 April 2017** – Year 2 students – permission notes and payment due by Friday, 10 March.

## PIANO LESSONS

### Do you have a child interested in learning to play the piano?

Piano teacher, John Bice, currently has some vacancies in his schedule.

If you would like more information regarding piano lessons with John, please contact him on 6254 7238.

# 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.**



# **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 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.**

## **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.





# 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.



# COME AND TRY DAY 2017

**NATIONAL HOCKEY CENTRE**

**LYNEHAM**

**SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY, 2017, 9:00am—12:00pm**

**FREE BBQ !!!**

**TUGGERANONG HOCKEY PARK**

**TUGGERANONG**

**SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY, 2017, 9:00am—12:00pm**

**BLUNDELL PARK**

**QUENBEYAN**

**FEBRUARY 25th, 2017, 9:00am—12:00pm**

NEW AND CURRENT PLAYERS WELCOME | REGISTRATION ONLINE AND ONE THE DAY |  
LOCAL CLUBS INVOLVED | AGES 17 and UNDER | COME AND GO AT ANY TIME !!

[www.hockeyact.org.au](http://www.hockeyact.org.au)

[Jesse.beeson@hockeyact.org.au](mailto:Jesse.beeson@hockeyact.org.au)

0261890570

## 427 (morning) School Route Map

effective February 2017

- Legend**
- Route
  - Start and finish
  - Pick up point
  - School
  - Bus Station

**Schools serviced:**

- Burgmann Anglican School
- Ngunnawal Primary
- Gold Creek High
- Gold Creek Primary
- Holy Spirit Primary



13 17 10  
[transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au)

### ACTION School Services - Changes to School Route 427

**Commencing:** Monday 20 February 2017

**Change to route:** Route improvements have been made to avoid traffic and delays.  
**Stop 6179 Oodgeroo Avenue and Stop 6038 Horse Park Drive will no longer be serviced.**

Further information can be found on the [Transport Canberra](http://Transport Canberra) website or by calling 13 17 10.

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