FROM THE DEPUTY’S DESK

Dear Parents and Carers,

This past week has been very busy for the teachers as they have been meeting with you to find out how to best support your children’s learning this year through the getting to know you interviews. If you were unable to make it during the week please feel free to get in touch with your child’s teacher to schedule another time. We love the opportunity to get to know your children better, and families are the experts on their children.

Next week we have a couple of programs recommencing for the year. Homework club will start again this week after school on Wednesday. This is a program run in conjunction with the Smith Family. Wirra Club, provided by the David Wirrapanda Foundation also begins again this coming week. These are two of the programs that we offer at Ngunnawal which provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students opportunities to work on their learning and deepen their cultural knowledge.

On a safety note I need to mention a few things. Firstly, during terms one and four of each year the school requires all students to have a SunSmart hat. This is one that covers all of your child’s face, ears and back of the neck. These include legionnaire, bucket and broad brimmed hats. This is to protect children’s skin from the high UV rates we have in Canberra. We appreciate your support in making sure your children have an appropriate hat that is clearly labelled with their name.

Secondly, it has come to our notice that a number of students are riding their bikes and scooters on the school grounds. Now that we have over 600 students attending Ngunnawal Primary School it is really important that children dismount and wheel their bike or scooter to and from the enclosure before and after school. We don’t want anyone getting accidentally bumped. To maintain safety for all students we don’t allow children on the playing equipment before or after school as it is not supervised.

In November last year the ACT government began the registration of all people who work with vulnerable people, which includes children. All of the school staff are registered to work with vulnerable people and if you volunteer more than 7 times a year we need you to be registered too. We love having our families at school and to maintain that we strongly encourage you to get registered. You can collect an application form from the front office and it is free to get registered. If you have any questions about this process please see Kristine or myself.

We wished our competitive swimmers the best of luck this morning as they headed off to the swimming carnival. We hope everyone is pleased with their results. Don’t forget to get your swimming lessons forms in if your children are eligible for the program this year.

Regards,

Danielle
Danielle Porter,
Deputy Principal

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES
If your child is absent from school, please call and advise the front office staff on 6205 8182 by 9:30am.
We have had a wonderful start to the year. Well done Kindergarten! The students have been adjusting well to the day-to-day routines of school. They have been engaging in a range of learning activities including literacy rotations, letter sounds, mathematics, arts and craft, science and singing; just to name a few.

During English rotations students have practiced writing their names and are developing their fine motor skills as well as using the interactive whiteboard to learn and consolidate their sound/letter knowledge of ‘s’, ‘a’ and ‘t’.

In Mathematics students have been sorting objects by colours, size, shape and other attributes.

On Friday we had our first practical maths session. It was very exciting exploring maths through a range of different activities including water play, scales, pattern...
NGUNNAWAL PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 2014

Voting is now open to elect two (2) Parent Representatives to the School Board for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.

Nominees are:

Sonya Wyman  Margreet Philp
Ian Phillips  Daniel Prior
Lisa Younie

Voting Closes at 11:00am, Monday, 3 March 2014.

Ballot papers and supporting information was sent home with the youngest child in each family yesterday. If your child did not receive these election papers, please check with their class teacher. If you need replacement or additional ballot papers please see the front office staff.

The ballot box will be located at the Front Office.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 31 March 2014.

Jennifer Lewis,
Assistant Returning Officer

CHIEF MINISTER’S READING CHALLENGE 2014

The Reading Challenge is open to all students in the ACT who are in preschool to year 8. It began nine years ago with the aim to encourage students in ACT schools to become more involved in reading. The challenge is to read 12 books in one year. At least 8 of the books must be listed on the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge Booklist. The challenge begins in term 1 2014 and finishes on 5 September 2014.

This year at Ngunnawal Primary School we are encouraging all students to join in the challenge. Class teachers have a copy of the reading lists and will support each student in achieving this goal.

Natalie Otten

AIS SWIM LESSON PROGRAM

Parents/carers of students in kindergarten to year 2 wishing to secure a place for their child/ren in the AIS Swim Lesson program in weeks 9 and 10 of this term, PLEASE NOTE:

Completed permission slips, medical forms and payment must be submitted by lunchtime on Friday, 28 February.

Remaining places in the program as of lunchtime on Friday will be opened to students in years 3 to 6 on Friday afternoon.

Kate North

SPECTRA SCIENCE HAS COME TO NGUNNAWAL!

SPECTRA stands for: Science Program Exciting Children Through Research Activities.

Karon Campbell, the Science Specialist, will be co-ordinating the program which is developed by the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA). It is a voluntary program that is completed at home by students at their own pace.

There are two levels in the program:

- Junior SPECTRA, aimed at Years 1-4; and
- SPECTRA, aimed at Years 5-10

SPECTRA covers a range of topics where students complete investigations that include practical experiments as well as written tasks. The cost of each science topic card is $9 which includes a certificate, badge and postage costs. You can choose to order topic cards through the school or you can order directly from home.

Want to know more? You can:

- Ask your child to go to their teacher or Karon to get more information and order forms
- Check out the website – www.ast.edu.au/resources/spectra
- Catch Karon around the school

Quiz Questions for Week 4 – (sourced from CSIRO)

1. Where in the human body can alveoli be found?
2. Which chemical element in the periodic table has the symbol, Ag?
3. Arachnophobia is the fear of what?
4. The speed of light is faster than the speed of sound. True or False?
5. Which planet is closest to the Sun?

Science Quiz Answers:

1. Alveoli are found in the lungs.
2. Silver has the chemical symbol Ag.
3. Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders and other arachnids.
4. True. The speed of light is faster than the speed of sound.
5. The closest planet to the Sun is Mercury.

ANZAC ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 9 April 2014 starting at 9:15am.

Ngunawal Primary School is holding its annual ANZAC commemoration assembly in week ten of this term.

If you are a member of the Australian Defence Force and would like to speak at the assembly about the importance of ANZAC Day, please contact Andrew Gibson through the front office on 6205 8182 or by sending an email to:

info@ngunnawalps.act.edu.au

Thank you.
3N and 3P
Whole School Assembly
19 February 2014
NGUNNAWAL ANGELS

- meet on Wednesdays, 9:40am to 10:40am, 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!  

Bronwyn, Chaplain

Academy Calisthenics Dance Sport Club

is resuming the weekly classes; for the 2014 season, in Gungahlin at The Uniting Church and Community Centre, 108 The Valley Avenue, on Tuesday afternoons.

Calisthenics is a dance sport, combining exercises with flexibility, dancing, marching, hand apparatus manipulation while dancing, and artistic/aesthetic dance, suitable for girls and boys. Classes are designed for specific age groups, 13 years and under, 10 years and under, 7 years and under. As a performance dance sport, calisthenics use costumes for stage work, which are extensively supplied through the club wardrobe.

Academy Calisthenics is a not for profit organization, where fees collected are used to pay costs of running the club, and providing members with a rewarding experience.

An invitation is extended to new participants to attend two obligation free classes. [prior to the end of March, 2014]

Additional information can be found on www.academycalisthenics.com.au, with enquiries to; info@academycalisthenics.com.au or 62882858

PIANO TUTORS

Our current piano teacher, John Bice will not be taking any new students in 2014. John will continue teaching his current students. If you have any queries John can be contacted on 6254 7238.

This year a new piano teacher, Ms Kerrie Yard, will accept students wanting to start learning to play piano. Kerrie can be contacted on 6254 8141.

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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.