Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2016 school year! I hope that everyone had a restful and fun filled break and are as excited as us here at Ngunnawal Primary to begin the year. We have welcomed thirteen new teaching staff to our school this year. They are all excited to be here at Ngunnawal Primary and are looking forward to meeting not only our students but parents and carers as well. Listed below are the names of new teachers and the year levels they will be teaching.

**Preschool**
- Janette Adams
- Julie Ford

**Kindergarten**
- Ione Leach
- Erin Salleo
- Sandra Monteiro

**Year One**
- Nancye Marrington

**Year Two**
- Ann Walker
- Sarah Murcutt

**Year Three**
- Sarah Reddy

**Year Five/Six**
- Anna Porter
- Jason Proud
- Laura Wolfson
- Anna Porter
- Jason Proud
- Laura Wolfson

Executive Teacher (Literacy and Numeracy Field Officer (LNFO)
- Vernetta Rolls

The Executive team for 2016 is as follows:

**Principal:** Kristine Stewart

**Deputy Principal and Year Five/Six Leader:** Danielle Porter

**Kindergarten Leader:** Stacey Naden

**Year One/Two Leader:** Anna McGown

**Year Three/Four Leader:** Kate North (acting)

Please keep an eye out in future newsletters and the school's Facebook page for more information about the staff at Ngunnawal Primary School in 2016.

All staff returned to school last week and have been participating in professional learning covering a range of topics. The purpose of this learning was to equip teachers and support staff with the knowledge, skills and understandings that will support them with meeting the needs of all students. Teachers spent a lot of time also in organising their classrooms so that students were welcomed into safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments.

Yesterday Ngunnawal's youngest students started preschool and kindergarten. It is one of my favourite times of the year welcoming families to this great school. I look forward to getting know all new students and their families during the year. The students settled in well to their classes and were quickly involved with learning important school routines. There were a few tears, however these gave way to the wonderment of being at school. Today the year one to year six students returned and were quick to settle back into their routines. When speaking with them many said that

(Continued on page 2.....)
while they enjoyed their holidays, they are pleased to be back at school. Parents also agreed with their children in that they were also pleased that school has started!

Staff here at Ngunnawal Primary truly value the partnerships we form with parents and carers in the education of our students. We encourage you to offer assistance in the classroom especially if you have expertise that will add to the rich learning programs at the school. We also extend an invitation to all parents and carers to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss your learning or to clarify any questions you may have.

Anaphylactic Allergy Alert NUT and EGGS

All 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.

The school has a number of ways in which we communicate information to our school community. The school newsletter and Facebook page are the main communication processes used. I encourage you to ‘like’ Ngunnawal Primary School’s Facebook page as this will give you access to the weekly newsletter link as well as provide you with updated information and school happenings. Please make sure that you read the newsletter each week as it contains information regarding upcoming events and other important dates. You are able to request a paper copy of the newsletter by completing a slip located later in this newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the executive team if you have any queries or need clarification by contacting the front office on 6205 8182.

Have a great week.

Kristine Stewart
Principal

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

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

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.

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.

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.
Our Team for 2016

Leadership Team
Principal: Kristine Stewart
Deputy Principal: Danielle Porter
Executive Teacher: Anna McGown
Executive Teacher: Kate North (acting)
Executive Teacher: Stacey Naden
Literacy & Numeracy Field Officer: Vernetta Rolls

Brindabella (Kindergarten)
KCB: Chris Beltrame
KES: Erin Salleo
KIL: Ione Leach
KSM: Sandra Monteiro

Budawang (Kindergarten)
KMA: Mary Aranguiz
KST: Stephney Tyler

Gundaroo (Year 1)
1CB: Cecilia Brunker
1CD: Cath Dray
1CS: Cathryn Sawyer
1NM: Nancye Marrington
1WL: Wendy Lee

Yerrabi (Year 2)
2AW: Ann Walker
2ES: Estelle Stanton-Yeaman
2SL: Sharee Hodge/
Laurie Imhoff
2SM: Sarah Murcutt

Redwood (Year 3)
3EM: Elise Meredith
3SR: Sarah Reddy
3TM: Tanya Matthews

Kosciusko (Year 4 & PE)
4CC: Carmel Coles
4KW: Kristy Williamson
4LS: Larry Stackpoole
PE/Health: Nikki Van Huizen

Namadgi (Year 5/6)
5/6LW: Laura Wolfson
5/6NK: Nicole Kent

Wiradjuri (Year 5/6)
5/6AP: Anna Porter
5/6EE: Eloise Eldridge
5/6GH: Gina Harrop
5/6JP: Jason Proud

Preschool
Teacher (Koori Pre): Belinda Day
Teacher: Emma Boyle
Teacher: Janette Adams
Teacher: Janice Schroder
Teacher: Julie Ford
Teacher: Sharon Genero
Educator (Koori Pre): Belinda Kinchela-Bashford
Educator: Caroline Evans
Educator: Kerryn Price
Educator: Lyndy Parker

Specialist Programs
Year 5 Band: Anna Porter
Year 6 Band: Nicole Kent
ICT: Jan Henryon
Italian (Term 1): Anna McGown
PE Release: Nikki van Huizen
Music Release: Belinda Robertson

Learning Support Centre
EALD: Natalie Otten

Administration Staff
Business Manager: Kirralee Larkin
School Secretary: Jennifer Lewis
School Assistant: Karinna Murphy
Building Service Officer: Peter Dray

Library Technician: Karin Tamsett
Indigenous Education Worker: Belinda Kinchela-Bashford
Teaching Support: Chloe Templeton
Maureen Campbell

School Psychologist: Courtney Bruce
Chaplain: Karen Connors

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Ngunnawal Primary School
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.
**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.

There are two (2) vacancies for parent representatives and one (1) vacancy for a staff representative on the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018. Election of the parent representatives and the staff representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2016 school year as set out below.

**Nomination period:**
- Opens – 11:00am on Monday 1 February 2016
- Closes - 11:00am on Monday 15 February 2016.

**Voting period (if election is required):**
- Opens - 11:00am on Monday 22 February 2016
- Closes - 11:00am on Monday 29 February 2016.

The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 28 March 2016.

If you are interested in being a member of the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for 2016-2018 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, 1 February 2016.

*Jennifer Lewis, Assistant Returning Officer*

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**HOLIDAY READING KITS**

Thank you to children who have returned their Holiday Reading Kits. We hope you enjoyed reading with your family over the holidays.

If you still have a reading kit at home, please return it this week. Every child who returns their kit can choose a book to keep and will receive an award to acknowledge their reading efforts.

Visit the executive office and speak to Vernetta to select your book.

*Vernetta, Literacy & Numeracy Field Officer*

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016**

All students who are turning 8 years or older this year will be attending our school swimming carnival at Gungahlin Leisure Centre on Tuesday 23 February (week 4).

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).

All students must return their permission notes, medical notes and payment ($12) by Tuesday 16 February, 2016.

If you have any questions please contact the front office.

*Nicole Kent*

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**From your School Chaplain...**

It is my privilege to serve the Ngunnawal School Community again this year in the role of School Chaplain

Chaplain’s days this year will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I share an office in Redwood with the School Psychologist but I am often in the staff room as well if you need to find me.

If you are wondering what a School Chaplain does you might like to come along and meet me in person! I will be available on Tuesday morning after the start of school in the Staff room for a chat with parents or you may like to come to the Ngunnawal Angels (parent group) on Wednesday morning in the Library which I will call in on after assembly to meet parents. I am also available to meet with parents before or after school if needed.

The Chaplain’s role supports students, parents and staff by providing pastoral care, a listening ear, a helping hand and a range of programs for both individual students and small groups. Students may be referred to the School Chaplain by parents, teachers, the School Psychologist and self-referral. All students need a permission form signed by a parent/carer referring them to see me individually. Forms are kept in the front office or I can email the form directly to you. Students who are invited to participate in a small group will also receive a permission form to be signed by their parent/carer in order to participate.

I also run a lunch time social group once a week. It is usually a casual, drop-in group so permission forms are not needed for this. Students may come once or many times throughout the term, whatever suits them. The activity will provide a space for students who are struggling with their friend groups and those having difficulties socialising at lunch time but anyone is welcome and some students may drop in just because they like to do the activity. Details will be posted in the newsletter so you will be able to talk with your child about whether the activity is something that may be beneficial for them.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to see me please contact me by email karen.connors@ed.act.edu.au or leave a message at the office with your name and phone number so I can call you.

*Karen Connors, School Chaplain*
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

MEDICAL INFORMATION
All requests for staff to administer medication and/or medical treatment must be in writing, setting out exact procedures. Students are not to bring medication without written advice. Each request will then be assessed in relation to the Directorate’s First Aid Policy and the school’s ability to follow through. All medication is to be kept at the front office to ensure safety for all concerned. Your cooperation ensures a safe environment. If you have any queries please contact the school. If your child has any of the following conditions an Emergency Treatment Plan must be completed and returned ASAP:

- Anaphylaxis
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Epilepsy
- Any other medical condition for which your Doctor has recommended the school needs an Emergency Treatment Plan.

These forms can be collected from the Front Office.

SIGN IN / OUT BOOK
Parents who are bringing their children to school after 9:30am or taking them out of the school for any reason during school hours, must sign the student Sign In / Out book which is located on the counter at the office. This needs to be signed, both when leaving and when returning to school.

PARENTING AGREEMENTS – CUSTODY ORDERS – PROTECTION ORDERS
If your child/ren is/are subject to a custody order, parenting agreement or protection order, the school needs to know. Copies of these documents are kept in a confidential file and teachers are informed on a “need to know” basis. Please see the Principal or Deputy Principal.

BRIMMED HATS
In line with the ACT Department of Education’s Sun Protection Policy, students at Ngunnawal Primary School must wear a broad brimmed or bucket hat when outside at all times except for June and July. It has been brought to our attention that some students are wearing baseball caps which offer no protection to the ears and back of the neck. The correct hats are available from the front office: bucket hat $8.

The safety and well-being of your children is very important to us. To assist us in providing a safe play environment for your child we need to ensure all hats have their cords removed to prevent choking accidents. There are brimmed hats available with special safety release cords. If your child has one of these there is no need to remove the cord.

BIKES & OTHER WHEELED DEVICES
If students ride bicycles or scooters to school they must wear a helmet. Bicycles and scooters must be placed in the locked bicycle compound. The compound is locked during school hours but bike compounds are not theft proof. We do recommend that students bring a lock and secure their bike or scooter within the compound.

For the safety of all students no wheeled devices (including skateboards, in-line skates and scooters) are to be ridden in the school playground at any time. Skateboards and in-line skates are not considered to be safe transport to and from school for primary-aged children and are not to be brought to school.

The school will not accept responsibility for the care of any wheeled device or associated equipment.

Students must dismount bikes and other wheeled devices before using school crossings.

ASSEMBLIES
School assemblies are held each Wednesday morning at 9:15am. We invite parents to join us to share in the achievements and presentations that celebrate student success and achievement at Ngunnawal Primary School.

A whole school assembly is generally held every two weeks, with Junior and Senior assemblies occurring on a rotating roster in the alternate weeks.

ABSENTEEISM
Please call the school to notify if your child will be absent. If students have not arrived in class by 9:15am, the front office will contact parents by phone to verify student absences. If a student is absent from school, a written note must be sent to the class teacher stating the date and acknowledging that the student had permission to be absent.

STUDENT SUPERVISION BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL
Parents are reminded that there is no direct supervision of children in the playground between 8.30am and 9.00am. The Library opens each morning at 8.30am for student borrowing. It is desirable that students be dropped off at school as close as possible to 9.00am. If children need assistance before school they should contact the front office for assistance.

Before 9am students are required to stay within the courtyard of the school. Playing on equipment is not permitted. School concludes at 3.00pm and children should go directly home unless they are attending After School Care. Please ensure that your children know the correct procedures for going home each day.

PRECIOUS ARTICLES / VALUABLES / MOBILE PHONES
Parents are asked to ensure that students do not bring precious articles or toys to school. It is extremely distressing for students if valuables are lost or broken. They can also cause a disruption to lessons. Please make prior arrangements with teachers before any “treasures” are brought to school for news. Mobile phones and iPods are not permitted at school unless prior arrangements have been made with the Principal or Deputy Principal. These items must be handed in at the front office prior to 9am each day and will be stored at the front office until 3pm when they can be collected by students.

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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

SCHOOL BANKING 2016 IS SET FOR THE OUTBACK

Join the Dollarmites as they venture through the Canyon of Savings.

Since 1931, the School Banking program has been introducing interactive and exciting new ways to teach students lifelong money skills.

Eight New Reward Items. The School Banking program continues to encourage good savings behaviour by rewarding students with thrilling reward items. For every 10 deposits made through the program, students can redeem a reward from the Outback Savers range.

The first two reward items released in Term 1 include Flying Snake Tails and Wildlife Writer Sets.

Parents Packs will be sent home to all children with information on how to get started, if you have not received one please ask the Front Office.

Win a Family Wildlife Adventure Holiday and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin at Australia Zoo. This year, we’re giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three kids to explore Australia Zoo, plus a full day Platinum Zoo Adventure Tour, where you’ll get to pat wombats, cuddle koalas and feed wallabies, all while your personal photographer captures every incredible moment. Domestic return economy airfares to Sunshine Coast, Qld, 4 nights accommodation, 5 days car hire and $1,000 spending money. How to enter: Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information please contact the Front Office or our School Banking Specialist Jo on 0475821274.

Banking Day is every Thursday.