PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week students certainly showcased their skills during the Little and Big Gigs. I thoroughly enjoyed the evenings and was very proud of each and every student. Thank you for supporting this annual event and for providing some feedback that will enable us to make adjustments so that next year’s gigs are even better.

Ground work has begun today in preparation for the new portable classrooms. While this work is undertaken the gates leading out onto Balbo Place cannot be used to access the school. These gates will be the access point for contractors and will be used to get the portable classrooms onto the school site. The expected date for delivery of the portables is on Wednesday 17 December, the last day of the term.

I am very pleased to announce the 2015 School Captains. Congratulations to Tharusha and Ethan. and also to Tiahna and Jonathon who are the Vice Captains. I look forward to meeting with the School Captains throughout 2015. They will be great role models for our students.

A huge thank you to the Ngunnawal Primary P&C, in particular to Adam Smith, President, who has led a tireless group of committed parents during the year. At last night’s meeting, the P&C Committee announced a generous donation that will enable the school to make a significant purchase. Please read the P&C Report later in the newsletter to find out what this is. Thank you also to every member of the school community that has supported the P&C and their fundraising efforts. I look forward to working productively again with the P&C in 2015.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Ngunnawal Angels, who meet with Bronwyn each Wednesday morning after assembly. This group of people support not only the P&C by wrapping gifts for the Mothers and Fathers Day stalls but do a multitude of gluing, laminating and cutting out jobs for teachers. This contribution to the school is truly valued by all who have benefitted from the help.

This week is yet another busy time. Community Carols are on tonight, starting at 6.30pm. The P&C will begin selling sausages and drinks from 5.30pm. On Thursday evening we will celebrate the graduation of the year six students. After the graduation ceremony students will enjoy a dinner followed by a disco. I look forward to seeing many of you at these two events.

Late last week staff members were notified about the outcome of the transfer round for permanent teachers. The following teachers will be leaving us at the end of the year: Karon Campbell, Peter Lawson and Kate Wylie. These teachers have left their mark on Ngunnawal Primary and made many valuable contributions. These teachers will be farewelled at the last school assembly on Wednesday 17 December. I wish them all the very best in their careers and know that their future schools will be receiving quality teachers. New teachers to Ngunnawal will be announced in the first newsletter of 2015.

Reports will be sent home this Friday, followed by portfolios on the last day of term. Please make sure you check your child’s bag for them. Teachers will be available in week 10 if you wish to discuss your child’s report with them.

Have a great week.

Regards

Kristine
Kristine Stewart, Principal
Students in Year 3 have been learning about the ancient story of Ramayana which is one of the most popular stories in Southeast Asia. This epic, which originated in India, also became the national epic of Indonesia. For more than fourteen centuries, it has continued to be a living force among the people of Southeast Asia, influencing their hearts and thoughts, inspiring their artistic creations and forming the mainspring of their cultural life.

Year 4 students had been busy practising their “Gangnam Style” moves to an Indonesian parody of the original Korean song. Their dance performance during the “Big Gig” concert was a delight to watch. The students became very familiar with the lyrics of the song such as “Apa gak mahal?” (What’s not expensive?) The music has become another springboard for learning common Indonesian phrases. The song’s message also portrays concerns, preoccupations and values of some people in Indonesia which are similar to that in Australia.

The year 5/6 students have been learning how to play “karambol”, a cue sport similar to billiards or pool. This board game is very popular in South Asia and is also a favourite game among children and adults in Indonesia. Games like karambol help develop not just strategic thinking but are also very good in enhancing eye-hand coordination skills.

All classes have also enjoyed playing “bulu tangkis” (badminton), which is one of the most popular sports in Indonesia.

A written assessment on various topics learnt this year by all classes has shown great results in the students’ retention of their word knowledge. Many students have also shown remarkable improvement in their oral presentations.

Some classes have already done their cooking and tasting of “krupuk udang” (prawn crackers). The rest are looking forward to this cooking session. Also, a tropical fruit common in Indonesia, called “asam jawa” (tamarind), have been sampled by some classes. The tamarind fruit and leaves are an important part of Indonesian food culture.
P&C News
What a great year it's been for the P&C! We've had plenty of P&C meetings with a variety of community involvement and a number of successful fundraising events.
For all of the parents, children, carers, friends family and teachers who have supported and assisted the P&C this year, a big thank you from all of us.
Our most successful fundraiser this year once again was the fete. The community involvement was terrific and we raised more than $5,000 from the event, which wasn't bad considering the rain that made an appearance yet again.
Given the amount the P&C raised this year, at the meeting on 8 December 2014, the Committee agreed to donate $20,000 to the school for some fantastic new playground equipment, suitable for all children, to be located at the West Park playground, next to Wiradjuri.
Next year is bound to be another great year and with your continued support, we can do some wonderful things.
While yet to be confirmed, our next meeting will be in the middle of February next year. We look forward to seeing you there.
Finally, congratulations to all of the graduating class of 2014 from the P&C.
Adam Smith, President, Ngunnawal P&C Committee
ngunnawalpandccommittee@gmail.com

CHAMPIONSTIX HOCKEY COMPETITION
This term, 15 very keen Ngunnawal students took part in the ChampionStix hockey competition over a 6 week period. This was run by Hockey A.C.T.
It involved 30 minutes of quality coaching, followed by 30 minutes of games on an artificial hockey surface. The teams were coached by Nikki, Brett and Richard. Games were 6-a-side with no goalkeepers. During the coaching sessions students learnt basic hockey skills and rules of hockey. A great time was had by all involved.
I would just like to thank Brett Northey for assisting with coaching the teams and the supportive parents for their help during this competition.
If your child is interested in playing hockey as a winter sport next year please check out the Hockey A.C.T. website for more information www.hockeyact.org.au

NGUNNAWAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
BOARD ELECTION 2015
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 on the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017. Election of the parent representative will be undertaken in the first few weeks of the 2015 school year as set out below.
Nomination period:
Opens – 11:00am on Monday 2 February 2015
Closes - 11:00am on Monday 16 February 2015.
Voting period (if election is required):
Opens - 11:00am on Monday 23 February 2015
Closes - 11:00am on Monday 2 March 2015.
The successful candidates will be announced by Monday, 30 March 2015.
If you are interested in being a member of the Ngunnawal Primary School Board for 2015-2017 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 will be available from the school front office from Monday, 2 February 2015. If you would like to have a form before that date, please contact the school front office on 6205 8182.
Jennifer Lewis,
Assistant Returning Officer

Merit Award Recipients
Junior Assembly, 3 December 2014
Ngunnawal Jets
Ngunnawal Strikers
Ngunnawal Jets
Ngunnawal Strikers

Nikki
2F and 2W Assembly
3 December 2014
GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S SPORTS FUN DAY

On Friday 5 December, approximately 1,100 primary school students from across the ACT and surrounding area attended the inaugural Governor-General’s Sports Fun Day at Government House, Yarralumla. We were fortunate to take 22 students from years 4, 5 and 6.

Throughout the day, the students had the opportunity to participate in a range of sports including: rugby league (Canberra Raiders), Australian Touch Football, AFL, tennis, Little Athletics, soccer (Capital Football), volleyball, cricket, hockey, netball and rugby union (Brumbies). Student also had the opportunity to visit the Life Education truck that delivered lessons designed to empower children to make safe and healthy lifestyle choices.

A special highlight was the arrival of Santa via Navy helicopter and meeting the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and his wife, Lady Cosgrove.

The students were very well behaved and all had a fabulous time. Below are some comments from the students.

Sarah Milligan and Kate North
We had so much fun at the Governor-General's house playing sports all day. Tiahna

The day was amazing! I got to meet the Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove. Hannah

The Governor-General’s front yard is massive and he was so cool he gave me a high five. I also gave Santa a high five. Casey

It was a fun day and we got to meet Santa who arrived by navy helicopter. Daniel

I complimented Santa and the Governor-General by saying I admire their work. Samuel

It was amazing seeing Santa. Amou and Charli

It was a fun, educating experience about fitness and sport. Katie

It was really fun because we got to meet Santa and the Governor-General, Peter Cosgrove, and Lady Cosgrove. We got to participate in lots of fun activities including soccer, volleyball, netball and best of all, the big jumping castle. It was awesome! Chloe

The jumping castle was really fun. We got to race against our friends and fell into each other. We also got to run and tackle the blow up dummies in the AFL area. Amy C

It was a really good experience. Amy F

SCIENCE @ NGUNNAWAL

Quiz Questions:
1. Apart from the dodo, can you name three other flightless birds?
2. Which of these is a noble gas? a) hydrogen b) helium or c) oxygen?
3. What does an EEG measure?
4. In plants, what name is given to the process of water moving into the roots and up to the leaves?
5. On the electromagnetic spectrum, are microwaves closer to X-rays or to radio waves?

Science Quiz Answers:
1. Some examples of flightless birds include penguins, emus, ostriches, cassowaries and kiwis.
2. b) Helium is a noble gas.
3. EEG (electroencephalography) measures brain activity.
4. Transpiration is the process of water moving into the roots and up to the leaves.
5. Microwaves are closer to radio waves.