



## Harrison School Newsletter 4 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new students and families and welcome back to those continuing with us. Yesterday was very exciting as our Preschoolers, Kindergarteners and new students from Year 1 to Year 10 started their learning journeys with us. It was a great opportunity for them to find their way before all students returned today. We're also excited to introduce our new staff for 2020, listed below:

P	Elsa Hendry	3/4	David Hicks	7-10	Jacinta Scott
P	Sandy Home	5/6	Steven Clarke	7-10	John Parson Kathleen
K	Amandeep Chahal	5/6	Courtney Blanch	7-10	Kinsella Ashley
1/2	Tom Parr	7-10	Brendan Dahl	Admin	Howes Brooke
1/2	Phil Howe	7-10	Tina Oldham	Admin	Kennedy Kiara
1/2	Kylie Apps	7-10	Justin Pronin	Admin	Stachow Ruth Conley-
1/2	Shane Newman	7-10	Watson		Katharine
1/2	Naomie Grech	7-10	Broadhurst		

Details for the Executive Team can be found [here](#) on our website.

It's been an interesting start to the year with the threat of fire, persistent low air quality and concerns about the novel coronavirus. I have sent out information to you all recently to keep you abreast of situations and advice as it arrives. I'll keep up this practice and would like to assure you that we continue to keep the well-being of our community members at the forefront. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to

### Term 1 Week 1 2020

#### **Tuesday 4 February**

- First Day of Term 1 for all continuing students
- Whole School Assembly – Gym – 12:45pm

#### **Wednesday 5 February**

- Kindergarten Information Session – Hall – 5:15pm

#### **Thursday 6 February**

- First Day Preschool Thurs/Fri Groups

### Term 1 Week 2 2020

#### **Tuesday 11 February**

- Year 1/2 Information Session – Hall – 5:30pm

#### **Thursday 13 February**

- Swimming Trials (8-16 year old competitive swimmers) – Gungahlin Leisure Centre

### Term 1 Week 3 2020

#### **Monday 17 February**

- P&C Meeting – Library – 7:00pm

#### **Wednesday 19 February**

- P-2 Assembly – Hall – 9:15am
- 3-6 Assembly – Gym – 9:15am

**REMINDER:** For **ALL** events in the Gym please wear flat -soled shoes **ONLY**



contact me via email ([jason.holmes@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jason.holmes@ed.act.edu.au)). I appreciate your understanding as we attempted to provide individual class information for children to parents yesterday. Thank you - we have already received some feedback on the process and information and will use this to improve the provision of this information in 2021.

I thought I'd take some time in this first newsletter article to revisit some of the operational aspects of the school with you.

### **Communication**

Parent information sessions are scheduled for upcoming weeks. Please check the [Harrison School calendar](#) for dates, times and venues. This year we are going to trial a different approach for our years 3-6 families. We will send out information to parents electronically during Week 2 and provide an opportunity for deeper conversations with teachers during the Get To Know You interviews that will start in Week 3. Of course, if you have any questions, please contact your child's Homeroom teacher in the first instance.

We attempt to communicate with our community members in a number of ways including this newsletter, our Community News publication, the Harrison School Daily News blog (<https://harrisonschool.wordpress.com/>), the school calendar, the Harrison School P&C Facebook page, Class Parent Facebook messages, email, SMS, telephone and face to face conversations. I encourage you to take the time to drop in and meet your child's/children's teacher(s) - the information sessions and Get To Know You interviews might be a great time to do this - or at least drop them an email to introduce yourself. Teacher email addresses are in the format [firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au).

### **Assemblies**

Our whole school assemblies are in the Gym in Weeks 5 and 10 on Wednesday at 9:15. For Semester One, we will hold Preschool to Year 6 assemblies on odd weeks (starting Week 3, 19 February) and Years 7-10 assemblies will be held in weeks 2 and 8 (starting week 2, 12 February). Years 3-6 and 7-10 assemblies are in

the Gym and P-2 in the Hall. Assemblies start at 9:15am. Class teachers will contact you if your child is receiving a school certificate or participating in the assembly. School certificates are awarded for recognising excellence in achievement, citizenship or endeavour and/or for showing the school values. Parents, friends and family are always welcome at assemblies.

### **Harrison School Board**

Nominations, which opened yesterday, are sought for two parent representatives, two staff representatives and two student representatives. The School Board is tasked with providing strategic leadership and more information about the functions of a School Board can be found [here](#). Terms for Board membership are generally two years and the Board normally meets four times per year. Nominations close on Tuesday 17 February 2020 with voting (if needed) from 24 February to 2 March. New Board appointments begin on 1 April. For more information or to nominate, please contact the front office on 6142 2200.

### **Uniform**

A quick reminder that Harrison is a uniform school and that students are expected to wear their uniform every day they attend school unless there is an official special program or event that allows them to wear non-uniform clothes for the day. Parents will always receive notification of these events. For Term One, students need to wear the summer school uniform and details of our [uniform requirements](#) can be found at on our school website in the Policies and Procedure section.

### **Attendance Procedures**

We mark attendance electronically and will send an SMS to your designated number at 10:30am if your child is absent and we haven't received notification from you about the absence. Please respond to each SMS message outlining the reason for your child's absence. In the event of planned absences, please contact the school as soon as possible to let us know the dates and reason for absence by either phoning the front office (6142 2200) or sending an email to [harrison.absences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:harrison.absences@ed.act.edu.au)

I'm looking forward to a great year working with you and watching your children thrive and grow.

Jason Holmes

## YEAR 7 AND YEAR 10 IMUNISATIONS

Vaccinations for students in Year 7 and Year 10 are due in Semester 1. Consent cards will be sent home with students this week and are due back as soon as possible. More information for immunisations can be found here: [Year 7](#), [Year 10](#).

## ARE YOU BACK TO SCHOOL READY?



### Routes and timetables:

Check the details of services required for your child to and from school, also making sure your child is familiar with the times and stops. If your child is new to school or changing schools, please check available [school services](#) or [regular bus timetables](#) information.

### Journey Planner:

The Transport Canberra Journey Planner includes school services, allowing you to plan out the most convenient mode of transport for your trip to school. Use Transport Canberra's [journey planner](#) to plan your travel, and use [NXTBUS](#) to track your awaited service.

### MyWay cards:

MyWay is the cheapest and easiest way to travel with Transport Canberra services. A student [MyWay card](#) can be purchased online, over the phone, or at a MyWay Recharge Agent. Adding travel credit is even easier with the options of B-Pay or Autoload direct debit, attracting an additional 5% discount on all fares. Students can also top up their MyWay card or purchase a single or daily ticket at Transport Canberra's new [ticket vending machines](#), available at selected bus stations and Light Rail stops.

When travelling on Transport Canberra services, it is important for students to carry their concession entitlement in addition to their MyWay card as Customer Service Officers regularly check concessions.

### Fares:

A single trip school student MyWay fare is now \$1.22 on school days and a single trip school student cash fare costs \$2.50. All information about MyWay and cash fares are available [online](#).

### Public Transport Safety:

If your child is new to public transport or a regular user, don't forget safety is a top priority. Make sure your child is familiar with the safety rules for inside and outside their chosen bus or light rail service. For further information on Transport Canberra travel safety, please visit the [Etiquette and Safety](#) and [Staying Safe](#) sections on our website.

### School Safety Tips:

A School Crossing Supervisor program has been in place since 2018. School crossing supervisors (lollipop people) assist children to cross roads safely by directing traffic with a stop sign and providing instructions. They also help to manage the flow of pedestrians and motorists at the busiest crossings. For further information on schools participating within the program please refer to our Active Travel page, under [School Crossing Supervisors](#).

### Active Travel:

Walking, riding or scooting to school is also a great way to reduce congestion and increase safety around schools. There are several initiatives in place to support families wishing to walk or ride in 2020, including the Ride or Walk to School, Active Streets for Schools and School Crossing Supervisor programs. Part way drop off points near a school, like a local oval or the shops, can be a great option if walking or riding the entire trip is too far.

### Further information:

Pick-up and set down guidelines, tips for parents, tips for staff/volunteers, tips for students, safe driving, safety tips, safe school travel plans and travel congestion information can be found under

the [School Safety Tips](#) on the Transport Canberra website.

### Staying up to date:

To keep up to date with Transport Canberra news and important service information, sign up for our [email alerts](#) or follow us on our social media channels: [Email Alerts](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Further information can be found under the [FAQ's section](#) on our website. For all other enquiries, please contact us on 13 17 10.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY DATE 2020

Monday 27 April 2020 declared a public holiday. This year, ANZAC day will fall on Saturday 25 April 2020 and consequently Monday 27 April 2020 has been declared a public holiday. This is in addition to the ANZAC Day public holiday on Saturday 25 April 2020.

The Term 2, 2020 dates information on the Directorate website and the Public Holiday information on ACT Government website has been updated to reflect the public holiday. Term 2, 2020 starts on Tuesday 28 April.

### LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome back to all staff, students and families! I hope you had a wonderful holiday.

#### Family Borrowing

It has been wonderful to see so many excited students come and visit the library during the library tours. Parents are reminded that you are invited each morning at 8.30 am to come and read with your child before school and families can also sign up for a barcode which makes them eligible to borrow books from all collections including the popular and informative community collection.

#### Library Bags

Each student from P – 2 is required to have a library bag to borrow a book. The bags help protect the books and encourages student responsibility by taking good care of the books and returning them

each week. Harrison library bags are available at the front office for \$3.00 or a shopping bag will do. Please label all bags.

#### Book Club

Issue 1 will be distributed to each student this week.  
Due date: Friday 14 February

#### Volunteers

We are always happy to have volunteers come visit the library and help in many areas including, sorting out lost property, shelving, covering and tiding. If you are interested and would like to offer an hour or so, please come and see us to arrange a time.

#### FRONT OFFICE HOURS

Harrison School Front Office hours are:

**Monday – Friday**  
**8:30am – 3:30pm**

For all enquiries and calls

#### STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

**ALL** students arriving late to school **MUST** sign in at either the main front office or the Senior Office.

#### IMPORTANT - STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child/ren are absent for any reason from school please call the school on 61422200, or email the school at [Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au)

Please include your child's **FIRST AND LAST NAME** and **CLASS**.

#### REMINDER

**ALL** students **MUST** be signed in and out of the school by a parent or carer. If you need to add a parent/guardian to your child's contact details, please come to the front office to fill in the appropriate form.

**Preschool – Yr. 6** students **MUST** be signed out from the main administration office before they are collected from class.

**Years 7 – 10** students **MUST** be signed in and out by a parent or carer from the senior office.

## OSHClub



**JOIN US FOR SOME FUN  
BEFORE SCHOOL, AFTER SCHOOL  
AND DURING THE HOLIDAYS!**  
Exciting new adventures every day.

Book online: [oshclub.com.au](http://oshclub.com.au)



## DEFENCE NEWS

Welcome back for 2020 to all our continuing families. To all of our new Defence families arriving this year, welcome to Harrison School and to Canberra! We hope that your moves have gone smoothly and that you settle into our community very quickly.

**DCO Support for ADF Families:**  
[defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au) or 1800 624 608.

Sarah and Zoe

[sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au)  
[zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au)



## DEFENCE KIDS

Activity Groups will recommence next Monday further details will be displayed around the junior and senior schools.



## HARRISON HEARTS (Commencing Next Week)

Come to the Defence Room in the library on Monday mornings between 9am and 11am. We would love to have you join us for a cuppa, a chat and to create some resources for the classrooms. Please remember to sign in as a volunteer at the front office.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The second hand uniform shop will be open **every Friday morning** from 8:30am-9:30am in the Multipurpose room located in the Junior Hall.

## CANTEEN NEWS

### ORDERS

Cut off time for Flexischools **online** orders is strictly **9:00am**.

Cut off time for **over the counter** orders is strictly **10:00am**.

**Please note that once an order has been placed either through Flexischools or over the counter, the order is processed and is non-refundable or transferrable. Unfortunately, we cannot offer refunds for uncollected lunch orders.**

The friendly canteen staff are always looking for volunteers. If you have a spare hour or two, your help would be greatly appreciated - just drop in to the canteen and say hello.

[FLEXI-SCHOOLS ONLINE ORDERING](#)

## SCHOOL BANKING



School banking day is **WEDNESDAY** starting 5 February 2020.

We are still looking for volunteers to help process the banking. If you are interested, please send an email to [kalpana0708@gmail.com](mailto:kalpana0708@gmail.com)

**Kalpana Pothuraju**  
**School Banking Coordinator**