



Harrison School Newsletter 21 March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 8!

As a school community we had the pleasure of welcoming our new and continuing Indigenous families for 2017 for a BBQ. It was great to see so many families and staff attend. It brought home to me again how important the relationships are that we as educators form with students and their families and how long lasting the impacts can be.

NAPLAN 2017

A quick reminder to the Harrison school community that the testing for the 2017 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will occur from Monday 8 to Thursday 18 May 2017 which goes online for the first time this year. Our Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 cohorts will be participating in these tests next term. Over the next couple of weeks students and parents will be receiving some details about NAPLAN and we will continue to give you more information as the need arises.

If parents/carers have any concerns or queries about this testing, please contact:

Donna Briggs	Year 3
David McGibbon	Year 5
Jenni McInnis	Year 7
Dan Ewin	Year 9.

Writing

For all students every year we focus on writing; in a variety of text types, across all subject areas; some using devices and others with good old paper and pen.

There are things you can do as a parent to support your children to

Diary

Term 1 Week 8

Kindergarten – Yr. 6 Cricket Clinics

Wednesday 22 - HARMONY DAY

- Harmony Day Assembly – 9:15am Gym
- Yr. 9/10 Aspire Program Alan Tongue

Thursday 23

- Preschool Harmony Day Celebrations
- Kindergarten to Yr. 6 AFL Clinics
- Dream Cricket Gala Day
- Yr. 7 Drumming

Friday 24

- Kindergarten to Yr. 6 AFL Clinics

Term 1 Week 9

National Youth Week

Kindergarten – Yr. 6 Cricket Clinics

Yr. 2 Aqua Safe Program

Monday 27

- Anytime Fitness Kindy Bootcamp – Incursion
- Yrs.3,5,7 & 9 NAPLAN Online Parent Information Session

Wednesday 29

- Yr. 3/4 Birrigai CAMP - Group 1: 3/4FE, CM, MPO & TW Departs 9:00am
- Yr. 5-10 Assembly – 9:15am Gym
- Indigenous Tennis Come and Try Day Yr. 1 – 6

Thursday 30

- Primary GRIP Student Leadership Conference
- Yr. 7/8 Outdoor Ed Coast Camp Departs

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

[2017 Calendar](#)



become effective writers. Here are a number of suggestions to help you get started.

- **Practise, practise, practise**

Writing takes practise! Let your child/teen see you write often and encourage them to write often too. At home, writing might include e-mails, instant messaging, thank-you notes, scrapbook descriptions, diaries and 'what's-for-dinner' notes.

- **Try writing for different audiences**

Encourage your child/teen to expand their range and abilities by writing for many different audiences. They could try a letter to the editor, a silly story for their younger sibling, or a "top ten" list to cheer up a sick friend.

- **Make language fun**

Have fun with language yourself and share that sense of play with your child. Point out new words and phrases you come across in the newspaper or on the radio; share your favourite song lyrics; get creative in naming a new pet or in writing gift cards.

- **Offer many opportunities to read**

Offer your child/teen a wide variety of opportunities to read- both educational and entertaining. Pass on your own favourite authors, novels and magazines to show them that you're a reader too. Discuss the things you've both read.

- **Encourage the examination of different styles of (and reasons for) writing**

Encourage your child/teen to compare the styles of different authors, and compare how a newspaper editorial may be different than a website or an instructional manual.

- **Encourage your child/teen to pursue forms of writing that interest them**

If your child/teen has found a form of writing that they enjoy, encourage them to pursue it – whether it's poetry, journal and letter writing, or writing on the internet.

- **Encourage your child/teen to write about personal thoughts and interests**

Encourage your teen to use writing to think more deeply about things in their life – questions, problems, difficult assignments, hobbies, and topics they want to learn more about. Writing regularly in a journal may provide a valuable outlet and space

for them.

- **Make sure your child/teen has what they need to write**

Support your child/teen by making sure they have adequate materials for writing (sufficient paper, pens, pencil), as well as a quiet place to work.

- **Communicate with your child's teacher**

If your child is struggling with their writing, talk with their teacher to find out ways you can help their efforts at home.

References: National Council of Teachers of English. "Helping your teen to Write Better."

<http://www.ncte.org/parents/parents>.

Richards, Regina G. Richards. "Understanding Why Students Avoid Writing" Richards Educational Therapy Ctr, Inc. Riverside, CA. May 1999

Strean, Linda. Writing Coaches' Tips for Parents. GreatSchools. <http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/1100>.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's learning at Harrison please talk to your child's teacher or any of our school executive.

I am really excited about the upcoming School Fair and really looking forward to seeing you all there.

Have a great week and I hope all your children smiled beautifully for the school photos.

Smiles
Jacqui Ford

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child/ren are absent for any reason from school could you please call the school on 61422200, or email the school at Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au
Please include the students name and class.

FRONT OFFICE HOURS

Harrison School Front Office hours are:

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 3:30pm

EXCURSION/CAMP PAYMENTS

Please ensure when depositing into the Harrison School bank account for direct deposit that you include: Students Name and Excursion details.

LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue Books

Tomorrow (Wednesday) we are printing our first bundle of overdue notices for Preschool - Year 6. It will also be our first trial of emailing the notices to students in years 7-10 using the schoolsnet emails. We would be interested in feedback from students and/or parents regarding the email vs paper notes.

P&C Morning Tea Group Donation

We were thrilled to receive a \$100 gift voucher from the Tuesday Morning Tea group to buy library books at the end of 2016. Thank you so much - our students will appreciate reading our new bundle of books!



Lost Property

With the weather we have enjoyed in Term 1, our lost property box now has more drink bottles than jumpers. If you are missing one please come and check out our collection. With the weather we expect soon, PLEASE ensure ALL items of clothing are carefully labelled.

Loans

At the time of writing we have now loaned 10,149 books and 268 e-books since the start of the year! What a busy library. We love it! Please remember

that families are most welcome to join our library and borrow extra books - just pop in one day and ask us how. We will also be running an information session on how to borrow e-books in the near future. Watch this space.

Entertainment Books

We will be selling Entertainment Books again this year as a library fundraiser. Flyers will be sent home with more information this week, or click this link to order a book or digital copy straight away:

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/order/books/2d6190> .

Pamela Gaukroger and Nola Zorzi
Teacher Librarians

NORTH GUNGAHLIN SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Yesterday 24 of our students represented Harrison at the North Gungahlin Swimming Carnival. Many of our swimmers had vastly improved times from our school carnival which is a fantastic effort. A big shout out to all the parents who joined us for the day, your children love having you there. Special congratulations to the Penfold family who had just completed a massive weekend at the ACT Little Athletics Championship where both athletes won medals. They continued on their winning way and won all our swimming ribbons for the day. Thomas – 50m Freestyle 1st, 50m Breaststroke 1st, 50m Backstroke 1st, 50m Butterfly 3rd Chloe – 50m Backstroke 2nd, 50m Butterfly 3rd

An outstanding effort- congratulations to all swimmers.



HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2017

Harmony Day is a day when all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The message of Harmony Day is that **'Everyone Belongs'**, which means that all Australians are a welcome part of our country regardless of their background. It is about community participation, inclusiveness and respect – celebrating the different cultures that make Australia such a great place to live.

Harrison School will come together to celebrate Harmony Day with a Whole School Assembly, commencing at 9.15am on Wednesday 22 March 2017.

Students are encouraged to wear traditional dress or something orange to school on the day.

It is our hope that many parents and families attend our special assembly to participate in the day's celebrations. Parents are invited to return to their child's class to share their cultural stories, games, songs and traditions with the students after the assembly.

Harmony Day celebrations will continue during March and throughout the year, within classrooms. We encourage any parents who would like to share their traditions and culture to contact classroom teachers.



NAPLAN ONLINE INFO SESSION

In May of every year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

NAPLAN will move online from 2017, over a three-year period. States and territories determine when their schools commence NAPLAN Online. In the ACT, all tests except for the Year 3 Writing will be done online.

We are holding an information session on **Monday 27 March** from **5:30 to 6:30pm** in the **Senior PATS Building**. The info session will be an overview of

NAPLAN online, what it will look like and mean for your child and how you can access information to learn more about the process. If you are unable to attend the session the link below will be helpful.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/home>

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

A member of our staff is participating in this year World's Greatest Shave to raise money for The Leukaemia Foundation. Jenni McInnes will be shaving her head on Thursday 23 March at lunchtime. Students may also participate or get their hair coloured on the day and are invited to make a gold coin donation to help the cause. If you wish to donate please see the link below:

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/FundraisingPage.aspx?eventId=13823®istrationId=674278>

CHANGES TO SCHOOL BUS ROUTE 580

School Service **580** will see a diversion at Gungahlin Marketplace.

Commencing: Monday 24 April 2017 until further notice.

Change to route: Due to the closure of Hibberson Street Gungahlin Bus Stops 7002 and 6135 will no longer be serviced. This service will now drop off at Stop ID 5056 – Woolworths car park, Gozzard Street.

We encourage you to view this information now available on the [Transport Canberra Website](#).

We further advise that parents and students are able to use our [NXTBUS](#) system to view live bus information for selected stops or stations.

LET KIDS BE KIDS CAMPAIGN

On 28 February 2017, Minister Berry jointly released the Let Kids be Kids campaign. The campaign is a national initiative focused on letting kids play and enjoy sport without extra pressure from the sidelines, the grandstands or at home. The campaign also sends messages direct from children to their parents, reminding them that kids want to play sport because they love playing

with friends, trying their hardest and being active outside. Information about the campaign and the toolkit can be downloaded from www.playbytherules.net.au



DEFENCE NEWS

Tomorrow afternoon is the launch of the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation Defence Program here in Canberra. The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation supports kids living in families affected by mental illness. The program provides recreational, educational camps and other activities, giving kids a break, in a fun, positive and safe environment. Kids have the opportunity to meet other kids in similar families and develop new friendships. The program facilitators are excited to begin working specifically with Defence Families.

“What Does Anzac Mean to You?” We would appreciate the students to put into words or pictures what Anzac Day means to them so that we may display this in the multipurpose room during the morning tea following our Anzac Day Service.

Is your family currently enduring Deployment, or will be shortly? Be sure to let your child’s teacher and the DSTA/DTM (as appropriate) know so that we may support you and your family during this time. Often families believe that their children will not be affected during this period of long term absence but it can be a big adjustment, so if we can all work together, the journey may be easier.

Coming Up: Dinner Date – Thursday 23 March @ Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. If you are interested in attending, please let us know. More info will follow shortly.

ANZAC Day Service – Friday 7 April 9.15am in the gym.

Sarah McGavin and Samantha Murray

Sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au or

Samantha.murray@ed.act.edu.au



DEFENCE KIDS

Activity groups this week involved fine motor skill games for the K-2’s and games and puzzles for the 3-4’s. Please remind your children of the days that their year level has activity groups and that they can bring with them as many of their friends as they like. Kinder – Year2 (Mon lunch); Years 3 and 4(Tues lunch). The Senior Chill out session for (Yrs. 5 -10) is back to Thursday at lunchtime in the Mulligans Building Room H4/G26.



HARRISON HEARTS

Is held in the Multi-Purpose room (Junior Hall), every **Wednesday** between 1:30 and 2:30, this volunteer group is open to all community members and new faces are always welcome. 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.

SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations go to our first group of students to receive their rewards for this year. Many of you already have 10 tokens and are also able to order a reward. I encourage you to order your reward this week so that it can be back before the holidays. Please send in your 10 tokens and your rewards order card so they can be ordered.

Remember if you would like to participate in the School Banking Program, you just need to open a Youthsaver Account at any Commonwealth Bank branch.

Maria Sanchez-Worsnop and Linda Barrack
School Banking Coordinators

P & C NEWS



TWILIGHT FAIR

Less than 2 weeks to go! The flier attached to this newsletter gives full information about the Fair; buying tickets; donations needed; sponsors who are helping make the Fair happen and much more.

We would like to highlight two things:

- ❖ Volunteers...the Fair cannot happen without parents, carers, students and staff offering an hour or two of your time. There are two ways you can sign up to volunteer.
- ❖ 1 - sign up for a designated spot at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4aa5af23a7fb6-2017>.
- ❖ 2 - email harrisonfair@hotmail.com with the times you can volunteer, and a task will be designated to you.
- ❖ -Tickets - you can pre-order your unlimited ride wristbands, Carnival Cards and raffle tickets at www.flexischools.com.au. Full information in the attached flier.

CANTEEN NEWS

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 into the canteen and say hello.

Please see the link below for the 2017 Canteen Menu.

[2017 CANTEEN MENU](#)

[FLEXI -SCHOOLS ONLINE ORDERING](#)