



Harrison School Newsletter 21 February 2017

Dear families, Students and Community Members,

Thank you for all of your energy and efforts in making the start of 2017 so positive. It has been a delight to see the new students settling in so beautifully and I am grateful to our continuing students for the way in which they have guided and cared for our new community members.

Aqua Fun Day

Aqua Fun Day for years 5-10 was held this week. There was a fabulous spirit of community seen and heard throughout the day. Our students and staff had an excellent time, got to know each other better and demonstrated the Harrison School community Values of Respect, Teamwork, Inclusion, Integrity, Resilience and Endeavour at every turn.

A Note On Uniforms

Harrison School has a strong uniform policy. I ask for your support to ensure our students are wearing the full uniform to school. We have a good range of second hand stock in excellent condition as well as new uniforms for sale at the uniform shop.

If you are in doubt about the suitability of your child's clothing or have questions about uniform please look at our website or get in contact with your child's homeroom teacher or team leader.

Excerpt from a recent blog post by Paul Dillion titled Transition from primary to secondary school

While Harrison school is a P-10 school and we work hard at smooth transitions for students I found this article an interesting and proactive one so I thought I would include a snippet.

"So what can parents do to support their child through this transition period and, in doing so, help build their resilience? And is there any way that you can ensure that they don't find themselves in a potentially problematic peer group? There are no certainties here, but here are a few simple things that any parent of a school student should try to do

Diary

Term 1 Week 4

Kindergarten – Yr. 4 Getting to Know You Interviews
Kindergarten PIPS

Wednesday 22

- Uke Project 8:15am
- P - Yr. 4 Assembly – 9:15am Gym
- Yr. 9/10 Aspire Program Alan Tongue
- Advanced Uke Project 1:15pm

Thursday 23

- Kindergarten to Yr. 6 AFL Clinics
- Botswana Song and Rhythms Dance Group –Yr. 7 – 10
- Yr. 7 Drumming

Term 1 Week 5

Kindergarten – Yr. 4 Getting to Know You Interviews
Yr. 3/4 St John's First Aid Incursion
Mon- Thurs

Monday 27

- ACT 13yrs. & over Boys Tennis

Tuesday 28

- ACT 13yrs. & over Girls Tennis
- Harrison School Board Meeting 5:30pm

Wednesday 29

- Uke Project 8:15am
- Whole School Assembly – 9:15am Gym
- Yr. 9/10 Aspire Program Alan Tongue
- Advanced Uke Project 1:15pm

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

[2017 Calendar](#)



over the next month or so:

- **keep talking to your child and show an interest** - they may not want to tell you everything that is happening but keep asking the questions. High school is so different from primary school - they now have multiple teachers, they may be getting to school a different way and they're meeting many new people - show an interest in all of it. But know when to stop - don't be a nag! If they don't want to tell you more, don't push it!
- **be involved** - ask any high school teacher and they will tell you that they rarely see a parent unless something goes wrong. Parents need to be actively and respectfully involved with what is happening during this transition period. Don't embarrass your son or daughter and show up halfway during an English lesson but make an effort and attend any parent sessions the school puts on. Try to make a time to see their Year Coordinator to introduce yourself and see how things are progressing, particularly if you have any concerns
- **meet their new friends** - if they start talking about new friends, encourage your child to invite them to your home so you can meet them. This shouldn't be a 'vetting period' but rather a simple but effective way of staying connected and being more aware of what is happening in your child's life
- **meet their new friends' parents** - meet the friends, then meet their parents. You can tell so much about a child by having a brief chat to their Mum or Dad. If they seem to have similar values as you, grab them and hold them tight - they're going to be useful in the future. If they don't, be prepared, you're most probably going to have work twice as hard!
- **don't be afraid to express your concern if you're worried about who they're hanging out with** - if you don't feel comfortable with their friends, let them know. This has to be

handled extremely carefully and respectfully but, if it doesn't feel right, it most probably isn't and you need to let your son or daughter know how you feel. Trying to ban your child from seeing certain people is not going to be helpful, particularly during this transition period, but talking through your concerns and working through possible solutions is important

And most importantly, if you don't do this already, start working on it today - **find a special activity for you and your child to do at least once a week.**

We know that the quality of the parent-child relationship is so important in building resilience. Having an activity that involves a time when it's just you and your child 'connecting', particularly just before they enter their teens can be so helpful in maintaining a strong and positive relationship"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who have made contact or stopped in for a chat with Jason, Nada, Allison or myself. We look forward to working in continued partnership with our families for the optimal educational and wellbeing outcomes for all students in our care.

Kind regards,
Jacqui Ford
Deputy Principal 7-10

ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to our Principals Award

Recipients:

Wednesday 8 Feb

Kayla J	Zander Y	Krishna D
Khadija J	Todd McE	Lachlan B
Justin H	Daniel K	Luke Y

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT INFORMATION CHECKLIST

This week, your child/ren will receive a student information checklist. This information reflects student details which are held on our computerized record keeping system. There is often a need to contact parents of children at the school for various reasons. We are aware that contact numbers and email addresses often change and we need current information at school.

Please check the details and make any corrections required, **even if there are no changes** please sign the form and return it to school by **Friday, 3 March 2017**.

FRONT OFFICE HOURS

Harrison School Front Office hours are:

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 3:30pm

For all enquiries and calls

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.

EXCURSION/CAMP PAYMENTS

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

LOST PROPERTY

There is a large amount of lost property in the Library. Please come in to have a look for any items you may be missing. Just a reminder to parents and carers to please label **ALL** items that come to school. Also please check that your child has their own items when they come home and if they belong to other students please return them to the class teacher.

HARRISON SCHOOL BOARD

We have one parent and one student position that will be vacant on the Harrison School Board from April 2017. Nominations for the Harrison School Board open at **11:00am on Thursday 16 February** and close at **11:00am on Thursday 2 March**. Nomination forms are available from the front office. If you wish to nominate for the School Board and would like to know what the position entails please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Holmes.

The contact email address for parent representatives on the School Board.

hsbparentrep@outlook.com

HARRISON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

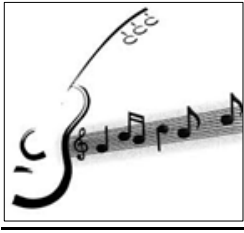
The next Harrison School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 February 2017. The contact email address for parent representatives on the school board.

hsbparentrep@outlook.com

HARRISON SWIMMING CARNIVAL & AQUA FUN DAY

The last 2 Mondays have been busy with aquatic activities for our Harrison Students. On Monday 13 Feb, a large group of swimmers aged from U 8 – U17 competed at the Gungahlin Leisure Centre in our Harrison Swimming Carnival. The Age Champion medallions will be presented at next week's whole school assembly and individual event ribbons will be distributed through year groups. Notes for the North Gungahlin PSSA swimming carnival on the 20 March will be distributed shortly. Yesterday 460 students participated in the Aqua Fun Day at Big Splash Macquarie. A big thank you goes to the PE staff, Sports Leaders and Gungahlin College students who assisted at both of these carnivals.

It's HUPpening again!



Harrison Ukulele Project (HUP):

Every Wednesday

8:15-8:50am in the Music room located in the Library.

Harrison Ukulele Project is open to students, staff, families and community members. It involves musicians from absolute beginner to absolutely brilliant and all are welcome. You can bring your own ukulele or we have plenty for you to borrow for the session. We practise together every week and if you would like to perform we do have optional performances across the year. There is no cost involved.

The next few weeks will be a 'uke boot camp' where experienced players will work in small groups to teach our newcomers chords, notation and some easy songs. It's the perfect time to come along if you have never played before.

We also have a group of beginning guitar players who are part of HUP and this year they will be supported by Mr David Finch.

Looking forward to making music with you!

Allison Edmonds: allison.edmonds@ed.act.edu.au

LIBRARY NEWS

* **Family borrowing** – families are eligible for their own barcodes which allow you to borrow library resources, including from our community section. If you don't have one already, please visit or phone the library to organise one.

* **Library bags** – each child in Preschool to Year 2 is required to have a library bag to be able to borrow books. Not only do they protect our books, but also usually prevent books from going missing! We sell Harrison School library bags in the front office for \$3.00. Please note any bag will do – even

supermarket bags.

* **Borrowing Limits** – Preschool - 1 book; Year 1&2, - 2 books; Year 3&4 - 4 books; Year 5-10 - 6 books. Please check with class teachers for your child's library day.

* **Library hours** – the library is open from 8.30 – 8.50 every morning. It is also open between 1.10 – 1.50 every lunchtime and until 3.15 after school.

* **Volunteers** - we are always looking for volunteers in the library, for shelving (between 9.00-9.30 is fabulous) and covering books (anytime). Please come and see us if you would like to help in our library.

Pamela Gaukroger and Nola Zorzi
Teacher Librarians



DEFENCE NEWS

Our Anzac Day Service will be held on Friday 7 April (Last day of term 1). We are wondering if anyone from our Defence community would be interested in taking part in the service with either a speaking or wreath laying role. If so please contact us as soon as possible.

Some of you may be wondering how your child is going academically and whether they are behind or not. If you and your child's teacher feel that your child needs help due to recently posting into the area please feel free to chat with Sarah regarding Education Assistance.

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 Jake Provan

Sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au

jake.provan@ed.act.edu.au

DSTA: available Mon – Wed and Friday during school hours.

DTM: available Mon – Thurs, school hours



DEFENCE KIDS

Activity groups this week involved drawing with Oil Pastel Crayons. Please remind your children of the days that their year level have activity groups. They can bring with them as many of their friends as they like. Kinder – Year2 (Mon lunch) and Years 3 and 4(Tues lunch). The Senior Chill out session for (Yrs. 5 -10) will commence this Thursday at lunchtime.



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 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.

P & C NEWS

AGM

Harrison P&C held their AGM on Wednesday 15th February 2017. The following parents and carers were voted into the P&C Committee.

President

Jennifer Lydiard

Harrisonpandc_pres@outlook.com

Vice-President

Ella Wallace

Harrisonpandc_vp@outlook.com

Secretary

Jackie Floro

Harrisonpandc_sec@outlook.com

Treasurer

Joanne Aubertin

hscatreasurer@hotmail.com

Minutes Secretary/Communications

Yvonne McLauchlan

Harrisonpandc_comms@outlook.com

Many thanks also to Janette Cass-Dunbar; Maria Sanchez-Worsnop; Olivia Wenholz; Penny Thomson; Terri Reichman and Katherine Larkings who amongst others, volunteered for various roles which will help the P&C run smoothly this year.

We are looking for volunteer parents to fill a number of roles. A huge thank you to Jen Modun who has run the Second Hand Uniform Shop for the last couple of years. This is now a vacant position and requires someone to take over – it involves opening the shop for parents at a time convenient to you some tidying and sorting of the uniforms and accounting for the finances for bought and sold uniforms. Jen is happy to provide a full handover.

We require support to run the Fair next year and to co-ordinate fundraising and the Art Show. In addition we require someone to help facilitate the Mother's Day stall. If you can help in any of these areas please contact any of the committee members above.

Car Park

Continued thanks for following the car parking signs, making it a safer and smoother transition at pick up and drop off times.

Fair - Saturday 1 April 2017 3:00 – 7:00pm

Please see the attached flyer. The next Fair meeting will be held at the multi-purpose room in the Hall on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7pm. Please contact Jackie or Olivia at Harrisonfair@hotmail.com

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](#)

[NEW FLEXI SCHOOLS LINK IN STUDENT ID CARD YR. 7 – 10](#)