

# HARRISON DEFENCE TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

DSTA/DTM Newsletter

Eighth Edition

## WELCOME

Welcome to our families who have recently arrived. We send out this newsletter twice a year to let you know what has been happening, what is coming up and to highlight different resources you may find useful.

At Harrison we have approximately 300 Defence students which is a large number. The DSTA and DTM roles help support Defence students during transitions in and out of school and during parental absences. We attend many classes each week and assist the teachers with what ever task is at hand, allowing us to interact with the students. We also have our activity groups for both students and parents. Other things we do are:

- Help with the initial paperwork for Education Assistance,
- Organise Morning Teas for students and parents as well as parent dinners/family events.
- Organise Care Packages with classes of students with parents away,
- Coordinate activity groups and projects for Defence students,
- Provide support to those children and families going through postings/deployments and guidance on how to access services for support,
- Assist Teachers with the running of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services,
- Offer information and referrals to available school and community resources, and
- Many more.....

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## **Weekly Activities for this year - All now take place in the Defence Room located in the library!**

### **Deployment/Friendship Group – Friday Recess**

This group is for those children who have a parent away. They are welcome to bring a friend and play games, write letters, draw pictures etc.

### **Lunch Groups - Monday is Kinder to Year 2 Tuesday is Year 3 to Year 4.**

We play board and card games such as Twister, UNO, Matching Pairs, Guess Who, Headbandz etc, with the occasional team challenge! We do art and craft every couple of weeks.

### **Seniors Hang-out Session – Wednesday for Years 5 & 6 Thursday for Years 7-10**

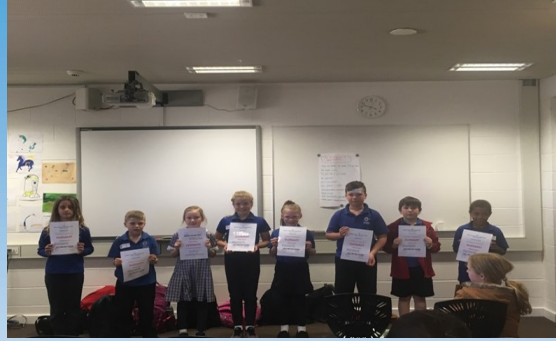
A chance to just hang out with a mix of games, music, dancing, drawing, food and much more.

### **Harrison Hearts – Mondays in the Defence Room in the school library.**

We help out teachers around the school with items they would like cut, laminated etc for activities in their classroom. Held every **Monday** between **9:00am and 11:00am**, this volunteer group is open to all community members. We would love to have you join us for a cuppa, a chat and to create some resources for the classrooms. The more the merrier. Please remember to sign in as a volunteer at the front office. Siblings are also Welcome.



# Other Activities



So many things are always happening at Harrison School that sometimes it can be hard to keep up.

Well last Semester ended on a high note with a wonderful performance by the RMC Rock Band which was well received by staff and students alike.

This semester as always has been a busy one we have once again been making deployment care packages for dads that have been away and receiving facetime calls at school!

We had a visit from Uncle Roy Mundine (Army's Aboriginal Elder) who came to speak with the 5/6 classes that co-ordinated our Anzac Day Ceremony.

We had a successful Kidsmart program which we ran alongside Amelia Scanlan from DCO. The children that were part of this program learn't how to manage anxiety, special ways to stay connected with loved ones who are absent from home or friends when we move to a new location. They also learn't some tips for starting at a new school and made new friends through the program.

We had the honour of taking a group of Defence students to the War Memorial for the Battle for Australia Commemoration.

We had a lovely morning tea with some of our wonderful defence families in September and enjoyed Pizza in the Park with many defence families. Special thanks to OSHclub for sponsoring these events.

Our Christmas Care Parcels for Deployed Defence Personnel was very successful we are happy to report that we were able to put together 22 packages which we believe will be enjoyed by our deployed troops.





# Pizza in the Park & Care Parcels!



## **Education Assistance Scheme**

The purpose of the Education Scheme is to help a member's child who changes schools due to posting in Australia as their education may be disrupted. Defence help families access financial support for tutoring to help the child meet the academic standards of the new school.

The member may be reimbursed **for one hour of tuition a week for each subject** a student is lacking in. There is 3 different periods depending on circumstance. If the student:

1. Has previously studied a subject offered at the new school – **14 weeks entitlement**
2. Has not previously studied a subject offered at the new school e.g. Japanese – **6 months entitlement**
3. Is in Year 10, 11 or 12 and studying a subject essential to career aims, but not provided at the new school e.g. A student wishes to pursue a career in music and music courses are not available at the new school – **1 school year entitlement**.

If you would like any more information please feel free to contact Sarah or Emma.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the DCO Website.

## **DCO Support During Deployment**

DCO recognises that a deployment can be a stressful time for families. To assist you during these times, DCO can provide you with a range of services and support including information, brief counselling, referral to specialist community services, regular telephone contact and various support activities. If you would like to receive regular phone contact, deployment information, newsletters and updates regarding DCO services and group programs while your defence member is absent, then it is essential that you contact DCO to register your contact details and the level of assistance you require. Email [dco.deployments@defence.gov.au](mailto:dco.deployments@defence.gov.au) or Tel: 1800 624 608.

**Defence  
Community  
Organisation**

## **Defence Family Helpline**

Defence families seeking advice, support or connection with their local community can call 1800 624 608. The Defence Family Helpline operates 24 –7 and is staffed by qualified human service professionals including social workers and psychologists. All calls will receive assessment and support from a human service professional. Families can also email the Defence Family Helpline at [DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au) & will receive a response within 24 hours.

Defence Family  
Helpline  
1800 624 608





Did you know that the DFA Team are all partners of current ADF members?

In August each year, we meet with Defence policymakers in Canberra

including CDF, Service Chiefs and the Minister for Defence Personnel.

We are reviewing what's happening in our local Defence Communities.

We want to advocate for the programs that most benefit our families and

the issues that most affect our families.

My name is Emma Steil and I am your local DFA Delegate.

I'd love to speak to you. Please call me, or contact me online via email

or my Facebook page.

e: [act.sthns@dfa.org.au](mailto:act.sthns@dfa.org.au)

m: 0419 333 101

Facebook: @DFAACTSouthernNSW



Supporting children who have a parent with a mental illness as a result of military service. [Kookaburrakids.org.au](http://Kookaburrakids.org.au) or phone 02 95257474

# OPEN ARMS

Veterans & Families  
Counselling

Open Arms provides counselling and support services to Australia's military community. If you have served one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF you can call us for support. We also support families, reservists and some peacekeepers.

24 HR: 1800 011 046

# SOLDIER ON

Soldier On staff work side by side with individuals and families, to strengthen resilience and develop meaningful connections with family members, mates, and the local community through a diverse range of health and wellbeing services, employment opportunities, learning and education programs, and participation in community, social, and sporting activities.

CHRISTMAS.365GREETINGS.COM

*May you enjoy all the gifts of Christmas.  
The gift of happiness.....  
The gift of joy.....  
The gift of love.....  
Wishing you a blissful holiday!*

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year**



i-Parent—The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner has put together a wonderful resource to help parents learn about the digital environment and keep updated on their children's technology use.

[www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent](http://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent)

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or wish to make an appointment to speak with us, below is our email and school phone number.

Sarah McGavin available Mon - Wed and Fri, and Emma Marrinan available Mon - Thu school hours.

[sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au) & [emma.marrinan@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:emma.marrinan@ed.act.edu.au)

School phone—02 6142 2200