

Harrison School Newsletter 12 November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning as the Focus

It's hard to believe we're approaching the midpoint of Term 4! While time appears to be flying by, great learning continues to happen in and out of our classrooms across the school. I've been happy to see a continued focus by our teachers to provide high quality learning opportunities for students within a safe learning environment. My sense of students achieving in their learning has been reinforced by the growth of our students as indicated in NAPLAN results, by talking to them about their learning achievements and through outlining our progress towards our Annual Plan priorities at our recent executive planning day. I will look to share some of this information with you before the end of this year and early next year.

New Families and Staff for 2020

It's been lovely to meet families who are joining the Harrison School community in 2020, at our recent information sessions and to give new students an opportunity to get a feel for the school and start making friendships during our orientation sessions. While welcoming new families has been happening, Dan, Jacqui and I have been busy identifying new staff for 2020. We are getting closer to finalising this and will share the names of staff transferring to different schools along with the names of those joining us with you shortly.

Changes to School Entries

Later in this edition of the newsletter, you'll see photos of the changes made to the main entrance recently with information about the reasons for it. We have collaborated with the Education Directorate to alter both the main entrance and the 7-10 entrance to provide better supervision of who is entering and leaving the school during the school day. While the gates at the main entrance are a little unsightly (we'll work on 'softening' their look), both these and the redesign of the 7-10 entrance and office essentially provide increased safety for our students.

Term 4 Week 5

Wednesday 13

- Whole School Assembly – Hall – 9:15am

Thursday 14

- Senior Band rehearsal for Banstrav – Namadgi School – 8:50am-1:00pm
- PTF-BZ and PTF-JC Canberra Museum and Gallery Excursion – 9:00am-12:30pm

Friday 15

- Whole School Mufti Day (gold coin donation)
- Harrison Preschool to Kindergarten Transition Session (current students) – 11:30am

Term 4 Week 6

Monday 18

- PMT-CD, PMT-BD, PMT-ER ACT Smartschools Puppet Show – 10:00am-10:45am
- Senior Band – Banstrav Performance – ANU School of Music – 6:15pm-9:00pm
- Yr. 9 Australian War Memorial Excursion – 9:30am-2:30pm

Tuesday 19

- Yr. 6 Band – Banstrav rehearsal – 9:00am-1:00pm
- Harrison Preschool to Kindergarten Transition Session (current students) – 11:30am

Wednesday 20

- Preschool – Yr. 2 Assembly – 9:15am – Hall
- Yr. 3 – Yr. 6 Assembly – 9:15am – Gym
- Yr. 9/10 Business Market Day – 10:00am-11:00am
- Yr. 6 Band - Banstrav Performance – ANU School of Music – 6:30pm-9:00pm

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



Student Absences

As I mentioned in the week one newsletter for this term, we are implementing a new attendance monitoring system for students. With the system, parents/carers will still receive an SMS message for each child absent, generally by 10:30am.

This is a reminder to ask you to now reply directly to the SMS when providing a reason for the absence (although you are more than welcome to call to check on any absence/late notification you have questions about). When replying to the SMS, please provide:

- A reason for your child's absence/late arrival
- Information about the expected length of absence
- Whether the absence/late arrival is approved by you or not

To help us in maintaining accurate and efficient administration, we ask that you reply separately to each absence notification you receive (this allows us to make the most of automated features in the system). When replying, it's worth remembering that what you write is exactly what is saved in the school records, it isn't edited and reworded before being stored.

Board Summary

In this edition of the newsletter, we are also trialling a Board meeting summary in an effort to give our school community some insights into the workings of the Board. The summary has been produced by one of our parent representatives on the Board and I thank her for this extra communication for parents. I hope you enjoy the read.

Events

Last week we had a few events on, culminating in our "Spirit Day" on Friday. This is a day where students can dress in their house colours and compete in a range of activities to earn points for their house. While not all students got into the swing of it by wearing their colours, I know students and staff had a great time with the challenges. We've also had the Book Fair running in the library and it's been great to see (and hear) the excitement in students this event brings, not to mention the associated focus on reading high quality books.

This week we've already had a terrific, and highly respectful, Remembrance Day ceremony. I'm always impressed and encouraged by the way our students give the event the importance it warrants through their respectful behaviour. Many thanks to Sarah McGavin, Zoe Rossiter and Reece Cheater for their work in the organisation of the ceremony. I'll also take this chance to thank our parents who presented, the students who undertook the role of MCs and our cadets for gaining permission to wear their uniforms for the ceremony - these things contribute greatly to the quality and atmosphere of the event.

To 'flag' a few upcoming events, next week we have our years 7-10 Colour Run, in week seven our talented years 9/10 thespians will present our annual drama performance (Mary Poppins) and then we head into concerts and year 10 farewell in week 8, P-6 Colour Run, Year 10 Graduation and ACE Awards in week 9 before wrapping up the year with a slightly shorter (and definitely less hectic) week 10.

Parenting Ideas

I hope at least a few of you were able to take advantage of the Parenting Ideas webinar I advertised earlier in the term - the topic was certainly something for us to consider in this age of increased technological reliance and increased social pressure. I thought I'd follow on from that by pointing you in the direction of the Parenting Ideas blog. It has some great short reads on a range of parenting related topics that can sometimes be just the information you need. You can find the blog at <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog>.

I thought I'd finish off this article with a reminder of the value of being kinder than necessary. It's a concept I've shared before and something that can make a massive difference to people. It's also something that may take very little thought or energy and it definitely pays dividends to our community. What small, random act of kindness might you do tomorrow?

Resources for Promoting Safety at School and Online

We all have the right to be treated with fairness and dignity. We all have the right to learn and work in a safe, respectful and supportive school environment that values diversity - an environment free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence. This includes at school, in the community and online.

The Education Directorate website provides information and resources to help families. It includes links to useful websites such as the eSafety Commissioner who provides strategies for families around online safety and the Student Wellbeing Hub and Bullying No Way websites that provide useful information for parents and young people. To find out more, visit the [Safe and Supportive Schools section](#) and the Being Safe Online section of the Education Directorate website.

Jason Holmes

EUROPE TRIP 2019

On 1 October, 17 students from Yr. 8-10 participated in Harrison School's first ever school trip to Europe. Along with three teachers and one parent, the students left Canberra for France and Italy, where they made their first stop in Paris, before going to Lyon then across to Milan, Florence and Rome in Italy. They saw amazing sights such as the Eiffel Tower, the Roman forum, the remains of Pompeii, Milan Duomo, the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Palais de Versailles.....and many more! They travelled by metro in Paris, ate croissants and delicious pastries in France, had the best pizzas in Italy, and shopped in Milan. In the picturesque town of Annecy, they browsed the markets and some glimpsed George Clooney's house on Lake Como.

The students were a credit to the school, displaying the Harrison School values at every occasion. They were commended on their punctuality and good manners by many people and should be proud of themselves for this. As well as the use of language in different countries and the significance of some important historical sites, the students learned a lot from this experience about themselves, travelling, opportunities, culture, and much, much more.

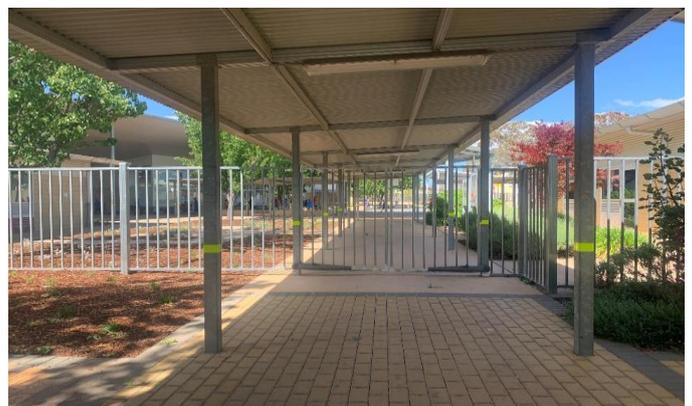


IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CHANGES TO ENTRANCE ON WIMMERA STREET

As you may have already noticed, new fences have been installed surrounding the main Wimmera Street entrance into the school. These fences have been installed to improve student safety. The gates will be locked between 9:30am – 2:30pm.

All people entering the school grounds during these hours will be required to enter through the sliding doors leading into the front office, then pass through the new automatic door. A release button has also been installed and the administration staff will activate the door for anyone exiting the school. We are currently planning for an artwork or display to be incorporated into the fence to encourage a more welcoming approach.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Holmes.



HARRISON SCHOOL CONCERT

Classes are working hard on their concert items and looking forward to presenting them in Week 8 on the 4 and 5 of December. The theme for the 2019 concert is **Generation Next**. Within this theme, we reflect on what impact we have on our future and what we have learned from the past. There are different performance items for Concert A and B. Both concerts will have a Matinee (11:00am) and evening (6:30pm) performance. Please complete the slip attached and return to the Front Office if you wish to attend. [2019 Concert Note](#)

Below is the day/night students are performing.

Please note this is not the order the students are performing in.

Wednesday 4 December 2019 EOY Concert Matinee: 11:00am Evening Gala: 6:30pm	Thursday 5 December 2019 EOY Concert Matinee: 11:00am Evening Gala: 6:30pm
KRB and KKN	KKR & KKJ
KAJ and KTF	KKV and KJB
1/2OP, 1/2RT and 1/2JM	1/2KA and 1/2DN
1/2NH and 1/2SK	1/2KS, 1/2LD and 1/2JC
1/2 NE and 1/2KW	1/2EL and 1/2JH
1/2JHA and 1/2HC	3/4KC and 3/4SH
3/4PG and 3/4TW	3/4AB and 3/4SA
3/4FE and 3/4SV	3/4LM and 3/4DF
3/4DW, 3/4RP, 3/4HB and 3/4JD	5/6 DM, 5/6TK, 5/6MPO and 5/6BM
5/6DB and 5/6TC	5/6AH, 5/6SM, 5/6NO and 5/6MP
5/6 JLY and 5/6DJ	9/10 Dance Elective
7/8 Dance Elective (2 groups - Reece Cheater and, Sian Harrington)	Songs from the 9/10 Drama Production
Songs from the 9/10 Drama Production	Second Stage Senior Band (9 pieces) Y6 band (6 pieces) 9/10 Music
Second Stage Senior Band (9 pieces) Y6 band (6 pieces)	

HARRISON SCHOOL STUDENT REPORT CHANGES

Harrison School is moving to a new report template this semester to contribute to greater consistency of reporting across all ACT Public schools. The new

report format uses the Achievement Standards directly from the Australian Curriculum, as opposed to the school generated outcomes based on these.

We will be utilising the new report template and the new School Administration System to distribute all Semester 2 reports this term.

One of the major changes of this system is that all reports for this semester will be emailed home. It is therefore important that the school has a current email address.

For families who require a second report, these reports will be printed and sent home with students unless we receive an email with confirmation of an email address for these reports.

If you would like this copy emailed, please send an email to info@harrison.act.edu.au with "Copy of report for [Student Name]" in the subject line from the account to send reports to.

We will be sending a test email to all parents in Week 5 to ensure we have on record your preferred email address. If you do not receive the email or you wish to change your preferred email address, please email info@harrison.act.edu.au

ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to our Special Principals Award Recipients:

Norakvitou K, Abdul Wasay K,

Congratulations to our Principals Award Recipients:

Seth R,	Camille C,	Lin D,
Ethan S,	Yen P,	Annalise S,
Noelle W,	William Z,	Georgia R,
Grace R,	James O,	Charlotte W,
Athawen V,	Isla A,	Havish K,
Jack M,	Ruby S,	Audrey D,
Hallie B,	Zafira A,	Sofia S,
Debby Y,	Yasmine W,	Miller D,
Idris A,	Viviane W,	Ankushdeep M,
Joseph K,	Noah K,	
Hashem F x2,	Hatem F x3	

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.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO HARRISON SCHOOL IN 2019

If your child is not returning to Harrison School in 2020 please complete the form on this link; [Students Leaving Harrison School Permanently](#) and return it to the front office to assist us in organising classes for 2020.

STUDENTS ON HOLIDAY LEAVE

If your family is on an extended holiday and will not be back at school before the beginning of Term 1 2020 (Tuesday 4 February 2020), please complete the form on this link; [Holiday Leave Form](#) and return it to the front office as soon as possible.

PAYMENTS TO THE SCHOOL

When sending in any payment to the school, please ensure that you complete the envelope provided with the student's name and the completed and signed permission note is placed inside the envelope. This will ensure that you receive the correct receipt from the school.

HARRISON SCHOOL QUICKWEB PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

QuickWeb is the preferred method of payment for Harrison School. Below is a link to follow with instructions on how to access and utilise the online payment system.

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

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.

HARRISON SCHOOL BOARD

The Harrison School Board held its regular meeting on 5 November 2019 to review the school's performance, priorities and current issues. The Board welcomed the new parent representative, Mr Mike Burns. Members were provided with a report from the Principal on school operational matters, as well as an update on the school's current financial position. Members also received reports from the staff and student representatives on the many events and activities that students and staff have been involved with recently, as well as upcoming events. The Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) President reported on recent and upcoming activities and requested consideration of future planning needs for school facilities run by the P&C including the senior canteen and uniform shop. The Board also discussed the school's NAPLAN progress against benchmarks, and the draft 2020 school budget. A review of current school policies and procedures was flagged for action by Members in 2020. The next Board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2020. For any questions about the Harrison School Board please contact: info@harrison.act.edu.au

LIBRARY NEWS

Harrison School Library Fund

We would like to thank the families who donated to the library fund this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and our students and staff will benefit from your contributions.

We have purchased many new resources from local bookshops to add to our collections. Thank you for your continued support which enables us to provide high quality resources for our students.



Family Reading Time

We would like to invite family members to come to the library before school at 8.30 to read with their children, select books to borrow and spend time together. Parents are invited to borrow with a family account that allows you to borrow more books to enjoy together. We also have a community collection for parents that includes topics on Parenting, Health, Mindfulness, Nutrition and Child Development.



DEFENCE NEWS

Postings: As posting orders are out, please advise us of new movement for the future so that we may be able to help with the transition. Please remember if your situation changes, (eg.MWDU/Deployments) to let us know, as it is important we have accurate information.

DCO Support for ADF Families:
defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au or 1800 624 608.

Coming Up:

- Christmas Care Parcel Packaging – Wed 13 November
- Defence Students' Farewells – Tuesday 19 and Wed 20 November
- Defence Family Christmas Pizza Party – Friday 22 November

Sarah and Zoe

sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au

zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au



DEFENCE KIDS

Please remind your children that the K - Yr.2 Activity Group is Monday lunchtimes and Yr.3 - 4 Activity Group is Tuesday lunchtimes. For students in Yr.5/6, the Defence Hang out is Wednesday lunchtimes and students in Years 7 – 10 Thursday lunchtimes.



HARRISON HEARTS

If you would like to join us, come to the Defence Room in the school library on Monday mornings between 9:00am and 11:00am. We would love to see you for a cuppa, a chat and to create some resources for the classrooms. Younger siblings welcome. Please remember to sign in as a volunteer at the front office.

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.

Please see the attached document or the link below for the 2019 Canteen Menu.

[2019 CANTEEN MENU](#)

[FLEXI-SCHOOLS ONLINE ORDERING](#)

SCHOOL BANKING



School Banking is underway and is processed every **TUESDAY**, so remember to bring your yellow School Banking wallets and give them to your teacher.

Banking for Pre-schoolers is processed every **THURSDAY** for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday classes.

We are changing the banking day next year (2020) from TUESDAY to **WEDNESDAY**.

If you would like to be part of the School Banking program, you simply need to open a Youth saver Account at any Commonwealth Bank branch.

Our School Banking program has been very successful at Harrison School with both the students and school benefiting from the rewards.

Many of you already have enough tokens to redeem and are eligible to claim the rewards. If you would like to claim rewards just send your collected silver token with your bank deposit books and give it to your class teacher.

2019 Rewards



Term 1

- Scented Stackable Highlighters
- Snowy Origami Set

Term 2

- Yeti Fluffy Notebook
- Icicle Slapband Ruler

Term 3

- Artic Owl Fluffy Ring
- Scratch Art Cards

Term 4

- Water Skimming Bounce Ball
- Polar Pencil & Pencil Toppers

The last date for rewards ordering is 05/12/2019.

The program has been run by two volunteer mothers and we are now urgently looking for another two parents to join our team.

All training is provided, no experience is needed, and it will only take an hour each Tuesday.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kalpana Pothuraju on 0459250097 or email to Kalpana0708@gmail.com

We also have in stock several reward items from previous years that are still available for students.

We look forward to some great savings this term and to many students receiving some fabulous rewards throughout the year.

Kalpana Pothuraju
School Banking Coordinator