



Harrison School Newsletter 5 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to term 2! I hope you all stayed safe during the break and enjoyed some of the sensational weather we experienced. I managed to get out and explore a number of Canberra's bush walks and climbs with my two young boys for our daily exercise and it was a lovely reminder of the beauty Canberra has to offer.

Term 2 has started well, all things considered. Teachers and support staff refined their online learning classrooms and activities from the trial in week 10 of term 1 and have started the term enthusiastically. When checking in with teachers, the engagement of students has been impressive, with high rates of 'attendance' across the school. All of this is quite remarkable when you consider the timeline and circumstances surrounding the remote online learning. I've been able to drop in to a few class check-ins and even provided feedback on some student presentations yesterday. I have to say, seeing student (and staff) faces have been the highlights of those days.

Teachers and students have amazed me with their capacity to adapt to totally turn around the concept of teaching and learning, and while we are all still developing our skills, the quality of work on the whole has been outstanding. I will also acknowledge you, our parents and carers, in this space too. You have been equally adaptable, keeping your children home and in doing so have:

- shown your commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our school community
- supported teachers to learn new skills, collaborate in new ways and develop high quality learning for students
- taken on the challenge of supporting your children to access learning; navigating new technologies, keeping them focused, answering their questions and providing guidance where needed and,
- communicated patiently and courteously with teachers to raise concerns and resolve issues.

Term 2 Week 2

A reminder that all excursions and sporting events have been cancelled for Term 2.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS DURING TERM 2

- Monday 1 June 2020 – Week 6
- Monday 8 June 2020 – Week 7

FRONT OFFICE HOURS

Harrison School Front Office
hours are:

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 3:30pm

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



All staff at the school are appreciative of this and we sincerely thank you. We all hope you are travelling well in the current situation and acknowledge the difficulty in trying to balance already busy lives with supporting the learning and well-being of your children (and family in general). I'm trying to do this with my two younger children and can attest to being exhausted at the end of the day.

As I've reflected on my days working from home, I thought it might be worth re-sharing a few reminders from my last newsletter:

- if you have questions or get stuck, please remember to email the classroom teacher
- remember to be kind to ourselves and each other - this is all new and we are learning together
- learning is 'messy' - we will make mistakes, have failures and successes - all of these things are OK
- set some routine for your children but don't try to replicate a school day at home - this will be exhausting for all involved. Your children are not required to follow a rigid 9am-3pm school day.

I've been astounded by the quality of work being produced, commitment to connect and general engagement of staff and students. The statistics on SeeSaw use for week 1 were impressive, and the Meets and Hangouts using Google for years 3 - 10 have been highly utilised. With such a strong online focus, being a good digital citizen is an important concept to be considered. Teachers are talking with their students and modelling this, and our 7-10 staff have put together this great [video](#) to help build student understanding. In addition to this, staff have maintained a focus on connecting with students and monitoring their wellbeing. If you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact their teacher via email.

A small number of Harrison students who are unable to learn from home are attending the Amaroo Safe and Supported Site. We've had staff working with the students at Amaroo, providing friendly, known faces and helping students to navigate their online learning. While there has been some adapting and adjusting happening at the Safe and Supported Site during the first week of term, from all accounts students have settled well into the environment. I won't say too much

more as I know there is a section on it later in the newsletter.

At this moment in time, I can give no indication as to how long the current arrangements will last. The Education Directorate continues to take advice from the ACT Government, and I will be sure to keep you up to date with any developments.

I have a quick read for you from Parenting Ideas this week titled, [Leading the way for children during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

This week, the ACT Government has launched a public health and information campaign, 'Canberra Strong Together' that reflects this community spirit and the resilience of Canberra. It demonstrates the new ways that we live and connect, and the joy that we can get out of interacting with others - even if that is virtually.

Canberrans from all walks of life have shared their experiences during COVID-19. Each person featured in the television ad is a proud member of the ACT community who has invited us into their homes, backyards and makeshift offices, bringing to life their personal experiences amid COVID-19 restrictions. Canberra Strong Together [video](#). #cbrtogether

Enrolments for ACT Public Schools opened on 28 April and by all accounts are tracking well, with numbers being similar to those experienced last year. If you have a student starting preschool next year, please remember to get your enrolment in. Online enrolments can be accessed [here](#).



2021 school enrolments now open

ACT Government | Education

1. Go to education.act.gov.au for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.

Stay safe and healthy,

Jason

TERM 1 ABSENCES

Included in part of our administrative duties, as a school we are required to follow up on any outstanding absences that any of our students have. Our administrative team have started to make contact with families whose children have outstanding absences for Term 1 2020. These include absences outside the pupil free period. If you receive an email or phone call from our administrative staff, we ask that you email Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au to confirm the dates your child/ren were absent from school, and we will update our records accordingly.

REFUNDS

A reminder to families who are yet to claim their refund for the 7-10 Aqua Fun Day or Elective and Enrichment costs for Term 1, please email the following information to info@harrison.act.edu.au by **COB Friday 15 May 2020**.

- Child's First and Surname:
- Child's Homeroom Teacher:
- BSB Number:
- ACC Number:
- ACC Name:

If you do not wish to claim the refund, the money will be gladly accepted as a voluntary contribution to Harrison School.

SAFE AND SUPERVISED SITE

Hello Harrison families,

This week I have had the pleasure of supporting students and families in the primary school with adjusting to the transition to our Safe, Supportive and Secure School Site at Amaroo School for those Essential workers.

Knowing that this is quite an anxious time, I have been quite impressed with the resilience displayed by our students and their adaptability to not only a new environment, a new learning context, some new faces but also new challenges. These qualities are skills that will enable our students to adapt and change with our changing world in the future.

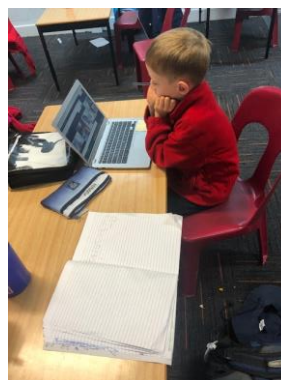
Thank you for the support from our wonderful teachers, learning support teachers and executive staff who are onsite and who have worked hard to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible and that students are

able to continue with their online learning programs that their dedicated class teachers have worked tirelessly to prepare and continue to maintain.

As you can see, students are engaged with their online learning, participating in their Google Meets and Seesaw meetings with teachers, whilst also having opportunities to engage safely with their peers. We continue to focus on our children's social and emotional needs through regular check-ins through Google Hangout or Meet or phone calls home.

For students in our Disability programs, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Michelle Thompson – michelle.earnshaw@ed.act.edu.au 3-6, or Ange Bonner P-2 Angela.Bonner@ed.act.edu.au or your child's teacher or Deputy Principal if you have any concerns regarding your child's wellbeing or needs.

Michelle Thompson



ACT ONLINE LIBRARY

ACT libraries may be closed due to COVID-19, but their online services are always open! In response to the growing demand for their digital resources, Libraries ACT has launched a new dedicated helpline, available 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

If it's your first time using the library online, or you just need some extra help accessing online resources, give the Libraries ACT Digital Helpline a call on 6207 7265 and one of their friendly staff will help step you through what to do. In addition to providing over-the-phone support, the helpline team will also develop new online information (such as how-to-guides) to further aid customers with their digital resource access needs. This information will be made available on the [Libraries ACT website](#).

COVID-19 TRANSLATED RESOURCES



It's important for everyone to be able to understand the most up to date information and advice relating to COVID-19.

If you have a friend, family, neighbour or someone you know that doesn't speak English as their first language, let them know there are translated resources available on COVID-19 at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/translated>

If they require translating or interpreting services, they can call the national Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

LIBRARY NEWS



Scholastic Book Club Issue 3 2020

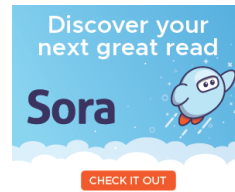
Issue 3 of Book Club will be a virtual copy of the catalogue for you to browse and order from.

To access and purchase from the latest issue, please go to <https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>.

We encourage you to sit down with your child and go through the catalogue together, discussing any books that spark your child's interest. To order, you need to go to the Scholastic LOOP website and place your order. **Book Club is due by Monday 18 May 2020.**

Grow Your Child's Love of Reading- https://scholastic.com.au/media/5452/scholastic_book_club_parent_guide.pdf

SORA



SORA is an app that allows students to borrow many free e-books and audio books from the Education Directorate collection. This is also available on our Oliver Harrison School Library page when you sign in on Backpack. This app can also be downloaded on an iPad or phone.

Follow the instructions to enjoy many wonderful titles. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HdFcjmJsOSXkfGdQkvRgRal6GCBSG1pl/edit>

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME 2020



Join us for National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

Every year this activity is organised to promote reading and literacy. A book that is written by an Australian author is chosen to be read simultaneously in schools and libraries in Australia.

This year the book is 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' by Lucinda Gifford.

You can register your family for free on the ALIA website <http://alia.org.au/nss>



DEFENCE NEWS

Zoe - Defence mentor for the Senior school, worked closely with a local artist to achieve this amazing colourful Defence mural for the school.

While unfortunately we didn't have our school ANZAC service this year due to Covid-19, this mural of a field of poppies will be a lovely reminder and acknowledgement of our Defence families and those that have served Australia.

We look forward to you enjoying and viewing the mural when schools reopen.

SCHOOL BANKING



Message from Commonwealth Bank

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills and are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.



We hope you all had a quiet and reflective ANZAC day – I must admit I enjoyed standing quietly in the fog at the end of my driveway. I was fortunate enough to listen to someone playing a live bugle/trumpet nearby.

If you acknowledged ANZAC day please remember to email photos to Sarah and myself, as we would like to use them next year. My picture is of the ANZAC biscuits my children made.

Zoe



Sarah and Zoe

sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au

zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen is closed until further notice.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The second-hand uniform shop is closed until further notice.