



## Harrison School Newsletter 2 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year.

It was lovely to be welcoming our new students and families on Monday and to welcome back those continuing with us on their return today. Yesterday was a great day as our Preschoolers, Kindergarteners and new students from Year 1 to Year 10 started their learning journeys with us. It was a great opportunity for them to find their way before all students returned today.

We're also excited to introduce our new staff for 2021, listed below:

K	Jayne Bleckendorf	7-10	Ro Lafferty
K	Catherine Dempster	7-10	Rod Lynes
1/2	Emma Bowden	7-10	Coreen Sauriol
1/2	Ronica Evans	7-10	Samira Saani-Adam
1/2	Tanya Sheppard	Executive	Julie Pickering (3-6)
1/2	Nicole French	Admin	Jessie Zivkovic (Front Office)
3/4	Katie Fleming	Admin	Anita Sutherland (IEO)
5/6	Desiree Bodo	Admin	Shae Krushka (food tech assist)

Details for the Executive Team can be found [here](#) on our website.

Jason Holmes, the Executive Principal has taken up a temporary 6-month position at Telopea Park School. His position has been advertised and will be filled on a temporary basis as quickly as possible. In the meantime, please contact Dan Breen (Principal P-6) and/or Jacqui Ford (Principal 7-10) should the need arise.

It's been an interesting start to the year with the continued concerns about the novel coronavirus. Many in our community continue to face

### Term 1 Week 1 2021

#### **Tuesday 2 February**

- First Day of Term 1 for all returning students

#### **Wednesday 3 February**

- Year 1/2 Parent Information Session – Hall – 5:15pm-6:30pm

#### **Thursday 4 February**

- First Day Preschool Thurs/Fri Groups
- Kindergarten Parent Information Session – Hall – 5:15pm-6:30pm

### Term 1 Week 2 2021

#### **Wednesday 10 February**

- 7-10 Assembly – Gym – 9:15am

#### **Thursday 11 February**

- Swimming Carnival (8-16-year-old competitive swimmers **ONLY**) – Stromlo Leisure Centre

### Term 1 Week 3 2021

#### **Monday 15 February**

- P&C Meeting – Library – 7:00pm

#### **Wednesday 17 February**

- P-2 Assembly – Hall – 9:15am
- 3-6 Assembly – Gym – 9:15am

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



significant challenges in this changing landscape. These events can have unequalled impacts on the children in our schools. Wellbeing, Inclusion and equity will continue to be a key focus for us in 2021. In 2021, we want to keep everyone in our school communities safe and healthy, by operating in a COVID-safe way. Information was electronically sent to you all recently to keep you abreast of situations and advice as it arrives. We'll keep up this practice and would like to assure you that we continue to keep the well-being of our community members at the forefront. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either Dan or Jacqui via email ([Daniel.breen@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.breen@ed.act.edu.au) or [Jacqui.ford@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Jacqui.ford@ed.act.edu.au)).

I thought I'd take some time in this first newsletter article to revisit some of the operational aspects of the school with you.

### **Communication**

Parent information sessions are scheduled for upcoming weeks. Please check the [Harrison School calendar](#) for dates, times and venues. For our 3-6 family's, information will be sent to parents electronically during Week 3. If you have further information you would like to share with teachers about your child, or have questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher in the first instance or Team Leaders.

We attempt to communicate with our community members in a number of ways including this newsletter, our Community News publication, the school calendar, the Harrison School P&C Facebook page, Class Parent Facebook messages, email, SMS, telephone and face to face conversations. I encourage you to take the time to drop in and meet your child's/children's teacher(s) - the information sessions and Getting To Know You interviews might be a great time to do this - or at least drop them an email to introduce yourself. Teacher email addresses are in the format [firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au).

### **Assemblies**

Our whole school assemblies will be postponed until Term 2 2021 and will be held in the Gym during Weeks 5 and 10 on Wednesday at 9:15am. For Semester One, we will hold Preschool to Year 2, and Year 3 to Year 6 assemblies on odd weeks (starting Week 3, 19 February) and Years 7-10 assemblies will be held in weeks 2 and 8 (starting week 2, 12 February). Years 3-6 and 7-10 assemblies are in the Gym and P-2 in the Hall. Assemblies start at 9:15am. Class teachers will contact you if your child is receiving a school certificate or participating in the assembly. School certificates are awarded for recognising excellence in achievement, citizenship or endeavour and/or for showing the school values. Parents, friends and family are always welcome at assemblies.

**Harrison School Board Nominations** are sought for one P&C association representative and two student representatives. The School Board is tasked with providing strategic leadership and more information about the functions of a School Board can be found [here](#). Terms for Board membership are generally two years and the Board normally meets four times per year. Nominations will open on Monday 8 February 2021 with voting (if needed) to follow. New Board appointments will be notified. For more information or to nominate, please contact the front office on 6142 2200.

### **Uniform**

A quick reminder that Harrison is a uniform school and that students are expected to wear their uniform every day they attend school unless there is an official special program or event that allows them to wear non-uniform clothes for the day. Parents will always receive notification of these events. For Term One, students need to wear the summer school uniform. Details of our uniform requirements can be found at on our [school website](#) in the Policies and Procedure section.

### **Attendance Procedures**

We mark attendance electronically and will send an SMS to your designated number by 10:30am if your child is absent and we haven't received notification

from you about the absence. Please respond to each SMS message outlining the reason for your child's absence. If you receive a text message regarding your child arriving late to school, please respond to the text message with your child's full name so we can update our records. All absences and late arrivals must be explained. **Please send a separate text for each child with their full name.** In the event of planned absences, please contact the school as soon as possible to let us know the dates and reason for absence by either phoning the front office (6142 2200) or sending an email to [harrison.absences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:harrison.absences@ed.act.edu.au)

Dan and I are looking forward to a great year working with you and supporting your children to thrive and grow.

Jacqui Ford

### SCHOOL GATES

The Harrison School Gates will be locked at 9:30am each morning and get reopened at 2:30pm. If you need to enter the school between the hours of 9:30am-2:30pm you are required to sign in via the front office.

All gates will be locked again at 3:30pm daily. If you are still on school grounds after 3:30pm, you will need to exit via the main gates located on Wimmera Street.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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.

### YEAR 7 AND YEAR 10 IMUNISATIONS

The first round of vaccinations for students in Year 7 and Year 10 are happening in Semester 1 2021.

- Year 7: Monday 22 February 2021 (Week 4 Term 1)
- Year 10: Tuesday 4 May 2021 (Week 3 Term 2)

Consent cards will be sent home with students in the coming weeks and are due back as soon as possible. We ask that ALL consent cards are returned, regardless if the response is a yes or no. More information for immunisations can be found here: [Year 7](#), [Year 10](#).

### TESTING'S NOT JUST FOR END OF TERM



No one should have to do a test on their first week back at school! But there is one test that can't be ignored. With increased travel over the summer holidays, it is important that all Canberrans – even children - get tested for COVID-19, even with the mildest of symptoms.

While evidence suggests that young children are less likely to acquire and transmit COVID-19, their symptoms should not be ignored, with testing our best surveillance tool against the virus.

The COVID-19 test is free, quick and easy and most people receive their test result within 24 hours.

Parents and carers who are required to take their children for testing can also be issued with a carers' certificate for the time when they take their child for a test and while they await results.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, sore throat, cough, runny or blocked nose, or shortness of breath.

There are seven free COVID-19 testing locations across the ACT, with four of them open seven days a week.

Some testing clinics don't have facilities to test children under the age of eight. Please check the website to make sure you're going to the right clinic:

[www.covid19.act.gov.au/testing](http://www.covid19.act.gov.au/testing)

## ARE YOU BACK TO SCHOOL READY?



**Are you back to school ready?**

**Routes**  
Check your service timetable and locate your nearest stop

**Safety**  
Review the safety rules around both bus and light rail services

**Fares**  
Purchase a MyWay card online, over the phone or at a recharge agent  
Check your MyWay card balance, top up or register for autoload

**Keep in touch**  
Sign up for Transport Canberra e-news alerts on the 'contact us' page  
Visit [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au) to find out more

**Public Transport Safety:**  
If your child is new to public transport or a regular user, don't forget safety is a top priority. Make sure your child is familiar with the safety rules for inside and outside their chosen bus or light rail service. For further information on Transport Canberra travel safety, please visit the [Etiquette and Safety](#) and [Staying Safe](#) sections on our website.

## School Safety Tips:

A School Crossing Supervisor program has been in place since 2018. School crossing supervisors (lollipop people) assist children to cross roads safely by directing traffic with a stop sign and providing instructions. They also help to manage the flow of pedestrians and motorists at the busiest crossings.

## Active Travel:

Walking, riding or scooting to school is also a great way to reduce congestion and increase safety around schools. There are several initiatives in place to support families wishing to walk or ride in 2021, including the Ride or Walk to School, Active Streets for Schools and School Crossing Supervisor programs. Part way drop off points near a school, like a local oval or the shops, can be a great option if walking or riding the entire trip is too far.

## SWIMMING AND AQUA FUN DAYS



### Harrison Swimming Carnival

- Stromlo Leisure Centre
- Thursday 11 February (week 2)
- Only eligible for competitive swimmers from 8-16 years old
- Capable swimmers **MUST** be able to swim 50m
- Notes will be sent home today, Tuesday 2 Feb and are due back by **Monday 8 Feb**
- Spectators will be required to pay an entry fee at the venue
- No canteen available so BYO food and drink

### Year 5/6 Aqua Fun Day

- Big Splash, Macquarie
- Monday 22 February (week 4)
- For all 5/6 students only
- Harrison will be the only school at the venue
- Notes will be sent home this week and are due back by **Wednesday 17 Feb**
- Parents/Carers are unable to attend
- Canteen is available to students, but no cash will be accepted. Online ordering or PayWave is the accepted method of payment.



## Year 7-10 Aqua Fun Day

- Big Splash, Macquarie
- Wednesday 3 March (week 5)
- For all Year 7-10 Students
- Harrison will be the only school at the venue
- Notes will be sent home this week and are due back by **Wednesday 17 Feb**
- Parents/Carers are unable to attend
- Canteen is available to students, but no cash will be accepted. Online ordering or PayWave is the accepted method of payment.

## TERM 1 DATES 2021

Thursday 1 April 2021 is the last day of Term 1.

The school holidays will commence on Friday 2 April and conclude on Friday 16 April.

The First Day of Term 2 is 19 April 2021.

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC MUSICAL

Baron Elberfeld (played by Hugo Walker, one of our teachers here at Harrison School) enjoys bike riding, eating out and entertaining audiences in Queanbeyan Players production of The Sound of Music.

See him in action this March. Book your tickets here:

<https://theq.net.au/>



## CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

If you have a concern or complaint about your child's schooling, education or welfare:

- Step 1: Discuss your concern with your child's teacher
- Step 2: Discuss your concern with the school principal (if you were not able to resolve the

concern with the teacher or if your concern relates to the conduct of a staff member or is about another aspect of school life)

- Step 3: If your concern remains unresolved, contact the Families & Students, Complaints & Feedback Unit via the [ACT Education Directorate contact form](#) or by phone (02) 6205 5429 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

## STUDENT INJURY

### INSURANCE and AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

The ACT Education Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity **within the ACT**.

## WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* (the Act) commenced on 7 November 2012. The Act aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the A.C.T. The Act requires people working or volunteering in 'Activities or Services for Children' have contact with vulnerable people while engaging in regulated activities and services to register with the Office of Regulatory Services.

Parents and community members make a valuable contribution to schools through a diversity of roles as volunteers or visitors to schools. Not all volunteers and visitors are required to be registered. The Working with Vulnerable People - Information for Volunteers and Visitors guide provides more information including a range of examples to demonstrate where volunteers and visitors are required to be registered. It also includes examples to demonstrate the type of work that does not require registration.

### Volunteer and Visitor Nomination Forms

- Volunteers and visitors must provide a completed [Volunteer](#) and [Visitor](#) Nomination Form to the school before commencement of activities
- Schools will provide assistance to complete this form where it is necessary. Assistance is also provided in the [Volunteer](#) and [Visitor](#) Nomination Form information sheets
- These forms are completed **annually** and should be updated if personal details change
- Schools will arrange the secure storage of all Volunteer and Visitor Nomination forms in accordance with the Directorate's record keeping policy and provisions of the *Information Privacy Act 2014*.

[Working with Vulnerable People: Information for Volunteers and Visitors Guide](#)

### **Further Information**

Contact: [Access Canberra](#)

Phone: [13 22 81](#)

Visit [Working with Vulnerable People](#) page

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome back to all staff, students and families!  
We hope you had a wonderful break.

### **Family Borrowing**

Library tours are starting this week, and this is a great opportunity for the students to become familiar with the library space and view our library collection.

Families are encouraged to sign up to borrow books especially from the informative community

collection which includes parenting books, dealing with health and social issues.

### **Library Bags**

Each P-2 child who visits the library to borrow a book is required to have a library bag. The bags help protect the books and encourages student responsibility by borrowing regularly, taking good care of the books, and returning them on time. A plastic bag could be an alternative. Please label all bags with the student's name and class.

### **Scholastic Book Club**



Issue 1 will be distributed to students this week. Please check with your child's teacher if you do not receive a copy.

Due date: Friday 12 February (Week 2)

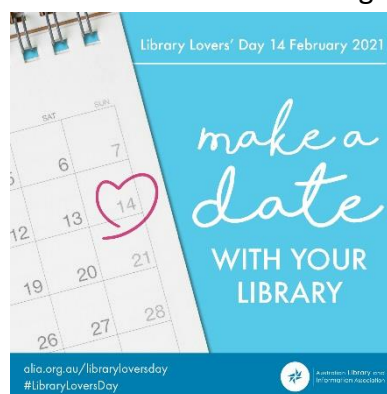
<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-home/>

### **Library Lovers Day**

Harrison School will be celebrating #LibraryLoversDay 2021. Organised annually by ALIA, this day celebrates all the work that libraries do and is especially relevant following 2020. This year's theme is, Make a date with your library, so we are encouraging our community to come to the library from the 12 of February.

Come and fall in love with a good book!



### **Overdues**

We still have many books outstanding from 2020. We will be sending out reminders for these overdue books next Wednesday, 11 February. Kindly remind your child that book loans are for two weeks and books need to be returned to the library when they have finished

reading them. Students can renew books if they need longer. Thank you for your support.

From the library team.

## OSHClub



## DEFENCE NEWS

Welcome back for 2021 to all our continuing families. To all of our new Defence families arriving this year, welcome to Harrison School and to Canberra!

We hope that your moves have gone smoothly and that you settle into our community very quickly.

Sarah and Zoe

**DCO Support for ADF Families:**  
[defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au) or 1800 624 608.

Sarah and Zoe

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

[zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au)

## Coming Up

- Tuesday 23 Feb – DSM Coffee Catch Ups – Soldier On Crace – 9.30am-11.30am.



## DEFENCE KIDS

Activity Groups will recommence next Monday further details will be displayed around the junior and senior schools.



## HARRISON HEARTS (Commencing Next Week)

Come to the Defence Room in the library on Monday mornings between 9am and 11am. 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.

## SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The second-hand uniform shop will be open **every Friday morning** from 8:30am-9:30am in the Multipurpose room located in the Junior Hall.

## CANTEEN NEWS

The 2021 Canteen Menu can be found on our school website [here](#).

## [FLEXI -SCHOOLS ONLINE ORDERING](#)

### 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.