

## Harrison School Newsletter 2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the middle of term one.

### Executive Principal

As most of you are aware, Gareth Richards has joined the Harrison Team in the Executive Principal role from Namadgi School. He has spent his first day getting to know staff and students while orientating himself with the school. Let's all make sure we give him a warm Harrison welcome.

### Sun Safety

Although summer is now officially over for another year, it is a good time to remind everyone about the importance of staying sun safe. It is not uncommon for the UV index to be forecasted as extreme or very high throughout March, requiring the need for sun protection. Please ensure that your children are being sun safe, by wearing an appropriate hat, using sunscreen and seeking shade during the hottest part of the day.

### Carnivals and Fun Days

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PE team for their organisation of this year's swimming carnival and Aqua Fun Days. These events take a huge amount of work behind the scenes to ensure they are successful. The move this year to a new venue, at the newly opened Stromlo Pool, added another dimension of complexity that the team took in their stride resulting in one of the most smoothly run and enjoyable carnivals of recent years. To all of our students who competed at the carnival, well done and to those who are moving on to the next round, congratulations and we are behind you all the way.

### Canberra Metro

Every year we are visited by the team at Canberra Metro who take the time to reiterate the need to be safe around the tracks and light rail vehicles themselves. Some of the key messages they want our students to come away with are,

### Term 1 Week 5 2021

#### Tuesday 2 March

- Yr. 1/2 Tennis Clinics
- Yr. 8-10 Bungee Art Program

#### Wednesday 3 March

- Yr. 7-10 Aqua Fun Day – Big Splash
- Uke Choir – Harrison Library Music Room – 8:15am-8:50am
- P-2 Assembly – Hall – 9:15am
- Yr. 3-6 Assembly – Gym – 9:15am

#### Thursday 4 March

- Yr. 1/2 Tennis Clinics
- Secondary Northside Touch Football Comp – Deakin Playing Fields

### Term 1 Week 6 2021

#### Monday 8 March

- CANBERRA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

#### Tuesday 9 March

- Yr. 1/2 Tennis Clinics
- Yr. 8-10 Bungee Art Program

#### Wednesday 10 March

- Uke Choir – Harrison Library Music Room – 8:15am-8:50am

#### Thursday 11 March

- Yr. 1/2 Tennis Clinics

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



- *Only cross the light rail tracks at designated crossings and intersections. Always wait for the green pedestrian signal before you cross.*
- *If crossing the light rail tracks at a crossing that has no pedestrian signals, stop and look both ways before you cross. Light rail vehicles are quiet and can approach from either direction.*
- *Always pay attention and stay alert around light rail. Earphones and other distractions like texting, reading on your phone and taking photos can put you at risk.*
- *Cyclists should dismount when crossing the light rail tracks.*
- *Tracks are for the light rail vehicles. Please DO NOT drive, cycle, walk or skate down the tracks.*

More information can be found at [cmet.com.au/safety](http://cmet.com.au/safety)

Congratulations everyone on a great start to 2021.

Kind regards,  
Dan Breen

### **Welcome from Mr Richards**

My name is Mr Richards and this week I started at Harrison School in the Executive Principal position, previously occupied by Mr. Holmes. I am an experienced preschool to Year 10 Principal in the ACT system having previously held Principal positions at Namadgi P-10 School and Gowrie Primary School. In 2020 I received the accolade of ACT School Leader of the Year and have significant experience leading schools with similar profiles to Harrison.

Over the last few days, I have managed to walk through every classroom and met some wonderful students and staff here at Harrison. I am slowly getting to know some names and will no doubt meet more students whilst out on duty or supervising the school crossing.

I have felt very welcomed by the community and look forward to meeting the School Board, P&C and families as the weeks progress.



Kind Regards,  
Mr Richards

### **IMPORTANT - DEATH CAP MUSHROOMS**

#### **Do not touch, pick, or eat any wild mushrooms!**

Death Cap mushrooms have previously been found growing at and around some schools in the in the ACT. It is time to be vigilant, as the growing season has started early this year. Parents and teachers are asked to remind children not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS INFORMATION**

School photos will be held in Week 8 of this term on the following days:

- Tuesday 23 March: Year 7-10
- Wednesday 24 March: Year 3-6
- Thursday 25 March: Pre – Year 2
- Sibling Photos: every morning from 8:30am

When photo envelopes are delivered to the school, each student will receive their own order form with their name and individual shoot key printed on the top. We ask that families place their orders online and make an online payment directly to MSP when ordering. The school will not be taking any payments for school photos. Photo envelopes DO NOT need to be returned to the school OR to the photographers (except for sibling envelopes – these are to be handed to the photographers on the day). The photo envelopes are simply for your record only as they contain the individual shoot key needed when placing your order.

A detailed schedule with timings will be communicated to families in the coming weeks. A reminder that once sibling photo forms arrive, families who would like sibling photos taken are to collect a separate order form from either office. Sibling photos are only available for students who are enrolled at Harrison School. Families will be

notified once the sibling order forms have been delivered to the school and are available for collection.

If you have any questions about school photos, please contact [Grace.Brassington@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Grace.Brassington@ed.act.edu.au) or call 6142 2200.

### ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to our Principals Award Recipients:

|            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Katelyn G, | Haley G,  | Dmitri G,    |
| Nathan V,  | Marion C, | Connor G,    |
| William M, | Abby M,   | Caprice M x2 |
| Brielle W, | Dallas B, | Alexander M  |

### SCHOOL GATES

The Harrison School gates will be locked at 9:30am each morning and are 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 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.

### SPORTS NEWS

#### Harrison Swimming Carnival

Two weeks ago, we held our Harrison Swimming Carnival at Stromlo Leisure Centre. Swimmers competed in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly in 50m and 100m and the 200IM. The carnival finished with the Harrison Fish. Congratulations to the eight swimmers who were the fastest in their house.

|           |              |             |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Mapleton  | Denali W,    | Khan W      |
| Nullarbor | Alex L,      | Narah G     |
| Wimmera   | Abbey S,     | Lachlan F   |
| Katoomba  | Mikayla L R, | Anichia L R |



Congratulations to the below Swimming Age Champions

8-12 Yrs. medallions will be presented this week at assemblies. High School medallions will be presented at the next High School assembly in Week 9.

| Age | Boys      | Girls                    |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------|
| 8   | Ralph P-G | Dominique S              |
| 9   | Frank H   | Addison A                |
| 10  | Joshua T  | Ruby K                   |
| 11  | Charles H | Jasmin P                 |
| 12  | Lachlan F | Mikayla L R<br>Mikayla A |
| 13  | Khan W    | Lainey B                 |
| 14  | Will C    | Anichia L R              |
| 15  | NA        | Abbey S                  |

## Year 5/6 Aqua Fun Day

Last week over 300 students journeyed to Big Splash for a fun filled day. It was a great opportunity for students to mix with friends and teachers.

## Team Sports

Good luck to the following teams who are competing at Gala Days over the next 3 weeks: 5/6 Netball, 5/6 Touch, 7/8 Touch, 9/10 Touch, 7/8 Basketball and, 9/10 Basketball.

## YEARS 3-6 INFORMATION/SEMESTER OVERVIEW

The 3 – 6 team has created a 3 – 6 Parent Information site with dates for your diaries, explanations of school procedures and expectations, how we differentiate for students and more. Attached to the 2021 3 – 6 Information, you can find the Y3/4 and Y5/6 Semester Overviews for your reference. The overviews include what your child/ren are studying this semester, how we are teaching it, the context it is taught in and how the work will be assessed.

The information can be found [here](#).

## Uke Choir

Uke Choir has commenced in 2021 and is held on Wednesday mornings from 8:15-8:50am in the Music room located in the library. At this stage, Uke Choir is just for students – no parents/carers. There are several spare uke's for students to borrow but first in, best dressed.

## Canberra Health Reminder



With school back, it's important to remember that Canberra has lots of health options that don't involve a trip to a hospital emergency department. Many of these are free and available after hours.

Walk-in Centres provide free, one-off treatment of **non-life-threatening injury and illness**, such as:

- strains and sprains
- minor burns or grazes

- fractures
- infections
- colds and flu.

They're a great choice for children over 2 years of age – children under 2 should see their GP.

Walk-in Centres are open from 7.30am to 10pm, every day of the year. They are staffed by highly skilled nurses who can provide you with a sick certificate and in some cases, medication, saving you time and money.

The service is free, and no appointments are necessary. Walk-in Centres are in Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Gungahlin, and Dickson.

To find out more about getting the right health care for your symptoms, visit [www.act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions](http://www.act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions)

## Safe Parking Around Schools

### Disability Car Parks

We would like to remind families **not to park in disabled car spaces** unless permitted to do so. There have been some instances this term where cars are using these parking spaces without a permit to park there. This prevents our families who require these parking spaces from using them.

### Dropping or picking your kids up from school?

Parents and carers – please keep our kids safe by parking safely and legally around schools especially at school drop offs and pickups.

It's illegal and not OK to double park or park across pedestrian crossings, corners, or nature strips as this reduces pedestrian visibility and blocks the ability for kids to see the road clearly. The consequences can be fatal.

You can also expect to be fined for parking in no stopping zones, bus zones, or in front of driveways.

For drop offs in the morning, why not park a little further away from the school and walk the rest of the way with your kids?

For pickups at the end of the school day, have a pre-determined meeting spot that's nearby. This

helps if you're running late so your kids know where to wait and you don't need to rush.

Walking part of the way to school is also a simple way to reduce congestion and increase safety around schools. Part way points help make the school drop off and collection run easier and faster for parents and reduces congestion at the school gate. For more options on getting your kids to and from school visit <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/about-us/schools/active-travel-toolkit>

Access Canberra inspectors including License Plate Recognition vans will be on patrol, so let's work together to keep our kids safe.

For more safety tips visit <https://youtu.be/AslMVXpA9Zc> and [www.act.gov.au/safeparking](http://www.act.gov.au/safeparking)



## After School Meltdown

Parents often report the "after school meltdown"- kids either come home extremely volatile and emotional, or become quiet and withdrawn. Why does this happen?

Firstly, the social and behavioural expectations of kids are far greater at school than they are at home. Kids have to use a lot of energy and resources to pay attention, follow directions, sit still, retain information, manage friendships, please their teacher...the list goes on. When it comes time to head home, it can be challenging for kids to conjure up the same amount of resources required to keep it together.

Secondly, they've had to manage all of this without their comfort person, their primary attachment figure - their parent/caregiver. This means that once school has finished, they may feel frustrated by the

fact that they were left to deal with 6-7 hours of some pretty tough stuff on their own.

Thirdly, they feel like they can melt down at home with their caregivers, because this is their comfort zone, where they know that they are safe, supported and loved. No matter how big the meltdown, they know that their special big person will be there to pick up the pieces.

How can you help a child experiencing the "after-school restraint collapse"?

- Spend an extra 5-10 mins with them before school
- Send them to school with notes in their lunchbox, a picture of you, or a toy that reminds them of you
- Instead of focusing on the goodbye, and telling them all of the fun things they will do that day, redirect their attention to your next hello, e.g. "Have a great day – when I pick you up, shall we go to the park or library?"
- Give them time to relax and have a snack after school, before asking them about their day
- Engage in physical activity when you get home
- Have some down time before doing homework (if your school gives homework...)
- Offer understanding and empathy, rather than punishment/discipline for any unwanted behaviour
- Respond as best you can with the resources you have.

## Canberra Relief Network

The Canberra Relief Network supports the vulnerable in the community, affected by the unprecedented health and economic crisis. It can support families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including casual workers, international students (especially those isolated due to COVID-19 infection), and carers of individuals with COVID-19, disability, health challenges or chronic illnesses.

Canberra Relief Network can be found [here](#).

## Read&Write for Google – Free Webinar

A one-hour parent/carer webinar will introduce Read&Write for Google Chrome, which supports reading and access to curriculum, writing tools and

accessibility features such as text to speech, dictionary, and vocabulary.

All students enrolled in ACT Public School have free access to Read&Write for Google Chrome at school and at home.

Participants can register for the webinar via link below.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5520571330025777421>

## PBL AT HARRISON SCHOOL

PBL stands for Positive Behaviour for Learning and is a whole school approach that leads towards building a positive school culture and learning environment to improve student behaviour expectations.

Harrison School staff and students have been introduced to the positive behaviour framework for our school to support the wellbeing of every student.

This framework is an evidence based, positive, social, student focused approach to behaviour that involves the whole school community. It includes creating, teaching and rewarding expected and pro-social behaviours and involves everyone, everywhere, every time.

The PBL framework is underpinned by three core principles, which we expect everyone to uphold:

- **We are LEARNERS**
- **We are RESPECTFUL**
- **We are RESPONSIBLE**

*How will PBL work at Harrison School?*

The PBL team meet regularly to discuss, identify and refine our expected behaviours in all areas of the school. These core principles are being turned into explicit lessons through a collaborative process and are refined during our meetings.

*What is happening with PBL in 2021?*

Our PBL journey is reigniting in 2021 and we are moving forward with our community wide mascot competition. Competition information was emailed out to families last week and more information can be found on our [school website](#).

Stage 1 of this competition will run between weeks 5 - 9 of Term 1, 2021, with the prospect of Stage 2 being initiated in early Term 2. We look forward to seeing your PBL mascot ideas that align with our PBL values:

- **We are LEARNERS**
- **We are RESPECTFUL**
- **We are RESPONSIBLE**

If you have any questions about PBL or if you are interested in joining the team, please contact the front office and a staff member from the PBL team will contact you.

We look forward to progressing our PBL journey with you!

The Harrison School PBL Team

## TERM 1 DATES 2021

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

The school holidays 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

All of the seats to see the show in the theatre have sold out. The Q has reached its allowed COVID-safe capacity. Livestream tickets are now available through Stage Centa. Please use the web link provided to purchase your live stream ticket.

<https://www.stagecenta.com/showid/5797/Showdetails.aspx>



## HARRISON SCHOOL CROSSING



A school crossing supervisor is supporting our school each morning and afternoon to increase safety for children. Please support this initiative by driving safely near the school and encouraging children to use the supervised crossing.

Our crossing supervisor is responsible for controlling a busy environment, which includes managing the flow of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists during peak times. It is important for motorists to drive at a speed which allows them to safely stop when the supervisor enters the road. Please be patient and allow the crossing supervisor and other pedestrians to safely clear the road prior to proceeding.

The school community is encouraged to familiarise themselves with the basic crossing supervisor procedures:

- The supervisor will ask pedestrians to wait in a safe location by the side of the road
- When it is safe, the supervisor will stop traffic
- The supervisor will blow their whistle twice to indicate it is safe to cross.

The School Crossing Supervisor program is delivered by Transport Canberra and City Services' [School Safety Program](#). If you have any feedback about the program, please contact TCCS.

Please be patient, polite and respectful to our supervisor, they are committed to keeping our students safe.

## OSHClub



Dear Families,

Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our existing ones! We've had a very busy start to 2021

with attendances increasing dramatically since COVID last year.

Our new Kindergarten children have settled in very quickly and are having fun playing with all the toys and getting to know our educators.

As our numbers have increased, we have added some new educators to our program so you may be seeing some new faces around OSHClub. Jackson is the Assistant Coordinator for the Wombats; Kate will be Assistant Coordinator for the Echidnas with Opu sadly moving on in a few weeks and Jolene is still the Assistant Coordinator for the Crocodiles.

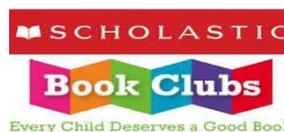
From March 3, we will be starting our Lego and Engineering incursion. This will run twice a week with Years 3-6 participating on Wednesdays and K-2 participating on Thursdays. This incursion is at no additional cost to families, children just need to be booked in for that particular afternoon. We know that we have many excited children who are eager for this incursion. If you have any ideas for incursions throughout the year, please share them with us.

Each day we are still having to make several phone calls following up where children are in the afternoons. Please, if your child will not be attending a session, let us know by phone 0418223198 or email [harrison@oshclub.com.au](mailto:harrison@oshclub.com.au).

We are looking forward to another great year at Harrison OSHClub!

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Club Issue 2



Scholastic Book Club Issue 2 will be sent out soon.

All orders will be due by **Friday 12 March**.

A reminder that orders can be placed online using the LOOP link.

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

### Reading Tips

Reading and Storytelling with your young child.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age>

## Library Bags

A reminder to all parents that all library bags need to be labelled with child's name and class. This helps us return lost bags to their owners or teachers.



## DEFENCE NEWS

Well, the first few weeks of term just flew by; we hope that all children are settling in well. We hope that we have now met all new defence students. If we have inadvertently missed your child, please let us know so we can ensure their name is on our list. If you have any concerns about your child/ren settling in, let us know so we can prioritise extra visits if required.

Check out more information about who we are and what we do on the Harrison School [website](#).

**Deployments/Courses/MWDU/Discharging - Please** let us know when deployments, courses and absences from home are coming up so we can keep a closer eye on your child/ren and help them through these times. Also, if you are in the process of discharging or have recently discharged please let us know.

### Coming Up:

- Friday 19 March: Defence Families Dinner at Raiders Club Gungahlin
- Friday 23 April – ANZAC Day Assembly – 9:15am, Harrison School Gym

### 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)



## DEFENCE KIDS

- K-2 – Lunch Monday
- 3/4 – Lunch Tuesday
- 5/6 – Lunch Wednesday
- 7-10 – Lunch Thursday and Friday



## HARRISON HEARTS

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 into the canteen and say hello.

## SCHOOL BANKING

The ACT Government is transitioning away from school banking programs and therefore Harrison School no longer run School Banking.

### School Banking Transition FAQ's

#### 1. Why was this decision made?

On 10 February 2021, the ACT Government agreed to move away from school banking programs in ACT public schools.

A range of aspects were considered including:

- a broader financial capability strategy for students

- future opportunities for volunteers to continue to support and advocate financial capability in their school community
- decline in student participation in school banking programs
- evidenced findings from reports such as ASIC's *Review of School Banking Programs*.

Please direct any concerns or queries to:  
[EDUParentEngagement@act.gov.au](mailto:EDUParentEngagement@act.gov.au)

## 2. Who will this affect?

Schools, P&Cs, parents and students - The decision applies to ACT public schools and will mean that school P&Cs will also be affected (in the event school banking programs are operated by P&Cs).

Students will no longer be able to bank deposits or participate in banking rewards programs at school.

## 3. What will this affect / what will be the impact?

The decision will mean that school banking programs will no longer be offered at ACT public schools effective from 1 July 2021.

- School banking programs include the banking / rewards program (such as *Dollarmites*) as well as educational programs that are operated by banks (such as Commonwealth Bank's *Start Smart* program)

For the programs that are operated by P&Cs, commission revenue earned from banks will no longer be an available revenue stream.

## 4. Timing – when will this decision come into effect at my school?

Harrison School has already transitioned away from school banking.

## 5. Does this mean I have to close my existing bank account?

No. Continuing existing accounts is a parent/student decision.

## 6. Can I continue to bank as normal with my child?

Yes. The collecting and banking of student's deposits and distribution of rewards will no longer be a service offered by the school. Parents can choose to continue to bank deposits with their child. The continuation of the rewards system previously associated with school banking will be a decision of the individual bank.

## 7. Where can I find out more or raise my concerns?