



Harrison School Newsletter 17 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've almost made it! As Term 4 has wrapped up, I've been reflecting on our challenges and achievements across 2019. There has been terrific learning occurring in classrooms throughout the year and with our focus on improving the literacy skills of students, we have seen significant progress in our reading, writing, spelling and grammar for different year levels across the school. We've seen some great growth in students through NAPLAN results, Progressive Achievement Test (<https://www.acer.org/au/pat>) data, ongoing class assessments and semester reports. Students have also had opportunities for social, emotional and academic growth through structured play activities, targeted cybersafety and social/emotional well-being learning and a range of carnivals and excursions.

Term 4 itself has been both frenetic and terrific. Last week, we celebrated two major events in the form of our Year 10 Graduation and Formal and, our ACE Awards evening. The Year 10 students looked spectacular in their formal wear and I was filled with pride to see the smiles on the faces of students and parents as the Year 10 Portfolios were awarded. Our ACE Awards ceremonies were also fantastic - in all, we presented approximately 475 awards to students as recognition of their achievements and efforts. Again, it was delightful to see the smiles and pride on the faces of students and parents as awards were presented. In addition to this, when these sorts of events occur, I am regularly amazed at how well our student leaders step up to the occasion - in the last two years, we have invested time into the development of our student leadership program, and we are seeing the benefits. I am filled with excitement about the potential in our 2020 student leaders and the possibilities this group will have. While I know our 2020 student leaders have been announced, I thought it was worth introducing them again as they will be pivotal in helping to improve our school:

Term 4 Week 10

Tuesday 17

- Deadly Mob Excursion to Birrigai – 9:15am-2:50pm
- End of Year Fun Day – Yr. 1/2 DN, SP, SK, NH, JH, EL, JHA & HC – 10:00am-12:00pm
- End of Year Fun Day – Yr. 1/2 NE, KW, KS, LD, JC, OP, RT & JM – 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Preschool Graduation – PMT-CD, PMT-BD, PMT-ER – 2:30pm
- 3/4 Aqua Fun Day

Wednesday 18

- Whole School Assembly – Gym – 9:15am
- End of Year Fun Day – All Kindergarten classes – 10:00am-12:00pm
- Preschool Graduation – PTF-CD, PTF-BZ, PTF-JC – 2:30pm

Thursday 19

- Last Day of Term 4 2019

Term 1 Week 1 2020

Monday 3 February

- First Day of Term 1 for all **new students**, Mon/Tues Preschool classes and all **Kindergarten classes**.

Tuesday 4 February

- First Day of Term 1 for all continuing students

Thursday 6 February

- First Day Preschool Thurs/Fri Groups

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



Captains:

Zac H, Caitlin B, John E, Petra B

Leadership Committee:

Sophie D, Niamh A, Grace M, Sarah M,
Talon C-D, Jorja D, Georgia S, Mitch C,
Shahar B-T, Elise K-K, Sameeha A, Ellie S,

Year 6 Student Leaders:

Dharmi P, Chloe K, Bradley P, Luke Y

Year 4 Student Leaders:

Amelia F, Jasmin P, Charles H, Sam J

PBL

Our PBL Team has also been working hard during Term 4 to produce our draft "Everywhere Statements". These are statements of expectation for behaviours that apply to everywhere while students are at school or participating in school-based activities. The statements have been drafted using the OMPUA methodology (**O**bservable, **M**easurable, **P**ositively stated, **U**nderstandable and **A**lways applicable). We will share the Everywhere Statements with you and the student body early next year and seek your feedback to mould them from draft to final statements.

School Board

I thought I'd include a brief reminder that nominations to fill vacancies on the Harrison School Board open on Monday 3 February and close on Monday 17 February. We have two staff vacancies, two student vacancies and two parent vacancies. If you'd like more information about the role and time commitment of Board members, please give me a call on 6142 2200 before 17 February 2020.

Generosity and Thoughtfulness

Our students never cease to amaze me and Sophia Benitez-Castellanos (Year 4) has done so with her impressive selfless decision. Sophie, who loves her hair and has only had it cut a couple of centimetres during her life, has decided to have her hair cut so she can donate it to have a wig made for someone who has lost their hair due to a medical condition. Sophie is also raising funds to help the purchase of other wigs for people in need. If you're in a position to help Sophia with her fundraising you can do so at

<https://hairwithheart.everydayhero.com/au/sophia-s-hair-for-care>

Welcomes and Farewells

We welcome 15 new staff to the school in 2020 and I am excited by the range of experience and skills these staff will bring. I will introduce our new staff in the first newsletter of 2020. There are a number of our current teachers leaving at the end of this year. I am extremely grateful for their contributions to Harrison and the impact they've had not only on the culture of the school, but on the individual students they have taught. Please join me in thanking:

Mary Pezzella,	Talitha Wilson,
Nat Edwards,	Sophie Dash,
Eve Canonigo,	Steve Adams,
Kathryn Shaw,	Cathy Duke,
Kieryn Khan,	Wendy Hammond,
Emma Leahy,	Kelly Dunstan,
Andrea Kemp,	Dan Ewin,
Kate Bradley,	Helen Harrowell,
Tom Alexander,	Jennifer Jenkins,
Farhat Azad,	Lauren Frankham

2020 School Year

The 2020 school year starts with new students, including all preschool and kindergarten students, on Monday 3 February. Continuing students return on Tuesday 4 February. In continuing our practice, class lists will be posted at various locations around the school at the start of next year.

In signing off, I thank you, our amazing community of parents and carers, for your contributions to and support of the very successful year we've had. Last year, I mentioned that I was excited by the potential possibilities our new senior leadership structure may provide. I'm pleased to say that within the year, due to Dan's and Jacqui's leadership, we have seen increased rigour and focus on learning across the school and improved student achievement as a result - I can't wait to see what our planning brings us next year! I hope you all have a lovely, safe and enjoyable break and have an opportunity to spend some quality time with loved ones. I look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Regards,
Jason.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY DATE 2020

Monday 27 April 2020 declared a public holiday.
Next year, ANZAC day will fall on Saturday 25 April 2020 and consequently Monday 27 April 2020 has been declared a public holiday. This is in addition to the ANZAC Day public holiday on Saturday 25 April 2020.

The Term 2, 2020 dates information on the Directorate website and the Public Holiday information on ACT Government website has been updated to reflect the public holiday. Term 2, 2020 starts on Tuesday 28 April.

ACE AWARDS PHOTO INFORMATION

If your child received an award at our ACE Awards Ceremony last Thursday and you would like to receive a copy of the photo taken, please complete the form on the following link.

[Harrison School ACE Awards Photos.](#)

The photos will be emailed to you in 2020.

KATOOMBA STREET CROSSING

Work will commence soon to improve the site lines to the children's crossing located on Katoomba Street. Drivers will need to take extra care around this area.

Yr. 7-10 STEM 2019 Wrap Up

2019 has been a big year for the new STEM learning area in the senior school. We have welcomed some new staff to a new learning area. We have developed some new curriculum and have moved forward with a focus on developing student inquiry skills through problem-based learning whilst maintaining high quality explicit teaching. We have extended students through a range of enrichment activities including sending teams to the Gungahlin College STEM Challenge, Burgmann College Maths Challenge Day and our Harrison STEM Day for National Science Week. Our STEM day saw over 50 students compete in house teams on a range of problem-based learning challenges where students needed to bring

cooperative teamwork skills with their critical and complex reasoning skills to apply STEM knowledge to complete the challenge. A group of year 10 girls attended the Women in STEM presentation at St Clare's College where they heard from a range of female industry leaders, enriching our lives through their application of STEM.

We have had 3 students, Peter Vermeulen, Aarv Saini and Shaarik Mohamed Sharief successfully complete the inaugural ACT Science Mentor's program, studying stars at the Mt Stromlo observatory. We're pleased to announce that Advait Ramakrishnan is one of 20 students selected from over 200, 000 students for the Mathspace Transformative 20 award for 2019. Advait has been selected based on a range of criteria which include purpose, growth, and dedication to their learning as well as the learning of others. I would like to thank all the STEM students and their dedicated teachers for their enthusiasm and dedication this year. We look forward to building on this in 2020 with the introduction of our Year 9 Integrated STEM course and enhancing learning for all students.

Have a great holiday and I hope you have your Chemistrees up!



**LAST DAY OF TERM 4 2019 – Thursday 19
December 2019**

ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to our Principals' Award Recipients:
William H, Noah H, Luke L

FRONT OFFICE HOURS

Harrison School Front Office hours are:

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 3:30pm

For all enquiries and calls

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO HARRISON SCHOOL IN 2020

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.

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

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.

Can you help to make a difference?

One of our year 4 students has made the decision to donate her hair. Here, in her words, is her story.

"Hello, my name is Sophia and I am 10 years old. I have made the decision to make a difference by cutting and donating my hair to be made into a wig for someone who has lost their hair due to a medical condition.

I have let my hair grow all my life, cut only once a couple of centimetres because I like it. But this time I will cut 40cm to donate it.

Although my family has never been touched by cancer, I saw the brother of my cousin's friend, who had lost his hair because of the treatment he received.

Because of that, I thought, "How can I help?" Then, I found out about Hair with Heart and decided "Maybe I can help this way". I love my hair but I hope that by cutting it and giving it away, I can help make a difference.

Did you know wigs cost families up to \$6,000 and last only 1-2 years, meaning families can spend tens of thousands of dollars on the purchase of wigs throughout a child's youth.

By making a donation on my page you can help provide a wig or other vital equipment to a child in need.

I'll be chopping 40 cm of my hair off on December 17, 2019. Please help me make a difference.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KIDS IN NEED. 

Sophia has already raised \$1170 towards her target of \$3000.

If you'd like to and can donate, here's her link. What a generous thing for a 10 year old to do and what an impact she's making. I'd love us to help her get to her goal. Not all of us are blessed with good health.

<https://hairwithheart.everydayhero.com/au/sophia-s-hair-for-care>

OSHCLUB INFORMATION

- Enrolments/bookings are now open for the upcoming January holidays. If your child/ren isn't currently enrolled for OSHClub this can be completed via our website www.oshclub.com.au. Here, you will also find our brochure which includes all our exciting themes as well as incursions and excursions. If your child/ren is already enrolled in OSHClub, you can add bookings via your iParent Portal. Alternatively you can contact us directly on 0418223198 or harrison@oshclub.com.au if you are having any problems. Please note that if your child/ren is starting Kindergarten in 2020 we do accept them for Vacation Care.
- Enrolments/bookings are also open for the 2020 school year (excluding holidays). Please follow steps above to make an enrolment or booking for next year.
- As Thursday 19th December is the last day of school, we will be running a pupil free day on December 20. This means that we will essentially be running a Vacation Care Day from 7am-6pm.
- We are still looking for donations for Adopt a Ward. All of the ACT OSHClub services have been asking for their school communities to donate items to the Canberra Hospital for those who will be in hospital over the Christmas period. Some things we are looking for include: activity books, toiletries for males & females, stationery, personal care items, deck of cards and board games. Donations will be collected next Tuesday morning so if you are planning to donate please do so before then. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

LIBRARY NEWS

Lost Property

There are still a lot of student lost property items which have not yet been collected. Could you please check the lost property located in the library before the end of term.

Any lost property items that were labelled with names have been placed in staff pigeon holes for distribution to students.



P & C Donation

We would like to thank the P&C for their generous donation to the library. We will purchase many new titles for the students to enjoy.

Happy Holidays

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff, students and families all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Thank you for all your support this year and always encouraging the love of reading! See you in 2020 😊

The Library Team

Thank you!



DEFENCE NEWS

At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our Yr. 10 Defence Students on their Graduations and wish them all the very best for bright and happy futures.

Postings: If you are posting out anytime in the next few weeks, please let us know and ensure that you have completed a school leavers form for your child/ren. These are available from the main office. Please remember if your situation changes, (e.g. 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.

Sarah and Zoe

sarah.mcgavin@ed.act.edu.au

zoe.rossiter@ed.act.edu.au



DEFENCE KIDS

All activity groups and hang outs have now finished for the year. We look forward to having you back in 2020, hopefully with some more exciting ideas/opportunities!



HARRISON HEARTS

Has finished for 2019, we hope to see you again from Week 2 of school in 2020.

CANTEEN NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The canteen will be closed on Thursday 19 December 2019 and will reopen on Tuesday 4 February 2020.

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



Congratulations to all students to getting their rewards for this year. We have had a great school banking experience in 2019.

In 2019, the school banking will take place every **WEDNESDAY**, starting on 5 February 2020.

We are still looking for volunteers to help process the banking. If you are interested, please send an email to kalpana0708@gmail.com

We hope you all have a very exciting holiday.
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Kalpana Pothuraju
School Banking Coordinator