From the Principal... 

Dear Families,

Term 1 is nearly over and we look ahead to another short work week after our Easter break that will soon be followed by a two week break.

**Term 2 start date and ANZAC Day**

ACT Education and Training schools have Monday 27 April following ANZAC Day as a holiday and the new school term commences on Tuesday 28 April. With the 100 year commemoration of the landing at Gallipoli this year our special ANZAC whole school ceremony will be held on Wednesday 29 April at 2pm during our regular assembly time. The 5/6 students will lead us in the ceremony to culminate their learning about WW1. All 5/6 classes have taken advantage of the newly opened WW1 galleries at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) with special excursions this week and have also used school computers, laptops and iPads to go on the very new virtual tour of the AWM. They have been focussing on learning about war experiences from primary source documents: letters, diaries, photographs, log books and paraphernalia collected from Gallipoli and Europe and also what life was like here in Australia during the war years. They have responded to these primary sources with poetry, reports, letters and going deeper with research. I encourage parents and carers to join us for this special whole school ceremony.

**Board election result**

Late last Thursday we received the result of the Board election: James Turvey has been elected to the Board and Bob Edwards was re-elected. Kirsty Westaway continues for another year of her two year term. Ilesha Siotis has been elected as a staff representative and Jo Pearce re-elected. 2013/14 parent representative Merrilyn Woodward and staff representative Sharon Moloney did not seek re-election and I thank them both for their considerable contributions to our school over a two year period. I thank also Chris Pugmire for his interest in the Board and know he will continue to find ways to support our school. Our community appointed Board representative continues to be Joan Kellett who is a passionate supporter of our school community. The old and new Board met together on Monday evening with Bob Edwards re-elected as Board Chair and Kirsty Westaway as Deputy Chair. I very much look forward to working with our new Board members over the rest of this year. Bob’s column outlining this meeting’s business is later in this newsletter. Sincere thanks to Linda Keith for overseeing the board election.

**Keep an eye out!**

Please help keep Turner School safe over the Easter break, during school holidays and out of hours by keeping an eye on our school. Please report any suspicious activity to police.
Teachers planning days

All our preschool to year 6 teachers and the specialist teachers have a planning day over the last two weeks of each term. This enables the five teams to meet for the whole day. This set of planning days has the following elements across each team PK, 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6:

- A close look at individual and group student learning data relevant to those year groups and where each child is tracked against the expected curriculum standard. This includes analysis of the PIPs results (Kinder), reading assessments, oral language assessment, analysis of each child’s writing and spelling from term 1, and a number of maths assessments. This then supports the teachers plan specifically for each child’s needs across all areas of maths and English.

- A discussion of a specific writing task each K-6 student will do at the start of term two where the teachers moderate their marking to get a clear picture of each child’s strengths, areas of needs and where they are in relation to the expectations for that year level. This moderation process particularly supports the work of the English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) team of teachers with the students who are still becoming proficient in the English language.

- A workshop led on grammar from the Australian Curriculum and ways to ensure we support students to not only identify and name the grammar elements (pronouns, noun groups, verbs, clauses etc) but also understand the functions the different elements serve and how and why those functions make texts work effectively. We draw on expert writing from literature, information texts and online texts to support children right from preschool and kindergarten to year 6 gain an insight into how language works. So there was lots of playing with and exploring of grammar for our teachers and this then transfers into the classrooms with our students.

- Discussion on the process for selection of students for 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 enrichment maths and writing weekly groups for term 2.

- Time to work with the science unit that each team will be using as the basis of the major inquiry for term 2. We use the excellent set of resources called Primary Connections that are linked to the Australian Curriculum and enable students to work with specific science content and concepts while allowing plenty of scope for teachers and students to follow deeper pathways depending on the class’s prior knowledge and interest. No doubt some of our science parents listed on our school register of expertise will be involved too.

- Specific PE, sports and fundamental motor skills for term 2 and how to plan with the large group of Lyneham High Sports students who will support weekly PE sessions.

- The 3/4 team also worked on planning for their camp at Birrigai near Tidbinbilla early term 2.

- The preschool teachers also focussed on planning for their sustainability focus.

The specialist Art and Music teachers work together to reflect on the achievements and learning of all students in term 1 and use the Australian Curriculum Arts to plan specific concepts to be explored in term 2. Term 1 has seen excellent collaboration between Indonesian lessons with Sue and Art sessions with Sally and Renee, particularly with the practical work around Indonesian batik work. Kirsty and Giselle have laid such deep foundations of musical literacy with our students that the extension music opportunities they offer in all lessons are remarkable and their planning for term 2 is excellent.

Indonesian teacher selection process

This week the panel met for the selection of an Indonesian teacher. The position was advertised earlier this term. The result of that panel process will be announced next term. I sincerely thank Sue Boyce for the highly stimulating weekly lessons to all students related to Indonesian culture and geography.

Holiday times ahead

Term 1 has certainly been a very busy term at Turner and a happy term for children too with all children making achievements in their learning. Teachers work with students to strive for excellence and to work hard every day to get smarter. All our teachers, learning support assistants and preschool assistants have worked hard to know each and every child well this term, to build strong bonds with them and to give them confidence to take risks with their learning and to strive to be the best they can be.

We know learning is a tiring activity and it really is time to have a break. Every child and every staff member has earned the upcoming holiday. I know families will also enjoy special times together; perhaps at the National Folk Festival this weekend, or a family holiday away over the two week break. Autumn is a fabulous time for outdoor activities with your children. As I say each end of term, build in time ‘to do nothing’ so you and your children can have that important down time. I heard on a radio interview recently that this writer/musician longed for times of feeling ‘bored’ because then his mind was not busy and it provided the space to create and imagine. What a refreshing view on boredom. So next time your child says “I’m bored!” answer “that is fantastic, now you can create and invent, imagine and day-dream!”

Warm regards,

Jo Padgham

Climbing trees

Please remember that for children’s safety and the protection of our beautiful trees—climbing trees anywhere on the Turner School site is not allowed.
From the Deputy

SRC Student Forum

Last Wednesday, Jo, Allison, Julia, visiting Principal Jennifer and I held a student forum with our 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6 SRC representatives (55 students).

We asked our students representatives to provide feedback and think about some key actions that are a part of our 2015 Annual Operating Plan.

The group looked at three areas:

- Governance - that included questions about class meetings, the SRC and how student ideas are heard at Turner School. In this area 100% of students responded that they have class meetings and were able to talk about what made a ‘good class meeting’
- Social Support - that included questions about who students can talk to, how problems are solved at school and safety. 100% of students were able to identify people at the school they could talk to and could identify ways that have seen problems solved both in the classroom and on the playground
- Goal Setting - that included questions about what learning goals are individually set by students and how these help learning and what choice students have about their own learning. Ninety percent of students could articulate their individual learning goals in reading, writing and mathematics and how these goals focussed their own learning.

We were so impressed with the depth of discussion that resulted and how clearly each student could articulate their opinions and thinking. We plan to give a more detailed report of the results to the SRC so that they can take this back for discussion and feedback from class meetings. We will let you know the response from the wider student group when these are returned.

Because we believe that it is important to hear the voice of students, we plan to hold further forums and will involve different groups of students in this across the year.

Whooping Cough

ACT Health have reported four confirmed cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in our 5/6 group. Children with Whooping Cough must be excluded from school for 21 days from when the first cough begins or until they have completed 5 days of a course of appropriate antibiotics.

Please see the ACT Health fact sheet on Whooping Cough which is attached to this newsletter for more information.

Whole School Read ‘Aloud ‘The Very Cranky Bear’ – Presented by our talented 1/2 team!
Board Report

Firstly, thanks to all who took part in the school board election and to Chris Pugmire and James Turvey for putting their names forward to serve on the Board. Thanks also to Linda Keith, our assisting Returning Officer, for conducting the election.

The board had a combined meeting with the outgoing 2014 board and the incoming 2015 board meeting together on the 30 March with all present.

We were able to welcome our new parent representative, James Turvey, and staff representative, Ilesha Siotis. Congratulations and welcome to both James and Ilesha.

We were also able to farewell and thank our outgoing deputy chair, Merrilyn Woodward, and staff representative, Sharon Moloney. Thanks for all your hard work, wisdom and good humour Merrilyn and Sharon.

The first order of business was election of the board chair and deputy chair, conducted by our outgoing deputy chair. I am pleased to welcome Kirsty Westaway as our new deputy chair and I will continue on as board chair for another year.

We then went on to our regular business of accepting the finance reports prepared by Deb Parr and Jo Padgham, followed by the Principals report.

The Board was pleased to hear about Place Value Interviews conducted across all classes as part of analysing where we are at with numeracy and about the new spreadsheet introduced to track student assessment data (TAD) and proving to be much easier for our teachers to use than the previous system.

We also heard about combined professional learning taking place with teaching staff from O’Connor Cooperative School which will continue this year and we were pleased to learn that six groups of our staff have had submissions accepted for the upcoming Australian Literacy and English conference and we expect more submissions from our staff to be accepted for the equivalent Maths conference, both in July.

Jo gave a report on where we are up to on a variety of Capital and Infrastructure projects with the Directorate, some of which, such as the car parking, have been on the agenda for well over a year now.

Hopefully we will see some progress on some of these in the next few months.

The board attempts to review a school policy at each meeting and this time we looked at the draft for the Food and Drink Policy, prepared by Robyn Watson, which we will aim to ratify at our May meeting.

We had an important issue brought to us by the P&C on the matter of choice of Language Other Than English (LOTE) taught at Turner. The board gave this quite some consideration and we had access to information about how LOTE pathways exist between the various primary schools in our ‘Inner North Cluster’, through the two High Schools and on to Dickson College. The Board eventually determined that the choice of Indonesian fits in very well and that the present LOTE pathways in our cluster should be celebrated by all.

A long meeting and I was challenged to tighten it up a bit for future meetings.

Bob Edwards, Board Chair

NDIS Newsletter

Dear Families

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has started working with ACT residents who may be eligible to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The schedule for when people start working with the NDIS is referred to as phasing.

The current phase, January-March, is for students in years 7-12. From April, the NDIA will be focussing on primary school age children.

In order to meet with the NDIA to see how we may help you and your child, you must submit an NDIS Access Request Form. There is also an Evidence of Disability Form that needs to be completed with information on your child’s disability or developmental delay.

The NDIA will be sending out Access Kits to families of every child in years K-6 accessing a Disability Education Program. These kits need to be completed and returned to the NDIA as quickly as possible. The NDIA will then assess your child’s eligibility for the NDIS.

The NDIA is able to assist you to complete these forms if required. You can call the NDIA on 6146 8200 or email ACTaccess@ndis.gov.au.

The NDIA will also be holding information sessions at local schools over the next few months and it is hoped that you are able to attend. These sessions will focus on the NDIS, how to apply and the planning process. If you are having trouble with the Access Request Form or Evidence of Disability Form you can also bring them along to these sessions and we will help you complete them. These sessions will be advertised on the Education and Training Directorate website http://www.det.act.gov.au.

The NDIA is also running pre-planning workshops – a schedule is on the NDIS website http://www.ndis.gov.au/news/events.

Engagement Team - ACT Trial Site, National Disability Insurance Agency
Outdoor investigations in our preschool

This term, the preschool children have been enjoying outdoor learning experiences that link to the literacy, numeracy and inquiry outcomes that we have been focusing on during our indoor investigations.

Our numeracy focus this term has been on recognising different shapes and identifying colours. During indoor investigations the children used Kandinsky’s Colour Study Squares With Concentric Circles to explore circles. To link with our indoor numeracy learning, last week during outdoor investigations we took the opportunity to use the puddles left from the morning rain to explore colour mixing. Using pipettes the children mixed red, blue and green edicol dye to create rainbow puddles.

Julia Ison

Library News

Hello Turner School Community! This edition of the library news is to showcase some of great work Kindergarten has done in library time this term.

The Kindergarten students have spent time looking at, looking through and discussing information texts (nonfiction information books) on a variety of topics. The children have listed and explored features, discussed and found the differences between fiction and information texts and now know where to go in the library to locate information texts.

The Kindergarten students have discussed particular authors and illustrators, picture book sequels and trilogies and enjoyed many fun and entertaining stories. The students have discussed how books in a series were similar and different, made predictions about other books in the series and shared their preferences for which of the stories discussed that they liked the best. The images below show some of the great ideas that have come from our discussions. All work is proudly displayed in the library.

Finally, don’t forget that the Turner Library offers FAMILY BORROWING where an adult in the family may borrow up to 20 books at one time. This is a great way to have some extra books to read for the holidays. Alternatively you may consider joining ACT Library http://www.library.act.gov.au/ they have an extensive online catalogue, and great online services with many branches in the ACT (including Dickson).

Happy reading!

Bridgette Manley and Norma John, Teacher Librarians
Belconnen Zone Swimming Carnival

On Friday 27 March, 22 students from years 3-6 represented Turner School at the Belconnen Zone Swimming Carnival at the AIS. All students showed SCARFF values throughout the day and were acknowledged by officials for their outstanding sportsmanship towards others. Congratulations to all of our swimming representatives, you are wonderful ambassadors for our school. Ribbons for both our Turner Swimming Carnival and the Belconnen Carnival will be awarded during assemblies next term.

Cross Country

On Friday 1 May we will be holding our school cross country at 11.30am. The carnival will start on the oval and then follow the school boundary. All K-6 children will participate in a running event. Children aged 8-12/13 years will be eligible to compete at the Belconnen carnival.

Children must compete in the group of the age that they turn in 2015 eg. if your child is born in 2007 they compete in the 8yrs age group. The first five boys and five girls in each age group (8-years-12/13 years) will make it through to the regional carnival.

Please ensure that your child is dressed in suitable running attire for the day including loose fitting, comfortable clothing (in house colours where possible) and appropriate footwear. All students will be required to wear a sun-safe hat whilst waiting to compete and the use of sunscreen throughout the day is encouraged. In addition to this it is essential that your child rehydrates regularly throughout the day and that they eat plenty of nutritious food to maintain energy levels.

We always appreciate the help of volunteers who ensure our carnivals run smoothly, so if you can spare an hour or two please contact the school on 6205 6622 by Tuesday 28 April so we can assign roles for the day. We encourage parents to come along and cheer for their children on the day.

PE and Sport Committee

Turner Teams Dominate North Canberra Chess Competition

Turner’s chess teacher Jeff Suptut took five Turner girls chess teams to do battle at the North Canberra Girls Primary Zone Championship on 26 March. Turner Red (Saffron A, Judy T, Silka S and Sabina E) dominated the tournament, winning all of their matches to finish on an astounding 28 out of a possible 28 points – the first time a Turner team has achieved a perfect score at this tournament!

Turner Blue (Tasmin E, Abbie M, Fey E, Scarlet H) finished in third place on an excellent 17.5 points – just one point behind the second place getters. Special mention must go to Turner Blue’s board one player Tasmin who won six of her seven matches. Turner Orange (Harveen M, Sulia V, Kasha S, Erin M) also performed well, finishing sixth, while Turner Yellow (Hannah B, Emma T, Nina B, Harriet D) and Turner Green (Amelia B, Kiya R, Rachel H, Audrey C) played well to finish ninth and eleventh. The Orange, Yellow and Green teams consisted of younger players and I’m sure these up and coming Turner players gained valuable competition experience.

The Turner Red, Blue and Orange teams have qualified for the ACT Primary Girls Finals where they will face the top teams from the South Canberra Girls Primary Zone Championship. The top placed teams at the finals may then be eligible to compete at a weekend playoff to decide which girls team will represent the ACT at this year’s Australian Schools Teams Championships in December.

As two of the strongest girls chess teams in the ACT have progressed to the finals through the South zone competition, I encourage those finals-bound Turner teams who wish to finish in the top placings to start practising and attending chess competitions. The best way to improve your chess is to play in as many competitions as you can. Between now and the finals, there are only a handful of ACT junior chess league competitions, the next of which will occur on Monday 13 April (first week of the school holidays) at Campbell High School.

Kate Woodley, Parent
ANZAC Day Ceremony

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and Australians who served in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, a special whole school ceremony will be held on Wednesday 29 April at 2pm in our Indigenous Garden.

The whole school community is invited to attend.

The ceremony will be led by our 5/6 classes.

Whole School Assembly

Please join us for our end of term Whole School Assembly.

Wednesday 8 April 2015, 12.30pm, Senior Hall

Led by our school captains.

With a performance by the year 6 band.

School Hats

A reminder that all children must be wearing a hat at all times during lunch, recess and PE sessions.

Hats are available from the office for $8.25.

Student Artwork - Indonesian Masks - 2KP

Mia

Gita

Zayan

Sophie

Lochlan

Megan
Turner Notices

Meet the Lyneham High School Deputy Principal

Turner parents and carers are invited to come along to meet the Lyneham HS Deputy Principal at an informal forum prior to the start of our next Turner P&C meeting.

When: Wednesday 20 May, 7pm (P&C meeting starts 7:30pm)
Where: Turner School Library

Public Consultation - draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates

Opening Date: Monday 23 March 2015.
Closing Date: Friday 15 May 2015

The ACT Government is seeking public comment on the draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates for ACT public primary and high schools. The draft Policy and draft common templates are designed to ensure parents receive consistent information about their child’s achievement regardless of which ACT public school their child attends.


LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Care Quality Creativity

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 5th May 2015 6.30pm to 8.30pm
General Information and Band information sessions

A general information evening will be held for prospective parents of Year 7 2016. The evening will start in the school hall at 6.30pm with an address from the Principal, followed by a tour of the school.

A Band information session will occur at 5.45pm to 6.15pm in the Lyneham Performing Arts Centre (LPAC). Applications for Band are due via email by Tuesday 12th May. Students are required to sit the Band test on either Wednesday 13th or Thursday 14th May.

Wednesday 6th May 6.00pm to 8.00pm
SEAL and LEAP information sessions in the Library*

SEAL information session 6.00 – 6.45pm
Sporting Excellence At Lyneham (for elite sports students)
Applications for SEAL are due via email by Tuesday 12th May. Applicants who are successful in the written application will be contacted via email with the date and tryout time of the relevant sport. Tryouts for each sport will occur on either Monday 25th or Tuesday 26th May.

LEAP information session 7.00 – 7.45pm
Lyneham Enriched Academic Program (for gifted and talented students)
Applications for LEAP are due via email by Thursday 7th May.
Students are required to sit the LEAP tests on either Friday 8th or Monday 11th May in the school Hall. In order to secure a test date you must submit an application form and indicate on the form your preferred test date. Be aware that places are limited.

Online Applications process
Applications can only be submitted via the Education and Training Directorate website: www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school
Applications open on Tuesday 28th April and close on Friday 5th June.

For the Lyneham High School Band, SEAL and LEAP information booklets and application forms go to: www.lynehamhs.act.edu.au/school_programs

*Access to the library is from the car park on the southern end of the school

End of Term
Lost Property

Please ensure your children’s uniforms are clearly labelled with class and surname to ensure items can be returned. Lost property can be located in both Condamine and David Street buildings. We still have items from 5/6 camp and the swimming carnival.

Please take a moment to check for any lost property as any unclaimed clothing will be forwarded to our second hand clothing pool.

Late to school? All students are required to collect a blue late note from the front office if they arrive at school after 9.10am.
Do not pick or eat any wild mushrooms!

ACT Chief Health Officer is reminding the community not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms found growing in and around the ACT. The Death Cap mushroom can easily be confused with edible wild mushrooms.

In Canberra, Death Cap mushrooms grow mainly near established oak trees in mild, moist weather typically observed in late summer and autumn.

All parts of the mushroom are poisonous and consuming even a small amount of the mushroom can be fatal. Cooking the mushroom does not make it safe to eat. Anyone who suspects that they may have eaten Death Cap mushrooms should seek urgent medical attention at a hospital emergency department.

It is advised that people remain vigilant and remind friends and family who are visiting or new to Canberra not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. For safety, all mushrooms should be purchased from a reputable supplier.

If you see wild mushrooms in public areas, call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.


Authorised by Paul Kelly Chief Health Officer, Population Health, Health Directorate

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PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING (P.E.T)

Communication skills for peaceful parenting and resilient children (without the use of punishment or reward). Helps develop emotional intelligence, and grow confident, considerate children. Powerful, proven and practical. Yell less, enjoy your children more. Build relationships that last a lifetime.

The course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential.

$290 pp for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook).

Course begins: Thursday, 7 May, 2015; Time: 6.30 to 9.45pm; Place: Weston, ACT.

Enjoy P.E.T. with Larissa, Canberra’s most experienced P.E.T. instructor.

0413 451 607 www.parentskills.com.au info@parentskills.com.au

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DIABETES TYPE 2 IN CHILDREN AGED 10-17 YEARS

Does your child have Type 2 Diabetes?
Your child may be eligible for the Type 2 Diabetes Study.
Please contact the Paediatric Research and Clinical Trials Unit at The Canberra Hospital on 61747600.
This study has been approved by the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.