From the Principal...

Dear families,

As you arrive at the school this week you will notice a transformation in the Fairy Garden with the addition of a variety of trees, shrubs and grasses. Some of our families were very busy on Sunday morning planting out the garden and watering in the new plants. They look wonderful and will help to create a lovely quieter area for students in our playground. We very much appreciate the ongoing work of our community to beautify our grounds!

The performance talents of Turner Students were celebrated over the last week with the Limelight Gala Performance at the AIS Arena on Friday night. I had the absolute privilege of attending the performance as 20 Turner students from years 5/6 were a part of a The Wizard of Oz medley. Our students performed as a dance ensemble accompanying college aged vocalists. What an impressive performance it was, showcasing not just the dance skills of our students but their real ability to story tell and act through movement. Our thanks also go to Jen and Hana who supported students in rehearsals and all day Friday at the AIS. Look out for a more detailed report later in the newsletter. In addition to this, four Turner students participated on both Limelight nights (Thursday and Friday) in the Primary Concert Choir (ACT Instrumental Music Program PCC).

Turner Media Stars

Turner students were also featured in two commercial media releases last week. The first was a photo shoot with some of our Kindergarten students in the Canberra Chronicle that marked ‘Hats On’ for the start of August. The second is a lovely article ‘Students Summon Inner Creativity’ in the Canberra Weekly talking about our Artists’ and Writers’ Festival. What a wonderful way to celebrate the authentic and rich learning experiences that our students enjoyed over the week. Copies of these releases are in our offices for families to see.

Turner School also had another press event last Friday with the inaugural edition of The Turner Times released by 1/2 Animalia. There is a class article later in this newsletter for you to enjoy.

Learning Journeys

Learning Journeys will happen in week 8 with some this week to ensure those teachers taking leave can celebrate children’s learning with parents and carers. You should have received your login slips to book into your child’s Learning Journey. Please contact the Condamine St office on 62056622 if you need a replacement copy.
Supervision of students before school

Supervision of our playground by staff before school begins at 8.30am each day on the quad and grassed area outside the Kindergarten rooms only. Students should arrive after this time as close to the 9.00 am school start time as possible. As they arrive on the school grounds, students and parents should dismount from bikes and scooters and walk these to the bike parking area to be locked up. For the safety of students arriving at school we would ask parents not to access the middle internal carpark of the school. Staff park in the internal carpark before 8.30am and then it is closed off for the day. Students do not access equipment (including the climbing equipment and balls, bats etc) during this morning time so that the safety of all students is ensured. Organised activities that take place before school include the Turner Trebles on Monday and Tuesday, Junior and Senior Choirs on Thursdays and Boot Camp on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The school library is also open for families from about 8.40am for quiet reading and borrowing. Parents are welcome to attend Boot Camp and/or visit the library with their children.

Update on Turner staffing

I would like to take the opportunity to wish Kate Munk from the front office, Kylie O’Brien, Lydia Kepich and Renee Ferris all the very best as they finish up this week and begin their Maternity Leave.

I would also like thank Leanne Oxley for her professionalism and outstanding leadership of the Preschool and Kindergarten team for term 3 and to congratulate Jo Pearce who has won the role until the end of the year. Jo brings a wealth of experience to the role with a rich knowledge of teaching and learning and I know that the team and students will thrive under Jo’s leadership.

Learning Journeys

Learning Journeys begin this week for our classes with teachers beginning maternity leave. Our students have been working hard to prepare so that families can get a clear window into learning and celebrate achievements. Learning Journeys provide an authentic context for students to reflect on their learning and share it with the most important audience; parents and carers. Taking the time to reflect helps to make clear what learning has taken place and to identify the next learning goal. Teachers work with students to prompt reflection. Reflection often targets thinking strategies and getting to know how they learn rather than just what they learn.

At the end of each Learning Journey families are asked to join in this process of reflection.

We hope you enjoy the opportunity to spend some individual time with your child talking about their work and celebrating their learning. We are very proud of our students and their teachers.

You will receive an individual invitation from your child this week. If you still need to book a time you can do this by using the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) booking system. If you have any difficulty with this please contact Michael Patterson in the office for assistance.

I will look forward to seeing many of you across the next weeks as you come into the school.

Tournament of Minds

Turner School has four teams entering the regional finals for Tournament of Minds at the Australian National University on Sunday. We wish them all the best and thank the teachers who have mentored each team Clive, Norma, Lauren and Lyndsey.

Warm regards,

Robyn

Robyn Watson, Acting Principal

From the Deputy

At Turner School we strive to establish productive and supportive relationships with parents, extended families and community and we offer a broad range of opportunities to engage with our school. We understand how busy everyone is (including us!) and that it is sometimes not possible for families to attend all that is offered at the school, yet the strong desire to be positively involved in your child’s learning and social development is obvious. Some recent events that have welcomed and attracted the Turner community include the Athletics Carnival, Oz Tag, Artists’ and Writers’ Festival, Limelight and the upcoming Learning Journeys (some of which have already started). Our newly offered Writing Workshop and Building Resilience Workshop run by our School Psychologist, Michelle Wootton-Price, received positive and appreciative feedback. We look forward to continuing to welcome parents, carers and grandparents into our school.
At Turner School, we also develop and nurture positive and productive relationships amongst children. To develop a sense of belonging and inclusion within our school community we orchestrate opportunities for children to interact positively. Examples of this are **buddies, cross age activities and within age groupings.**

The **buddy system** between all our year 6 and kinder students is much loved by all. One example of the successful buddy relationship was evident in the school athletics carnival where our year 6 children taught their kinder buddies how to stay in their lane whilst running in a race! Soon our year 5 students will start building a relationship with pre-school children as one of the bridges the school offers to support their transition into kindergarten in 2016. They will then become the year 6 and kinder buddies in 2016.

Currently our children are buddying up across the school to rehearse for Learning Journeys in preparation for your visit. Buddy systems develop responsibility, build self-confidence and develop empathy whilst promoting inclusion. Children feel valued and respected and the younger children feel safe and secure. The buddy system strengthens the school community.

Another way the school orchestrates positive interactions is to strategically use **cross age groupings** for whole school activities. This requires time to carefully sort groups to maximize positive group dynamics. A recent example is the student forum where students across classes from grades 3–6 worked together to provide feedback to the school.

The use of **within age groups** is also effectively used by the school to strategically group children for social and academic learning. For example, in the recent Athletics Carnival and Festival activities, children were mixed within their age groups across the teams. We have a focus on this grouping at the moment, as we know children will select working partners for 2016 next term and we want them to have broad friendships across their year level. We will send more information about that process early next term.

Research shows broad based friendships are a sign of resilience and our diverse groupings of children give opportunities to meet and develop new friendships within a safe environment.

Please continue to read the newsletter. It is a great way to keep connected with Turner School.

**Jen Faul, Acting Deputy Principal**

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**SRC News**

The playground equipment bought with the P&Cs money has started to arrive at the school and more is expected soon. The soccer goals look great and were in use almost from the minute they were put together. The goals are simple to erect and a group of our senior students will be trained in the procedure this week.

A group of our students recently proposed that the school hold a fundraiser to support the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects movement and posture. The Cerebral Palsy Alliance provides support for adults and children to help improve their quality of life. Our SRC is proud to support this charity and will be holding a Onesie Day on the last day of this term, Friday 25 September.

If you don’t have a onesie or don’t want to wear one, you can still bring a gold coin to help raise money to support people in Canberra who have cerebral palsy. We hope everyone can support us!

**Semester 2 SRC Representatives**

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**Disability Education**

**NDIS**

This year all school age children in the ACT who are eligible for inclusion in the NDIS are being signed up to the scheme. Our Directorate has identified some Turner families who have not yet made contact with the NDIA and I will be contacting these families over the next week or so to ascertain how I can support them to start the process.

**Transitions**

We are now coming into the transition preparation time of the year for our children who are transitioning to high school settings in 2016. Our teachers are already drafting transition plans and receiving schools will be visiting Turner over the next few weeks to meet the children. In addition to meeting with the high school staff, we provide copies of ILPs, semester 1 reports and any other class information that we know will support a positive transition to the new setting.

As we receive information from each school regarding orientation visits we will let families know. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact either me or your class teacher if you have any questions about your child’s transition to high school.

**Kind regards**

**Allison Chapman**

Disability Education Coordinator

[allison.chapman@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:allison.chapman@ed.act.edu.au)
Artists’ and Writers’ Festival Finale

On Friday 21 August the children at Turner saw the 2015 Artists’ and Writers’ Festival come to a close with a puppet parade. Our quad was turned into a sea of puppets and what a sight it was! Every child had an amazing time learning from artists and writers. Marianne finished our festival with a marionette puppet show and all the children then joined in with their puppets. Our puppets then made their final voyage through the quad and around the bike track. I am sure that all the puppets will have a special part in each child’s Learning Journey. It was an amazing week with intentional rich literacy and creative pursuits for every child. We look forward to ideas for the 2017 Artists’ and Writers’ Festival and to our Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Festival next year!

A message from Marianne Mettes

I wish to congratulate you all (staff, parents and students) on such a fantastic event! It’s rare to be part of an event that is not only so successful, but that also treats their staff and artists/performers so well. It was a great honour. I am also very impressed with the high level of creativity I saw during the festival, not only from the students - but also from the teachers and parents! It was a delight to see such diversity in puppet creations and commitment to the art form and it was a joy to assist where I could.

Renee Gill

Girls Chess Championships

Last Friday 27 August, Turner School sent three teams of four girls to the finals of the ACT Primary School Girls Chess Championships at St Jude’s School in Holder. Jeff Suptut, our chess teacher, accompanied the girls. Our three teams all performed well finishing in the top half of the competition.

Turner Blue with Tasmin E, Abbie M, Fey E and Scarlet H came ninth overall out of eighteen teams.

Turner Orange, consisting of Sulia v S (6 points, only losing to another Turner player on the day), Harveen M, Kasha S and Erin M came sixth.

Our Turner Red team, consisting of Saffron A (who scored 7 points, a perfect score), Judy T (5), Silka S (6) and Sabina E (6) took out first place by a clear two points.

This means that Turner School are now ACT Primary Girls Interschool Chess Champions for 2015. Turner Red is now eligible to compete in playoffs to represent the ACT at the National Finals in Melbourne later this year.

Congratulations to all of the girls.

Clive Beecham
Thinking about Mathematics

An inquisitive mind is a must as a teacher. We work hard to ensure that our students become lifelong learners and it is essential that we as educators do the same. In the last six weeks I have had two terrific opportunities to continue my learning. The first was the AAMT (Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers) National Conference held in Adelaide and the second was the CMA (Canberra Maths Association) conference in Canberra. At both conferences I was lucky to have had the opportunity to share with other delegates some of the amazing things that we do at Turner. One presentation focused on our biennial STEM Festival and the second on the way Turner gathers, displays and discusses student data and the way we support our teachers through coaching.

At the CMA conference in Canberra I attended a workshop run by Bruce Ferrington. Bruce is a local teacher and maths blogger. He has over 2000 twitter followers and presented to the staff of Turner during our STEM Festival last year. Bruce’s presentation at the CMA conference was on multiplication.

Throughout Australia students have traditionally learnt multiplication through the introduction of a vertical algorithm. Bruce’s presentation looked at 8 different methods of solving multiplication problems from around the world. I would like to share two of them with you.

The Area Model

The area model works to partition numbers to make them more manageable. It helps to build a solid understanding of place value and provides a visual representation.

Start with a blank rectangle. Partition one of the numbers to be multiplied along one axis and the second number to be multiplied along the other. Multiply out each box and add the resulting products together to find the answer.

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<tr>
<th>85</th>
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The Egyptian Method

The Egyptian method of multiplication focuses on ‘groups of’. In the example below you will see the left hand column showing the numbers 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 etc. The reason we only need these numbers is because we could make 3 by adding together the 1 and 2 or we could make 15 by adding the 8, 4, 2 and 1. The centre column shows 18 being doubled repeatedly. In the example below we are looking for 85 groups of 18. To make 85 groups we add together 64 groups of 18, 16 groups of 18, 4 groups of 18 and 1 group of 18. We then add them all together to find the solution.

While both these examples may not be as quick as the vertical algorithm, they do help to build a deep understanding of multiplication, and that is something we want to build in all our students.

Our teachers at Turner work to equip all our students with a bank of mathematical tools and strategies and help guide them to make judgements on the most appropriate times to employ them. These skills help our students to become efficient and effective problem solvers and ultimately allow them to function as numerate members of our society.

Sam Hardwicke
Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1/2 Animalia launch their own newspaper – The Turner Times

At Turner we believe that everyone has the right to choose what to write and to do the writing they really want to do.

In 1/2 IS Animalia we have spent the last few weeks dedicating ourselves to creating our very own class newspaper, The Turner Times! It all started when Edward F wrote on our class meeting agenda that he would like to discuss the possibility of creating a class newspaper. During our class meeting, we discussed the positives as well as some of the challenges and the vote was unanimous! We all decided on our class editor-in-chief, Ishan B, and we were ready to go.

We excitedly set off at the beginning of the Artists’ and Writers’ Festival exploring and brainstorming articles, interviews and pieces to include. We then chose pieces of writing that we really wanted to write – ranging from environmental and conservation pieces, sports updates, comics, interviews with visiting artists and writers, short stories and poems to the weather report. Next we planned and drafted our pieces before revising and editing our contributions. Our last step was to publish and pass our work on to the layout team.

Last Friday 28 August, this culminated in our very own newspaper launch with families and special guests joining us in a ceremony to cut the ribbon, officially launching The Turner Times. The excitement was buzzing in the air as the children celebrated their effort and achievements. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the celebration!

Student reflections on their learning:

I was proud of how I helped my group brainstorm, plan and draft. Lima S

I was proud of myself because I worked really hard on the survey and I was proud I did all of the writing by myself. Leticia I

I worked really hard with my friends to share our writing ideas. Chiara C

Ilesha Siotis and 1/2 Animalia

Step into the Limelight

After rehearsing their thoughtfully planned choreography for two months, 16 of our years 5/6 students finally had the opportunity to present their performance The Wizard of Oz medley to the appreciative audience at the Step into the Limelight gala evening at the AIS. The children did a wonderful job at representing Turner School.

I liked Limelight because it was fun. I enjoyed watching the other performances. Cooper T

We truly Stepped into the Limelight and it was absolutely amazing! Cat L

I liked watching all the other schools perform and I liked the music as well as the dance that Turner performed. Max A

My favourite part of our performance was when Georgina the ballerina danced. Merryn M

I loved the dancing, the music and our performance. Imogen D

“We’re off to see the Wizard – the wonderful Wizard of Oz!” The music began, we started dancing and it was great! Jessie W

I loved every second, with all the talent and expression shown at the Gala, it really was the best night ever! Liina P

When I stepped onto the stage, it felt like a thousand eyes were watching me, our final moments were spectacular, I felt so proud! Fey E

I liked the music and dancing at Limelight. Yasmin S

I enjoyed the choreography of my dance as well as watching all the other performances. Maddy H

Limelight would be fun for anyone! Stephen J

I liked the music at Limelight the best. Felicity A

Hana Kramer
Over the last week, and continuing on for the rest of term, the 3/4 students are completing Stop Motion movies using iPads and a few different apps. We are working with technology in our classrooms as well as those from Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), following on from our visit to the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). These Stop Motion movies are linked to Sidney Nolan’s Ned Kelly sequence. Nolan painted them like a stop motion movie – each painting showing a new ‘window’ into the Kelly story.

The 3/4 students are going right back through the history of cinematography – looking at how a series of photos, shown in fast sequence, tricks the eye into looking like it moves.

To find out more about old technology and to make these at home, I have included a few links below:


To bring this technology into the 21st Century, we are using apps to do the exact same thing as these amazingly old technologies.

Two of the stop motion apps we are using as part of the project are O’Snap and My Stop Action. There are hundreds of different stop motion apps in the Apps store – from generic ones to more specific ones such as Lego and Minecraft.

O’Snap has a lite version for free as well as a full version called Pro ($4.99) available through the app store.

My Stop Action is on the app store for $0.99.

You can add sound using both of the above apps and download them to your Camera Roll. One trick you can then do is to import it into iMovie (Free on new Apple devices, otherwise $6.99) and add a trailer, titles etc.

Stop motion is one way to build critical and creative thinking, and have a whole lot of fun!

Sharon Moloney
Library News

Book Week 2015 was absolutely spectacular! Books lit up our world in so many ways last week. A big thank you to the years 4-6 students who worked so hard at the Book Fair and to the parents/carers who supported their children in purchasing new books. A good percentage of sales will be returned to the Library and spent on new books, in particular those requested by the children.

Also significant last week was the CBCA Announcement of the best children’s books of 2015. We were so excited to find out that Cleo Stories by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood won the Younger Readers Book of the Year, Go to sleep Jessie also by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood took out the Early Childhood Book of the Year and My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald and, yes again, Freya Blackwood, won the 2015 Picture Book of the Year. The Eve Pownall Award for Information Books was won by A-Z of Convicts in Van Diemen’s Land, a popular choice of many of our children. Congratulations to these winners for producing such fabulous books which are now available for take-home borrowing.

Lastly, the CBCA Christmas Book Appeal 2015 also came to a close this week. Thank you to everyone who donated a book for children in need in Canberra. Although we came up short of our 100 book goal with 69 books donated, it was a good effort for our first attempt. Thank you to the SRC Representatives for their support in running the Appeal.

Keep on reading!

Norma John, Teacher Librarian

Turner Notices

Whole School Assembly

Wednesday 23 September – Whole School Assembly
Senior Hall, 12.30–1.30pm
All welcome!

Coffee Chats

With Robyn, Jen and members of the parent/carer community. All parents and carers are welcome to pop into our regular Coffee Chats.
Monday 7 September
8.45–9.30am
In the Library Conference Room

Reporting student absences

To ensure teachers and office staff are aware and informed, please report student absences to the school each day. Please email (turnerabsences@ed.act.edu.au) or call us (6205 6622 or 6205 6500) if your child is away from school and let us know:

- Name of student
- Class (eg 3/4RG)
- Reason for absence (sick or leave)
- Duration of absence if known
- Name of person notifying of absence

Leaving Turner School?

If your preschool to year 5 child is leaving Turner School at the end of the year (or before) please notify us as soon as possible by letter or email tnrp@turners.act.edu.au.
**Australian Gifted Support Centre**

The Australian Gifted Support Centre has a range of programs and courses for parents and children including learning programs, social and emotional courses and family games days.

For further information please see [www.australiangiftedsupport.com](http://www.australiangiftedsupport.com) or call 0417 208562.

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**Drama & Play for Every Day**

**CALL 0417 535 200**

Check out our Tiny Stars on Facebook:
@Drama Stars Academy

**10 Week Terms**

**FIRST LESSON FREE**

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**SWISH**

SWISH Education workshops are taught by qualified and experienced teaching professionals. SWISH workshops are designed for gifted children and children that need and want more than just childminding.

29 Sept – 9 Oct / 8.30am – 5.30pm
Cost: $98 per workshop
CCB and CCR Approved

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**Turner Tennis Club Open Day!**

**Sunday 13 September 2015, 11am - 2pm**

Free tennis coaching and game play and free BBQ lunch!
Condamine Street, Turner