From the Principal...

Dear families,

What a wonderful first week back at school we have had right across our school. Monday and Tuesday started with balloons, excitement and smiles, and while the balloons may have gone down over the week, the excitement and smiles have stayed in place on both staff and students’ faces.

Moderate temperatures have really helped the start of school as have the very lush green grounds for children’s play. We have welcomed quite a number of new families into our area and school to start the year and our student numbers P-6 are 565.

Welcome morning teas

On Monday and Tuesday mornings and Wednesday middle of the day, our P&C put on fabulous relaxed morning teas to welcome new families and connect continuing families. To know this was all happening while Robyn and I were busy ensuring all children were settling into their classes was just so comforting. I extend sincere appreciation to Di and Clem Jones and their teams of hosting parents and grandparents for each of these morning teas. We do have a lovely community here at Turner.

Classes

We have attached a whole school class overview to this newsletter that you might like to pin up at home showing specialist staff, teams, team leaders, teachers and LSAs and our wonderful new 2015 class names. This year we have selected artists, illustrators, authors and poets as our theme. Having successfully run both an Artists’ and Writers’ Festival and a STEM Festival over the past two years, the alternating cycle is now firmly in place and in August we will again have a fabulous Artists’ and Writers’ Festival week.

Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive the Turner School newsletter by email or you would like to be removed from the email list, please contact the friendly team in the Condamine Street Front Office on 6205 6622 or email tnrp@turners.act.edu.au.
Our preschool groups each year keep the special names given to Turner School by the Ngunnawal elders. The four Kindergarten classes have chosen Australian authors; Mem Fox, Alison Lester and Jackie French, with some of their favourite books to name each class. Our 1/2 classes have grown from six classes and two small classes to seven classes and two small classes and every room along the David St corridor is part of the 1/2 team. They have chosen Australian authors who are also illustrators so we have books by Graeme Base, Alison Lester, Pamela Allan, May Gibbs and Nick Bland naming classes. The 3/4 classes have selected Australian artists and we have had some amazing mini inquiries happening all week as classes researched artists and their artworks before their final selection. Our 5/6 classes have selected Australian poets and already have found some evocative poems they identify with and each class is named after a poet.

- Our Preschool classes are at capacity for our room sizes (19 and 20)
- All our small group classes are capped at 8 by the directorate and all are at 8 or very close to it
- Kindergarten classes are each 18
- 1/2 classes have an average of 20
- 3/4 classes have an average of 22-23
- 5/6 classes have an average of 25.

New and returning staff

The school overview page shows all the familiar Turner names. We have welcomed a number of new teachers to Turner:

- Sandra Shepley and Merilyn Hancock on Kindergarten
- Lauren French and Cath Blake on 1/2
- Lydia Kepich on 3/4 (and Lauren Haber returning)
- Alison Nilon returning full time on 5/6
- Bridgette Manley one day a week in the library, Leanne Lucas one day week on EALD and we welcome Elizabeth Hook in an EALD and integration support role
- Sue Boyce in the Indonesian role for term 1 while our Indonesian position is advertised and filled. The focus for Indonesian weekly classes in term 1 will be on Indonesian culture while we await a new teacher for that position.
- Heather Walker is additional support across the school in term 1
- Michelle Wootton-Price is our new school psychologist at Turner Mondays Thursdays and Fridays and is based upstairs in the Condamine St building.

Term 1 calendar

We have a full term of events and activity this term and the one page calendar can pop on your fridge. The website calendar is updated as required so check that too.

Information sessions and passing information on to your child’s teacher

We know you all like to have some time early in the school year to meet teachers, see the classroom, find out both general things for your child’s area of the school and specific things related to their class routine. Our information sessions were advertised on the back of the first day letter from me and again in this newsletter. Your child’s teacher will provide the first term letter at the information session so do come along.

Between now and then, I ask all parents and carers to take some time to write to your child’s teacher. We started this practice a few years ago and it has been a highly successful way for parents to communicate what really matters about their child to the new teacher and for teachers to really gain that very personal insight into every child in their care. Just write to the teacher from your heart; tell them what works for your child, what your hopes and aspirations for them are, any worries you have for them. Write about their likes and dislikes, their strengths and the things that challenge them. Knowing all of this is so important to ensure the teacher can tap into just what will work for your child to have a successful year of learning and developing, in all areas. Just drop it into the school in an envelope with the teacher’s name on it or email it to your teacher.

In addition to your letter at the start of the year, we have a large set of individual student information that has already been passed from last year’s teacher to this year’s teacher. The ‘Turner Learner Profile’ is completed at the end of each year enabling that important transfer of teacher knowledge so no time is lost in the transition from one school year to the next and learning can be immediately built upon.
Thank you

Such a smooth, professional, child-friendly and successful start to the school year for 565 students and 71 staff does not happen without a great deal of organisation, insight and many hours of work during December and January. I thank every staff member for their work to achieve the wonderful start to the 2015 school year. In particular I thank my leadership team of Robyn, Deb, Allison, Julia, Sharon, Jen and Sam for their dedication and hard work.

Turner is a great place to work and learn.

I look forward to seeing parents and carers at one of our upcoming events or around our school at drop off or pick up.

Warm regards,

Jo

Jo Padgham

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First day thoughts!

On my first day of preschool I played with my friends. We went on the bikes and did the obstacle course. Clara, Preschool Munnagayi

I’m really excited about the Artists’ and Writers’ Festival. I’m a writer and an artist. Una, 3/4LS

I’m excited about this year, especially Pegasus. Kieran, S3/4LK

My first day of school was fun because I got to meet different kids and other teachers. Aliria, 1/2LF

I like my new teachers. Sevde, S1/2VO

On my first day of kindergarten I made a kindergarten hat and played in the home corner with my friends. Zoe, KSS

My first day in year 1 was a good day because I made a new friend and played with my friends. Josh, 1/2SS

I got to make new friends in my class. I’m really excited about the swimming carnival and camp. Scarlet, 3/4MR

I think it was really good, the teachers did a great job of introducing and welcoming students. Abigail, 5/6SH

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From The Deputy

Welcome to the 2015 school year. The Turner staff began 2015 last week with some professional learning days. Our learning support and office team updated their First Aid training and our teachers were inspired by a day with Dr Jessica Mantei. Jessica is a senior lecturer in the School of Education at the University of Wollongong. Jessica worked with staff to explore how students learn with a lens on 21st Century fluencies, particularly focusing on critical and creative thinking. Our teachers were inspired by Jessica’s focus on the use of rich texts to support this learning in their classrooms.

Critical and creative thinking are part of the general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum that encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century.

Critical thinking assists students in learning to recognise and develop opinion and argument and to use evidence to support thinking and to draw conclusions. Creative thinking involves students in learning to generate and apply new ideas, to use perspective and to engage in the recreation of something original. We look forward to working with all students developing their critical and creative thinking.

Robyn Watson
Welcome Turner School Community to the first instalment of the Turner Library News.

This year the Library will have two Teacher Librarians. Norma John will be working Monday to Thursday and I (Bridgette Manley) am excited to be returning to the Library on Fridays. Norma and I are both looking forward to working with all the Turner students from preschool to year 6. Each week teachers will bring classes to the library for students to borrow and you will be informed soon of student’s permanent library day. Please ensure students have a library bag for borrowing to keep the library books in good condition.

The library is open before school from 8:40–8:55am and after school from 3:00–3:15 for students and families to read and borrow. The library is also open each day during the second half of lunch.

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 support children having plenty of literature for reading at home. Please come into the library to get this set up if you are interested.

Volunteers and helpers are always welcome in the library and please contact Norma or myself if you are interested or if you have any questions relating to the library.

Happy reading!

Bridgette Manley and Norma John
Turner School Teacher Librarians
Bridgette.manley@ed.act.edu.au
Norma.john@ed.act.edu.au

Turner School Board Elections 2015 Vacant positions

Are you interested in contributing to the governance of Turner School? Have you considered nominating for a position on the Turner School Board?

The following positions will become vacant in early 2015:

- two P&C member positions (these positions are each for a two year term)
- two staff member positions (one position is for a two year term, and the other is for a one year term)

You can pick up a nomination form from the front office during normal business hours (9am to 3pm Monday to Friday), or request one be emailed or faxed to you.

Nominations must be submitted between 11am Monday 2 February 2015 and 11am Monday 16 February 2015.

- Voting opens on Monday 23 February 2015
- Voting closes on Monday 2 March 2015
- Appointments will be made by Monday 23 March 2015
- Appointments will commence on Wednesday 1 April 2015

You can submit your nomination by:
- hand delivery to the front office
- email to tnrp@turners.act.edu.au
- fax to 02 6205 6616
- mail to ARO, c/- Turner School, Condamine St TURNER ACT 2612

For further information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Linda Keith, on 61667795, email david@weshareonline.net.

Welcome to 2015 from the P&C!

It was great to meet some of the new parents and to welcome back others at this week’s morning teas. Thanks goes to Clem and Di Jones for organising these, to those who baked and of course to those who took the time to come along.

If you haven’t received the welcome back P&C email this week then you’re not currently on the list. This is really important as we use the list to engage with the school community. Please make sure you sign up for the P&C list when you fill out the contact form online https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8DVCFVB or outside your child’s class.

The AGM for the P&C is being held on Wednesday 18 February at 7.30pm in the library. It would be great if we could get one person there from each family. Big things are usually decided in the first P&C meeting, including whether we have the support we need to hold a fete for 2015. Please come along!

I’d like to thank Tina Campbell for the work she has put into Turner over the years, as P&C Secretary in 2014 and as Fete Co-ordinator since 2010. Tina has been amazing, and while I’m nervous about the size of the gap we have to fill following her decision to step back from the Fete and the P&C, I’m hoping six or eight people will step up to take on the challenge.

Everyone at Turner is a member of the P&C. If you have ideas on how we can make Turner an even better school, please come along to the AGM and share!

Kind regards,
Helen Bell, P&C President
0414 714 191 / helen.bell@gbca.org.au
Disability Education

It’s been lovely over the last few days to catch up with familiar faces and welcome some new ones to our school!

In week 3 please come along to your child’s information session which is advertised in this newsletter and meet the teacher, see the room and hear about class routines. The following week on Wednesday 25 February at 7pm we are holding a Disability Education at Turner information evening here at school. This will be an opportunity for us to talk about the ILP process and how we can work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. It will also be a chance for you to connect with other families and welcome new families to the school.

It is shaping up to be a big year for parents with school-aged children as they transition to the NDIS during 2015. We will be working with our Directorate and the NDIA to help make that transition as smooth as possible through workshops and information sessions. I’ll be keeping you up to date via the newsletter as these events are organised.

Another popular way to keep informed is via email. If you would like to be included on a Turner School Disability Education email group this year please email a request to me at the address below.

Kind regards
Allison Chapman
Disability Education Coordinator
allison.chapman@ed.act.edu.au

STATIONERY PACKS

If you have not paid for your child’s stationery pack as yet, please contact Chalk Education or the school to arrange payment.

Turner School has a Student Support Fund and families can access this for the 2015 Stationery Pack. Please contact Deb Parr as soon as possible on 62056622 to discuss.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped with our gardens and chickens over the holidays including: Di & Clem Jones, Sharon Tomlinson, Dave Hallinan, Julie Evans, Patty O’Brien, Mami Iwashita, Linda Keith and Bob Edwards.

If anyone would like to join the chicken/garden volunteer list, please contact Sally Higginson on Sally.Higginson@ed.act.edu.au or 02 620556622.

Any help is much appreciated!

Get connected at Turner School in 2015

Now you know your children's classes, sign up online to get connected to the parent community.

You can:
• Join your child’s class group of parents to get to know other families in your child’s class and possibly help in the classroom.
• Sign up for the Turner P&C information email.
• Volunteer to become a Class Parent Contact – be a friendly contact point for parents in your child’s class.

How do I sign up?
Go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8DVCFVB

More information
See the Volunteer page of the Turner School website or email:
Class Parent Contact Coordinators
• Robyn Thurecht robynthurecht@gmail.com
• Anne Napier annettim@iinet.net.au or
• P&C President, Helen Bell Helen.Bell@gbca.org.au

Upcoming Assemblies

Wed 18 Feb, 2.10pm—Junior Assembly, Senior Hall, led by 1/2 Animalia and 1/2 Jungle Drums.
Wed 25 Feb, 2.10pm—Senior Assembly, Senior Hall, led by 3/4 Rupert Bunny and 3/4 Lambert.
Wed 4 Mar, 2.10pm—Junior Assembly, Senior Hall, led by 1/2 Hungry Bears and 1/2 Itchy Bears.

Coffee Chats

With Jo, Robyn and members of the parent/carer community.
Mon 16 Feb, 8.45—9.30am
Mon 2 Mar, 8.45—9.30am
In the Library Conference Room
Turner School P&C Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 Feb 15, 7.30pm, Turner School Library

Please come along to support and participate in your P&C.

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**PIANO K-6**

Piano lessons with Karthyani Krishnan at Turner School.

Contact: Karthyani Krishnan
0401 405 241 or 6248 6032

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**YWCA CANBERRA**

2015 BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

Before and after school care is available during school terms (public holidays excluded) from 7.30–9.00am and 3.00–6.00pm.

Enrolment packs for before and after school care are available from:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au
childcareaccounts@ywca-canberra.org.au
ASC/BSC Programs
or
the Condamine Street Office.

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**Celtic Arts Agency**

Celtic Arts Agency offers Guitar and Violin lessons at Turner School during the school day for students from Year 1 to Year 6. The Agency has a philosophy of providing a broad musical education which includes sight reading, ear playing, theory, improvisation, rhythm, varied musical styles and general musicianship.

We provide a friendly, non-judgmental environment in which to stimulate students.

Lessons cost $297 for a nine week term (starting week 2 of Term 1). Enrolments for 2015 are being accepted now. Call Sharon Casey on 0404 217 528 or email musicfun@jocresswell.com

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**Canberra Youth Theatre**

Year 5-6 and Year 3-4 Groups at Turner School

Contact: Samantha
62485057

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**Turner Trebles**

Turner Trebles Choirs

If your child enjoys singing and wants to develop his/her voice and musical skills in a choir directed by one of Canberra’s leading singers and conductors then please contact Tobias Cole on 0437375976 about joining the Turner Trebles. Boys rehearse on Mondays at 8am and girls on Tuesdays at 8am at Turner School.

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**Turner After School Chess – Mondays**

Turner School Multipurpose Room

Contact: Jeff Suptut
jeff.suptut@ed.act.edu.au
Car Parking Reminder

For the safety of our children, please do not drive up the gutter and park on grass areas that are pedestrian areas for children. Please park in the on-street parking areas on David St and Hartley St.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Orders

Black Mountain School has confirmed that Turner School lunch orders for 2015 will commence in week 4!

Lunch order day will be Friday with orders to be handed to the Condamine or David St Office by Wednesday.

An updated menu will be available in the week 3 newsletter.

Community Notices

Languages 4 Kids @ Canberra — For Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1 to Year 6
Our LCF Fun Languages provide an interesting and progressive approach to learning languages and cultures in French, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish.
We are starting new language clubs in 2015!

And taking expressions of interest for French, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish in Turner, Gungahlin and Aranda.

For more information visit our LCF website www.lcfclubs.com.au or contact Sarah Mak, 0431252768 or sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au

Give your kids a REAL Challenge!

School Orienteering
in March 2015

SC-ORE

What:
SC-ORE is a 4 week inter school Orienteering Challenge for teams of 4 kids.

When:
Four Wednesdays in March 2015 - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th from 8.30am – 9.30am.

Who:
2 boys and 2 girls from years 3 to 6 form teams to bring on the challenge!

Where:
All events will be held on school grounds or in the safety of urban parkland.

Cost:
$2.50 per participant per event - $10 for the 4 week series.

Register Now:

Contact:
Toni Brown
0433 908 094
orienteering.act@webuser.com.au