Dear Curtin families,

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Whichever class your child is in, take a moment to give us your perception of gifted education at Curtin.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GiftEDCPS

I believe that the best decision making and planning in schools occurs when parents and teachers contribute to school procedures and approaches to learning. This happens through supporting your own child’s learning as well as at a whole school level. Each year, our school reviews some of our procedures as part of our improvement cycle.

To do this, we seek input from our parent and student community. An example of where this has worked well was your input to our new homework procedures.

This year, we are reviewing our Gifted Education school procedures in line with the updated ETD Gifted and Talented education policy. All schools should have provisions for gifted students. At Curtin, this occurs through teachers individualising the curriculum for all students and the PALs program. We develop and enhance our procedures using educational research. There are particular parts of our approach to gifted education that are able to be enhanced. To support development, I am seeking input into your perception of our approaches.

Thank you to the parents who have already responded. I am hoping for a range of responses from many families to make sure our school decisions reflect the variety of views in our community as well as current educational theory.

Next term we will be revisiting our Behaviour Management Procedures and I will be seeking your input again.

NAPLAN Highlights

Results from the NAPLAN tests each year are one part of the rich bank of data we use to monitor the progress of individual students and whole year levels. We also use the results to reflect on our teaching in particular areas. Families of students in years 3 and 5 have received individual reports, which we encourage you to discuss with your child’s teacher as questions arise.

Overall, we are pleased with our 2015 results which indicate:

- Curtin Primary is performing at a higher than ACT average in all tested areas for Year 3 and 5,
- A majority of students make greater than expected growth between Year 3 and 5, demonstrating effectiveness of our teaching program.
We are committed to continuous improvement and learning. In planning for 2016, we use the NAPLAN data to highlight areas for emphasis in professional learning and teaching programs. Continued emphasis will be placed on the teaching of writing using a functional grammar approach and enhancing our spelling programs. We anticipate this will continue the improvements being made in these areas.

**Newsletter next term**

After trialling fortnightly newsletters, a decision has been made to return to weekly editions next term. However, we are setting a challenge to limit the number of pages to ensure key information is easy to locate. At the same time, an online format is being investigated as this will be a more user friendly model.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm a rumour I know many of you have heard. My husband Matt and I are expecting our second baby in March which is exciting for our family. I understand this has implications for the school, but would like to assure you I am working with our school network leader and the school executive to ensure a succession plan and transition to my leave period to ensure minimal impact to the learning program. Further information will be shared next term.

Enjoy the holiday break with your children. Term 3 has been one of hard work, special events and successful learning. I appreciate the support of each family through this busy term and look forward to working with you for term 4.

Sincerely,

Merryn

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**THE FOLLOWING NOTES WERE SENT HOME RECENTLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date sent home</th>
<th>Date due back at school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Commonwealth Place Excursion</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>21 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQUA SAFE Enrolment Form</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>6 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim and Survive Enrolment Form</td>
<td>Kindergarten, Year 1</td>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>6 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandstravaganza 2015 18 November 2015</td>
<td>Year 6 Band</td>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>23 October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you to those families who have paid this year’s voluntary contributions.

This year, the School Board reviewed the amount of the contribution for individuals and families. The initial request for voluntary contributions was sent home later than usual, in April rather than February. Many families who regularly make contributions at the beginning of the year assumed the request was a reminder for a payment they had already made. As a result, the total amount of the contributions being significantly reduced from previous years. If you believe you have paid your contribution, or intend to pay, we ask you check your records or contact the school for confirmation. Curtin Primary appreciates the support of families and relies on this income to support the curriculum across the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

Merryn
Congratulations to the following students who received an award at Assembly on 18 September 2015 (Please note that due to concert practice a number of classes did not attend the Assembly. We look forward to double awards for these classes at the first assembly next term).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KINDER IK</th>
<th>KINDER KK</th>
<th>1/2 DF</th>
<th>1/2MW</th>
<th>3/4 CR</th>
<th>3/4JG</th>
<th>3/4 HD</th>
<th>5/6HP</th>
<th>5/6JM</th>
<th>MACS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlie L</td>
<td>Elyse M</td>
<td>Avinka K</td>
<td>Zoe I</td>
<td>1/2 CC</td>
<td>Thomas P</td>
<td>Jada- Lily L</td>
<td>Elanor P</td>
<td>Petar I</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayden K</td>
<td>1/2 KS</td>
<td>Mia H</td>
<td>Riley W</td>
<td>1/2RT</td>
<td>3/4 LS</td>
<td>4/STD</td>
<td>5/6 JC</td>
<td>Georgia P</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 DF</td>
<td>1/2 KS</td>
<td>Eliza-Joan W-S</td>
<td>Byron M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Katy K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 DF</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Curtin Primary School’s TWILIGHT FAIR FILM FESTIVAL is on!**

Students from preschool to year 6 are encouraged to create their own short film with family or friends.

Students need to create the storyline of the short film, but may gain support from family, friends and teachers with filming and editing. Filming must occur in the students’ own time (weekends, afterschool, holidays, lunch times). School ipads may be borrowed at lunchtimes with the permission from the students’ class teacher.

Some things to remember when creating your film...

- There are three categories the students may enter their film: family, junior school (preschool to year 2) and senior school (year 3 to 6).
- Films must be no more than two minutes long and the credits must be no longer than 20 seconds, included in the two minutes.
- Each film submitted must include the number ‘50’ in the script, the theme or in the background to coincide with the Curtin school 50th anniversary.
- Films are screened at the school’s Twilight Fair in term 4.
- Films need to be completed and submitted on a labelled USB drive by Friday 23rd October, week 2 of term 4.
- The story and genre of the film is up to the filmmakers.

Stay tuned for short lunchtime workshops, screenings and a guest speaker!
Board Report - Meeting September 9th 2015

- All ACT Board Chairs and Principals were recently invited to attend a meeting about the new school funding allocation system to be implemented in the near future. The model will be phased in over a five year period, and it will broadly allocate a base level of funding and then a loading per student based on socio-economic status and special needs requirements.

- Merryn is updated on the progress of this resource allocation model weekly and will provide more information to the board in coming weeks. It is anticipated that Curtin Primary will continue to be in a strong position to continue our impressive achievements in programs and curriculum.

- In terms of the school upgrade, the architect attended the P&C meeting and provided an update on the colour scheme. A full cost plan will be presented to the builder soon and this will finalise the scope of work. At this stage, work is planned to commence in term 4. The major priorities continue to be upgrades to the front office and staff room, some works to junior classrooms and toilets including the current computer lab, renovation of the kitchen, storeroom and current uniform shop. We can expect some disruption to normal school activity during the upgrade.

- The Board noted the current broader review into challenging behaviours in schools.

- We discussed staffing within the Curtin Primary Learning Support Centre. The Board expressed support for exploration of reclassifying the centre to enable adequate funding.

- The Board discussion point for this meeting was the curriculum. The Australian Curriculum comprises nine learning areas including more than one subject. Learning areas/subjects are organized by year level or in bands that span two or three years. Curtin Primary is on track with the implementation plan and Merryn is now reviewing staffing needs as we move into phase 3 of implementation which, in 2016, will see implementation of core content in Health and P.E., Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Technologies and Languages. More information will be coming out to parents and carers at the start of the new academic year.

- The Board approved the August Finance Report.

- The Board supported the formal enrolment plan which has been instigated with the Directorate so that children from the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) can be accommodated. Out of area enrolments had to be ceased last year because of the increase in enrolments which will continue this year. Further discussion was held on possible class distributions for the coming years i.e PALS and mixed year age groups, it is likely a mix of models will be adopted to cater for these student enrolments. More information will become available in term 4.

- It was recognized that we can develop more support for year 6 students transitioning to high school, this is being supported through monthly meetings with the Principal of our feeder High School, Alfred Deakin. These meetings are resulting in sharing of good practice between the schools and also that the Curtin homework policy is assisting in the preparation for the volume of homework at high school.

- The Board reviewed the new ACT student report format which will be implemented later this year. Comments have been fed back to the Directorate to make it more user friendly for parents and carers.

- Next Board meeting is to be held in term 4.

Warm regards

Anne

Board contact details:

Anne Twyman, Board Chair. twyman@iinet.net.au or 0414 278 663

Nick Morgan, parent rep, nick@nmphotos.com or 0438 814609

Helen Gniel, parent rep, Helen.gniel@anu.edu.au or 0423 570 340
SWIMMING LESSON INFORMATION

Thank you to all the families who have expressed interest in their child participating in the Aqua Safe and Swim and Survive programs this year. So far we have approximately 160 children attending.

Enrolment/payment information has been sent home.

Enrolment can be done online (preferred method). If you don’t have access to the internet, you can collect a hard copy of the enrolment form from the front office.

Payment is still made through the school.

Attendance is only guaranteed once payment has been received.

WEBSITE LINK: https://www.royallifesavingact-enrol.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

Athletics Carnival 2015

Friday 6th November

Curtin Primary School Oval

9.00am - 3pm

More information will come home week 1 next term.

GYMNASTICS

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with gymnastics this term. The hall is fully booked for last three weeks of term due to school concert rehearsals so we will continue with gymnastics the first two weeks back next term. Please feel free to come in and help if you are available on Wednesday or Thursday.
ALL ACT government sportsgrounds will be closed between 17-30 September

Check out our new website: www.sport.act.gov.au

NUDE FOOD!
Nude food means that you bring food that is NOT in a wrapper such as a packet of chips.
By removing one piece of plastic every day we reduce roughly 2500 pieces in a week.

SO GET INTO NUDE FOOD!

Open Chess Championships

Last Thursday 17 September, Curtin Primary School sent seven players to the finals of the ACT Primary School Open Chess Championships at Holy Trinity School in Curtin Primary. Jeff Suptut, our chess teacher, accompanied the players. Our two teams performed well on the day.

Curtin Primary Orange, consisting of Jye R, Zann W, and Oskar G were joined by a player from Holy Trinity, and together scored 12½ points and finished in =22nd place (out of 29 teams). Oskar G had a particularly good day, drawing his first game and winning all others, just missing out on a perfect score!

Our Curtin Primary Red team, consisting of James S (5 points), Zoe S(4), Madeline H (2½), and Erica K(3), gathered 14½ points on the day to finish in =12th place overall.

Congratulations to all of the players!

Lost Property UPDATE

Thanks to all the hard working volunteers for their time again this term.

An impressively large number of un-named clothing has been collected again this term, so we encourage parents and carers to check in the lost property section and to please label clothing with first and surnames in legible writing/label.

All un-named clothing will be cleared and taken to charity shop at the end of the first week in Term 4. Last term we took 5 large bags.

Don’t forget that 'After School Care' also have a box of lost property located at each site. Volunteers always welcome.

Michelle Evans - michelle.evans@live.com.au

Curtin Primary Attendance 2016 Information
(please complete if not returning in 2016)

Name of child/children

☐ We are unsure at this stage if my child/children will be returning to Curtin. We will advise the School as soon as move is confirmed.

☐ Will not be returning to Curtin Primary in 2016.
This week we introduce Leanne Harrigan. Leanne is our wonderful LSC teacher. I hope you enjoy getting to know her.

**What inspired you to be a teacher?**

I was born to be a teacher. There was no particular moment or person who inspired me; it was just an obvious choice. For a time I had a very successful photography business but the lure of the real purposeful work of teaching pulled me back.

**What is wonderful about teaching at Curtin?**

Curtin is a very special place to work. The comradery of the staff and the support from the wider community is a very beautiful thing that I am very grateful for. I feel very privileged to be part of such a wonderful group of people striving to better the lives of children both academically and socially.

**What is the best part of your job?**

I love watching children grasp concepts, whether that be a large understanding such as the magical moment when reading clicks or a smaller everyday skill. The best part is actually not the new skill acquired but watching the child grow ten times taller with pride and self-belief. I never ever forget that that child is someone’s son or daughter and how grateful their Families are for my purposeful work. I also really like those moments on playground duty on a beautiful sunny day when I think of my Husband and many others working in stale air, artificially lit offices.

**How long have you been teaching?**

I began teaching in 1996, this is my 19th year.

**What is your favourite area to teach?**

Mathematics is my thing. I love watching students grasp concepts they think are beyond them and often children have this meaningful learning during Mathematics time.

**What do you like to do when you are not at school?**

My life outside school is very busy. I have a husband and 3 children of my own. Although I am often found at my children’s school, netball courts, soccer field or dance studio I understand how important time nurturing myself is and so I make sure I make time to practice yoga and run. I also have my love of photography.
**UNIFORM SHOP**

Spring has sprung and it is time to think about getting summer uniforms organised as it heats up. We have full size ranges in short sleeve polos, shorts, skorts and hats. We also have available this year a sport skirt with hidden boy leg short for only $15. Great for PE or sport days.

The uniform shop is open Friday mornings only from 8.30 to 9.30. Please bring your cash or a cheque to make purchases as we do not have eftpos facilities. Or if you prefer, place your order using Flexischools and we will give the order to your child to take home on Fridays.

Feel free to drop in on Friday mornings to see what we stock and a chat.

Tania and Clare.

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**STUDENT BANKING – TUESDAY**

Please note that school banking is now on a **TUESDAY**.

Please put your bank books in the canteen basket on **TUESDAY** mornings.

Thank you for supporting the school banking program at Curtin Primary school.

Kelly Stephens, School Banking

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**FESTIVAL INDONESIA 2015**

**SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 11am – 4pm**

**INDONESIAN EMBASSY**

8 Darwin Avenue Yarralumla ACT 2600

*Food & Handicraft Bazaar*  
*Music & Dance, Kids Corner*  
*Cultural Exhibition*

**FREE ENTRY**
The story continues… When Dorothy and her friends get swept into Wonderland they have to use their newfound brains, heart and courage to navigate through the strange and wonder-filled land they find themselves in on their quest to find their way home.
Spring and the warmer weather is upon us! This means more time spent outside, bushwalking, backyard cricket, a bike ride or just a spring family picnic in the beautiful outdoors. For some families the warmer weather may spark the long winter awaited trip to the coast. And of course our dogs, being beloved family members, come along and share in this warmer time of year with us. Before heading off we must take a moment to ensure they are protected against deadly paralysis ticks.

Ticks have four stages of development. The transition from one stage to another requires a blood meal and two of these blood meals occur during spring and summer. Dogs enjoying the outdoors during spring and summer are the perfect blood meal! Therefore we tend to see a spike in cases of tick paralysis.

Traditionally our options for tick prevention were limited to tick collars and topical treatments applied to the skin, followed by no bathing or swimming for up to 72 hours. We are excited to announce two new oral products – NexGard and Bravecto on the market. That’s right, a chewable tablet that 95% of animals eat willingly!! Exciting we know!

Your lifestyle and plans over the coming months will determine which product is better suited for your dog. Whilst this is a very exciting advancement in tick prevention, we would always recommend manually checking your dog daily for any ticks.

We at Animal Medical Centre wish you and your family a wonderful (tick free!) September holiday. If you have any questions or enquiries please feel free to drop into the clinic or give us a call on 6285 2637.

CAMP THUNDER

Learn to play like your T20 heroes these school holidays at Camp Thunder, Sydney Thunder’s school holiday camp designed by Sydney Thunder star batsman Aiden Blizzard.

Kingston Oval, Narrabundah ACT
8 and 9 October, 9am – 1pm
Ages 8-12

$99 includes:
Shirt, drink bottle and wristband

for more information please contact matthew.paton@cricketact.com.au

To register your child go to www.sydneythunder.com.au