



# CURTIN COURIER

Issue 2  
May 9 2018

Theodore St Curtin ACT 2605  
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We seek to inspire  
We gather to support  
We strive to succeed

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**Student Absence No: 0437 787 824**

## Diary Dates

9-11 May  
Yr 5/6 Camp  
Tues 15 – Fri 18 May  
NAPLAN  
Tues 15 May  
Yr 4 Wee Jasper  
Mon 21 – Fri 25 May  
NAPLAN catchup  
Monday 28 May  
Public Holiday -  
Reconciliation Day  
Tuesday 29 May  
ICAS – Science  
Yr 3 Reconciliation  
Place & MOAD  
Monday 4 June  
Zone Cross Country  
Yr 6 Parliament Youth

Principal  
Merryn O’Dea

Deputy Principal  
Maryanne Hayes

Contact Ph.: 6205 5622

Board Chair:  
Myles Cronin  
Ph: 0423 029 290

P&C President:  
Joanna McKenzie-Kay  
[joanna\\_mckenziekay@hotmail.com](mailto:joanna_mckenziekay@hotmail.com)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE  
Juniors: 0476 846 570  
Seniors: 0472 820 865  
Bookings:  
6282 2644

Dear Curtin Families,

Term 2 is well underway and all classes have had a productive start to their learning both inside the classroom and on a range of excursions. Our Years 5 and 6 students left this morning for what will be an exciting (and freezing) experience at Camp Cooba. Year 1 classes returned from the Botanic Gardens full of new learning yesterday and years 3 and 4 have been busy planning their new excursions for 2018. Experiences outside of school, whether organised excursions, or with family provide a context for learning and enhance student curiosity. I would like to thank our staff for their commitment to providing these opportunities, often outside of their own working hours. I also thank you as families for providing the financial support for your children to attend, and for the many rich experiences you provide to your children through family activities.

At Curtin Primary, we believe in education of the whole child, through providing an environment that stimulates academic learning and enriching student wellbeing. We strive to lead students to explore all areas of the curriculum and develop their potential as they discover personal passions and interests. Learning is a partnership between families and schools and I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher, myself or an executive staff member at any time to discuss their learning or wellbeing. This communication can lead to supportive strategies across the school that enrich the environment for all.

Last night, I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the *ThinkUknow* session hosted by our P&C. This was a great chance to hear about the risks to our children in the online world and strategies to minimise these risks. Topics included identify theft, scams, grooming and cyber bullying. Forty parents attended the session and gave positive feedback, with lots of interesting questions. As a school, we encourage parents to explore the *ThinkUknow* website and Chromebook information sessions to build their knowledge. At school, students use their school login to access Chromebooks and we believe this is sufficient for primary school. We understand a small number of students have their own gmail accounts for home use, but suggest parents make informed decisions about their child’s access. Thank you to the P&C for coordinating this event as part of the termly parent information sessions. We look forward to continuing attendance when a session is advised for Term 3.

I would like to congratulate the students who participated in the *Write4Fun* competition. We have been recognised for outstanding overall writing, with achievement within the top 10% of participating schools. With more than ten thousand entries in the competition, this is a wonderful achievement and reflects the strong classroom practice at Curtin.

Year 3 and 5 students will participate in NAPLAN assessment next week. NAPLAN is often the subject of public discussion, and at times, this can lead children to feel it is a high stakes assessment. At Curtin, we use NAPLAN results as one piece of evidence to determine the success of our learning programs, considering the overall results and student growth. As our school has experienced significant enrolment in all year levels over the past few years, overall results can give us information about areas of strength and development for different cohorts, but do not necessarily reflect the impact of Curtin teaching programs. Analysing the growth made between year levels provides us with information about how our teaching programs are fostering development. For all this to be valid, we encourage students to approach NAPLAN like any other piece of work. We hope they are relaxed and do their best. Please assure your child there is no need to be nervous. You are welcome to contact their teacher with any concerns.

We look forward to continued learning highlights throughout term 2.

Merryn

## Notes sent Home

Date	Note	Return By
	Year 4 Excursion – Wee Jasper	ASAP
2 May 2018	Parliament of Youth (selected students)	11 May
3 May 2018	Da Vinci Decathlon (selected students)	ASAP
9 May 2018	Year 3 Excursion – Reconciliation Place & MOAD	22 May

## NAPLAN

In May of every year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This year NAPLAN is moving online (except for Year 3 writing which will be paper based). NAPLAN Online features ‘tailored testing’ which gives students questions that are more suited to their ability – resulting in better assessment and more precise results.

The NAPLAN testing window runs from Tuesday 15 May – Friday 25 May. Below is the planned testing schedule for Curtin Primary students:

Tues 15 May	Wed 16 May	Thurs 17 May	Fri 18 May
Year 3 - Writing Year 5 - Writing  Year 5 - Reading	Year 3 - Reading Year 5 - Conventions of language	Year 3 - Conventions of language Year 5 - Numeracy	Year 3 - Numeracy
Mon 21 May - Fri 25 May Catch up testing			

It is really important that students are well rested, have had breakfast and arrive to school on time. If you have any questions, please speak with your child’s teacher or contact Kate North on 6142 2570.



## 2019 Enrolments for ACT Government Schools

Enrolments for the 2019 school year opened through the online enrolment system on Monday 30 April.

The Education website has been updated with enrolment details for the 2019 school year, and this information can be viewed through the link below:

[https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school)

In addition, a new PEA reference guide, using the ACT Government’s **ACTmapi** web site, is also available through the link below to schools and to families to allow them to find their local school and to define their priority enrolment area.

<http://app.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi2/index.html?viewer=Education>

# SkoolBag

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As you are aware, we are trialling the **Skoolbag** app for communication with parents. Thanks to all those parents who have already signed up. Some things to remember:

- When you are choosing our school, you have the option of two schools named Curtin; please check to see you have chosen the correct school.
- All registered parents will get whole school notifications, have access to the events calendar and be able to change their details or send absentee notes through the app.
- The separate year groups are designed for allowing notifications or notes to be sent home to just that cohort.
- Please only subscribe to the year levels your children are in so you won't be inundated with notes, and notifications that you don't need.
- If you have already subscribed to all groups and you want to be taken off any groups please let me know.
- Details for accessing the app are below:

## How to install the SkoolBag App

Instructions for parents



### For Apple Users

1. From your iPhone/iPad, click on the "Download on the App Store" button above or open the Apple App Store and search for "SkoolBag"
2. Download the free SkoolBag app
3. Opening the app, and add your school(s) and you're ready to go!

### For Google Android Users

1. From your Android device, ensure you have an account in the Google Play Store
2. Click on the "Get it on Google play" button above or go to the Google Play Store and search for "SkoolBag"
3. Download the free SkoolBag app
4. Open the app, add your school(s) and you're ready to go!

For more info visit [skoolbag.com.au](https://skoolbag.com.au)



Thanks  
Maryanne Hayes  
Deputy



### **Walk Safely to School Day: Friday 18 May 2018**

National Walk Safely to School Day is an annual event that encourages children and their families to walk safely to school. Canberra schools are encouraged to participate on Friday 18 May 2018.

Walking (or riding) to school provides a number of benefits to school communities. It helps to create healthier, happier and more attentive students, it reduces congestion and improves safety around the school, and it is a sustainable form of transport.

If you don't live near school, drop off a small distance from school. Part way is OK too.

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## **P&C NEWS**

### **Upcoming Curtin P&C Meeting - 7.00pm, Thursday 17th May**

The next Curtin P&C meeting will be held on Thursday in week 3, at 7.00pm in the school staffroom.  
All parents and carers are invited to attend.

Coming along to the P&C is a great way to support and gain insight into your child's school.

### **UNIFORM SHOP CHANGES**

From the beginning of Term 2 the Uniform Shop is changing its opening day and will now be opening for purchases on Tuesdays 8.30 to 9.30am for all over the counter sales (cash and cheque only).

Please note that all Flexischools orders will also be filled on Tuesdays.

The shop is not open any other day.

## Alfred Deakin High School Open Night

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

5:00 – 5:20pm	- Principal's Address in the hall
5:20 - 5:30 pm	- Tours organised to depart by 5:30pm
5:30 – 7:00pm	- Tours
*6:30pm	- Gifted and Talented presentation in the hall
7:00pm	- Conclusion of the evening



Alfred Deakin High School

Excellence, Responsibility,  
Community, Respect.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

# Last Chance to Order Photos

Unfortunately due to an unexpected change, Grin and Bear It has decided to close its doors. After nearly 10 years of photographing children in the Canberra region we are really going to miss it.

**Grin and Bear It photos taken this year or in previous years are  
only available to purchase until 15 June 2018.**

If you are unable to access your photos email us with your child's name and class at [info@grinandbearit.com.au](mailto:info@grinandbearit.com.au) and we can help.

Thank you for inviting us to photograph your children and families. We have loved every minute.







# Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.



## Contact

Kathleen Watson  
your local Saver Plus  
Coordinator

## Phone

0448 730 305  
02 6283 7606

## Email

kathleen.watson@  
thesmithfamily.com.au

## Web

[www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au)



Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.