Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week’s Curtin Courier. It was lovely to meet and chat with so many families at the P & C barbecue on Friday night. Despite threatening dark clouds, the rain held off and all who attended were able to enjoy a very pleasant evening. Thank you to the P & C members and their trusty helpers who kept the delicious food coming, as well as meeting and greeting throughout the evening. The feedback from our new families was positive and all felt that they have joined a happy and welcoming community.

In coming weeks, we will invite parents to share their feedback with us about two innovations at our school. Firstly, the new format for the Parent Information evenings, which were held over two nights last week, with teaching teams presenting in the hall then answering questions in individual classrooms. Secondly, the student goal setting parent-teacher interviews which are being held this week and next. Teachers have welcomed the opportunity to sit down and set goals with students to then be discussed with parents in interviews. An agreeable timeframe is set for review of goal achievement. To gather your feedback a short online survey will soon be shared.

Recruitment for a substantive deputy principal has commenced. As with all leadership positions, the position is first advertised as a ‘transfer’, where deputy principals across our system are able to apply. If this process does not lead to an appointment, the position will be advertised as ‘open selection’ so a variety of applicants are eligible. We hope to have the recruitment process completed this term.

The student gardeners are busy this week with planting of the vegetable garden in the senior courtyard as well as the addition of more native plants, particularly small bird attracting correas, to the established beds at the Patterson Hall side of the school. You will also notice the garden at the front of the school is being altered. Shrubs have been removed to assist carpark visibility and student safety and a new garden layout has been planned. Thank you to Mark Sedgman our BSO for making countless trips to Bunnings to purchase garden supplies and for his coordination of the weekend workers this term. Thank you to our enthusiastic senior school gardeners who have been energetically preparing new areas for planting.

Enjoy your week,

Deborah
The following notes were sent home recently: (Notes will only be sent home on Wednesdays with Newsletter unless in emergencies)

<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 Health Check</td>
<td>kindergarten</td>
<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Friday 27th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance – Paying for School Events</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Information Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Excursion Deep Space communication Complex and War Memorial</td>
<td>4/5 TD &amp; Yrs 5 and 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th February</td>
<td>Friday 13th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do have bamboo in your garden or a pot that you are considering removing or dividing? We are seeking donations of bamboo (with roots). If you have phoenix tail, clumping, black or another type of bamboo we are interested in growing some in a pot and would appreciate a donation.

Any bamboo donations may be delivered to the Patterson Building.

Much appreciated.

Kym Le Riche

Please be advised that due to ANZAC Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday, Term 2 2015 will commence for all ACT Public Schools on Tuesday 28 April.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES PROJECT
You might be able to assist with bringing more creativity, self-expression, fulfillment, and joy to your child and other children at our school.

In September last year, Majura and North Ainslie Primary Schools established a new, creative partnership with artists within their local communities including writers, musicians, dancers, visual artists, and theatre directors.

This partnership resulted in bringing to those schools new, exciting projects benefiting all involved – the students, the artists, and the broader community (Canberra Times article Bringing Artists to Schools, 22 November 2014, Panorama section)

Do you know any artists in our community, or are you perhaps an artist yourself? If so, please let us know, as we wish to organise a meeting with local artists to talk about all possible creative ideas that our school community might consider.

More detailed information about the project can be obtained by contacting Dr Jolanta Gallagher on 6262 8689 or jolantagallagher26@gmail.com
Justine Bruce

My active involvement in the Curtin Primary School community started from the time of moving to Canberra in 2007, when my son Aidan started at South Curtin Preschool. He has just left CPS at the end of 2014 to go on to Alfred Deakin High. My daughter Lauren went to North Curtin Preschool and is now in year 3 at CPS. I have been a long term member of the P&C, serving in the role of Vice President for two years. I have been involved on the social committee every year since and support the school with many of their social (fund-raising) events. When the opportunity was presented to be a Parent member of the kidsMatter team, I took it with great enthusiasm and interest. The KidsMatter is a mental health and well-being initiative that supports children and their families. I am also fortunate that my husband David has a strong commitment to the primary school and has been heavily involved in the establishment and running of the school’s Art Show.

I work as a school Psychologist and specialise in early intervention in primary schools. I have long held the belief that establishing positive settings and relationships are a key to lifelong learning outcomes. Through my professional experiences I have an excellent working knowledge of the education system and the practical challenges of running a primary school. I have a strong commitment to the Public Education system and the importance of providing a high quality opportunity for all children. With four years of my relationship with CPS remaining, my interest in standing for the Board in 2015 is to use my combined experiences both as a parent and as a professional to help CPS continue to be a very well-respected and effective public primary school.

Nick Morgan

I have two boys at Curtin Primary – Luke in year 2 and Joe in year 5. My oldest son Ben, is in year 7 at Alfred Deakin High, having been all the way through Curtin from pre-school. I’ve been on the school board for the past eighteen months and I’m keen to continue in the role. Curtin is a terrific school and I want it to get even better. Since joining the board I’ve introduced a program of discussion topics to ensure we focus on improving our kids’ education. This has included the homework policy, creating an effective website, and supporting the transition to high school. Curtin Primary has a wonderful community spirit that I want to continue to support through open engagement between parents and the school.

Karen Reynolds

Hello, my name is Karen Reynolds and I have been actively involved in the Curtin Primary School community with my four children over the past 8 years, with three children currently attending the school and my eldest child now progressed to high school. I endeavour to volunteer and support P&C and teacher initiatives during the year when I can, as I work full time, and I am currently helping as a class parent rep and with lost property. I would like to join the school Board and contribute to the higher level decision making about the school and its priorities in supporting the best possible learning outcomes for children attending Curtin Primary. I have a long term commitment to the school, and believe I have the relevant life and work related experience to contribute successfully in this role.
**Laney (Helen) Gniel**

Hello, my name is Laney (Helen) Gniel and I have nominated for one of the Parent Representative positions on the school board. I have two kids at Curtin Primary at the moment, a son in Year 2 and a daughter in Kindy (and one more to start at preschool next year). Over the last three years I have greatly enjoyed being involved in the school community through various avenues. In addition to helping out with readers and bringing some interactive science lessons to my son’s class, I have served on the North Curtin preschool committee twice, and have also run the Curtin P&C Fathers’ Day Stall for the last two years. I am excited about the opportunity to join the Curtin Primary School Board to continue to promote excellence in all areas at our great school.

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**Marisa Fogarty**

My name is Marisa Fogarty – my son Bill is in Year 1. I also have two daughters that will go to Curtin Primary over the next few years, so decisions that are made about the school are important to my family. I nominated for the School Board because I felt that it was a valuable way that I could contribute to the school. I work at the Australian National University conducting research in policy and development issues in Australia. I have extensive work experience in the areas of community development and community consultation that I feel I could contribute through a position on the School Board. One of the things I love most about Curtin is the strong community feel that the school fosters, so continuing to build on this by ensuring that parents are adequately informed and consulted about any changes and decisions that are made in the school would be a priority for me. I really look forward to contributing to the Curtin Primary School community over the next few years!

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**School Board Elections**

**Instructions for completing ballot paper**

**School**

Name of school : Curtin Primary School

*Please read the following instructions carefully. Failure to complete a valid ballot paper may result in your vote not being counted.*

**Process for election:**

Voters may select one person on the ballot paper by placing a tick ☒ or cross ☑ in the square beside the preferred nominee.

The Assistant Returning Officer will count the votes of each nominee. The nominee/s receiving the greatest number of votes is elected. In the event of equal votes the Assistant Returning Officer will determine the issue by lot.

The voting system being used in this election is the ‘first past the post’ system.

**Submitting your vote**

Once you have completed the ballot paper, place your ballot paper in the envelope provided and return it to the Assistant Returning Officer at Curtin Primary by no later than 2nd March 2015 11.00am. Any ballot paper received before or after the declared voting period will not be counted.
Thank you to those families who have promptly returned the survey that was in the newsletter. We hope it encouraged conversations about language learning and language experiences among your family members. The senior school students initial Bahasa Indonesia lesson included a discussion how all the concepts we are going to explore this term are connected. The concepts include; learning another language, ‘Everyone Belongs’, our school values, cultural clothing, Harmony Day, National Day against Bullying and Violence and ‘Taking a Stand Together.’ The students shared their ideas how different concepts connected together. Sam Roberts put his idea succinctly together by saying “All the concepts relate to RESPECT.” We will continue to explore these concepts throughout the term while practising our greetings and learning vocabulary in relation to clothing.

Greetings in Bahasa Indonesia
Different greetings are used for specific parts of the day.
Selamat pagi – 12am to 11am
Selamat siang - 11am to 3pm
Selamat sore – 3pm to 6pm
Selamat malam – 6pm to 12 midnight
Selamat tidur – Goodnight
Depending where you live in Indonesia some of the times for these greetings may vary.
Sampai jumpa!
Ibu Le Riche

Harmony Day and National Day against Bullying and Violence Events
Next week the students have been asked to wear their favourite socks to school on the day they have their Bahasa Indonesia lessons.
Monday Year 3/4
Tuesday Year 5/6 plus Ms Devenish’s Year 4/5 class
Thursday Year 1/2
Friday Kindergarten
This whole school event across the week beginning on the 2nd March is to show our support for ‘Harmony Day’ while demonstrating through the wearing of our favourite socks and different coloured socks we will demonstrate that it doesn’t matter how you are different –where you are from, what language is your first language, what colour your skin or what cultural aspects you practise “EVERYONE BELONGS.” Everyone will have their feet photographed to create a banner to also illustrate that we “TAKE A STAND TOGETHER” in support of The National Day against Bullying and Violence. So, start looking in your cupboards and drawers to find your favourite pair of socks!
In week 7 (beginning Monday the 16th March) Lizzy in the canteen is offering special lunches to celebrate the lead up to Harmony Day on Saturday 21st March. Next week a menu with prices will be sent home with the Curtin Courier newsletter. Just complete the order form and ask your child to place the order with the correct money in the lunch order basket before Thursdays 12th March to purchase the multicultural cuisine of week 7.
A special thank you to Lizzy for supporting this event.

Kym Le Riche
Co-ordinator for Harmony Day and National Day against Bullying and Violence events
Congratulations to TRYathletes from Curtin Primary School!

We had 33 students from Curtin Primary School take part in the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra on the 15th of February 2015. From all accounts it was a fabulous day. Well done to our TRYathletes.

- Alicia B
- Tom C
- Marlo C
- Shannon C
- Adelaide C
- Frank C
- Jim C
- Liv C
- Jill E
- Alexander F
- Jessica F

- Johie G
- Bonnie H
- Hannah H
- Connor H
- James H
- Joyce IR
- William J
- Evan L
- Grace L
- Penny M
- Jake M

- Joe M
- Luke M
- Thomas P
- Duncan P
- Hedda P
- Cole P
- Zoe R
- Ayrton R
- Ellis R
- Abigail S
- Zann W

Understanding spelling well enough to explain it to kids

Date: Tuesday March 31 2015
Time: 6pm-7:30pm
Where: Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) 51 Fremantle Drive Stirling ACT 2611
Cost (GST inclusive): $40
BOOK HERE: http://www.trybooking.com/GYMJ
Happy New Year!

- The Board welcomed Merryn in her substantive role as Principal. It’s great to start the school year with a strong leadership team.
- The Board noted it will be a big year for Curtin Primary in 2015, we will be celebrating the school’s 50th birthday, planning for major building upgrades, as well as our business as usual activities such as planning for our IT replacements, ensuring we have effective parent and community partnerships and that our procedures for implementing school policies are reviewed and up to date.
- With that in mind, the Board considered its range of discussion topics for 2015. While there are certain milestones we must discuss during the year such as budget adjustments, the strategic plan and the curriculum, we have decided to develop a list of topics that are of particular significance to families.
- We set the first of these for the next meeting which will be – how can we more effectively communicate with families? We’ll be reviewing the use of the Curtin Courier, the use of technology and the website, the use of the school satisfaction survey and other means of communication.
- If you have any ideas or comments or wish to suggest other topics for consideration by the Board this year please contact any one of the Board reps – our contact details appear below.
- We reviewed the school’s operational plan at this meeting, which needs to be complete and signed off by end of February. The Plan contributes to the targets for the school to work towards during the coming year. We also noted that the approved homework policy is now operational and we will monitor how this is going during the year.
- The school’s procedure for implementing voluntary contributions was discussed; we resolved not to increase contributions this year and there will be some flexibilities introduced to assist families. A note will be coming home soon.
- The Board passed the December and January Finance Reports.
- Next meeting will be in week 7. Two parent positions have been declared vacant and an election is currently being held, I encourage you to vote and have your say so that the Board can continue it’s important work.

As always if you have comments or ideas and wish to discuss them with the Board reps please feel free to contact any of us. Our contact details are:

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

Nick Morgan, parent rep, nick@nmphotos.com or 0458 824 609

Myles Cronin, parent rep, myles.cronin@superwealth.com.au or 0423 029 290

Warm regards

Anne Twyman, Board Chair.
P&C report – term 1 week 3

It was a lovely evening for the Welcome bbq on Friday! It was great to see so many Curtin families and staff enjoying a sausage and a chat. I do hope you enjoyed it if you were able to come along. Thank you to everyone who helped on the evening, setting up, cleaning up, and turning and serving sausages in between. Special thanks to our canteen manager Liz and Francois for all their hard work. Thank you too to Damian, the manager of our local Bendigo Bank, for not only donating the sausages but for cooking many of them too!

A reminder that the **P&C AGM** is on this Thursday 26 February at 7.00pm in the staff room. Everyone is most welcome to attend and participate in the election of new office bearers. We are looking to fill lots of roles – some with a small commitment, some larger – so look forward to seeing you there. There will be wine and nibbles!

On the subject of voting – please do take the time to vote for the new parents representatives on the School Board. These are very important roles and deserve your attention. Ballots are available from the front office.

This is my last report as P&C president. It’s been an exciting, busy and enormously fun two years, and we have achieved a great deal to support our school and our children. I am very privileged to have worked with a great committee (thank you Louise, Lis, Caz and Bern), enthusiastic volunteers and a very supportive school staff. Thank you everyone!

Have a great week!
Georgie
P&C President
curtinprimarypc@gmail.com

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**STUDENT BANKING –Wednesday**

Thankyou for supporting the school banking program at Curtin Primary School.
In 2015 school banking will be on a Wednesday.
Please put your bank books in the canteen basket on Wednesdays mornings.
Thank You
Kelly Stephens
School Banking Co-ordinator.

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**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop will be closed this Friday 27th February.

Flexischool orders placed by Wednesday night will be filled Thursday. All other orders will be filled next week.

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**Canteen**

Canteen Closed Friday 27th February

Due to swimming Carnival
Thanks
Lizzy