Dear Curtin Families,

Welcome to 2015!

What a wonderful day we had yesterday beginning the school year. The positive energy in the hall in the morning was contagious as students gathered with fresh uniforms, backpacks and book packs. Thank you for supporting children to arrive on time, looking so smart and prepared for learning.

2015 is going to be a big year for Curtin and we have so many exciting events and activities planned.

Following Curtin's 50th birthday last year, our school will celebrate 50 years during 2015. Planning will begin shortly and students, teachers, families and the community will be able to contribute ideas and join the celebration. We also begin planning for a school upgrade which will involve community consultation.

This year, one of our school goals is to communicate and interact as much as possible with our families. I look forward to beginning this at the P&C welcome BBQ in week 3. As a staff we are all looking forward to our Information Nights and Term 1 interviews, which are explained in detail later in this newsletter. From next week, you will notice a new layout that includes more photos, colour and information in order to capture the highlights of our school week. We are also working to implement ways you can sign notes electronically to reduce the need for printing at home. With ongoing commitment to sustainability, we will be moving to phase out paper newsletters during term 1. We know our newsletters are regularly more than ten pages, which is a lot of paper! During the term, you might notice our website use is being enhanced to make sure we share exciting information and we are preparing to launch a school Facebook page. You will also see our foyer noticeboards showcasing our school.

Last week, staff gathered to participate in professional learning and prepare for student arrivals. What a wealth of expertise we have at Curtin! Members of our teaching staff led sessions where we explored our teaching of grammar and spelling, reviewed our student support practices and spent time ensuring all our work is guided by agreed approaches and achieving a common aim or vision. In next week's newsletter, I will share more about our vision in detail for you. We also spent a day learning more about teaching science through a program called Primary Connections. We have been able to purchase all the materials to implement this approach as a result of the support of our school community and P&C. We are also excited to include additional teaching of science in our release program, guided by the innovation of Kim Lenon.

As the term and year continues, please feel welcome to contact either myself or your child's teacher to have a general chat or discuss a question or concern. If you would like more than a few minutes, please take advantage of phone and email to make an appointment. This is especially important in the mornings, when teachers are busy preparing resources for learning and talking with students. Our staff also meet on Tuesday and Wednesday straight after school so cannot be available at these times.

Your role as families is crucial in your child's school experience and your involvement will assist to increase their learning achievement. I speak for all staff at Curtin when I say that we look forward to working in partnership with you in 2015!

Merryn
K-6 Parent Information Nights

Our information nights will be held in week 3. These are an opportunity for you to find out about the year.
This year, the sessions will have a new format. You will begin in the hall, where you will meet the team of teachers working together for your child and hear about the learning program. You will then move to your child’s classroom to meet the teacher and learn about class programs. It is also a chance to meet some new faces before the welcome BBQ on the Friday night. At the information night, you will be able to nominate a time for a Goal Setting Interview in weeks 4 or 5 as well as to put your name on the class parent contact list. To support effective communication and make sure there is enough space in the classrooms, there will be a few teachers available in the courtyard to supervise quiet activities for students and siblings.

Goal Setting Interviews
These interviews will allow each teacher, student and family to plan some goals for 2015. These goals will support teachers in individualising the curriculum effectively and guide student self assessments each semester. Student input to the goal setting will be modified to suit their age, but we do encourage you to bring your child to the interview. A calendar of available times will be sent home next week.

Thank you,
Merryn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 17th February</th>
<th>Wednesday 18th February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior School Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senior School Information Night</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Classes</td>
<td>Middle Primary (Years 3 and 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.45-6.05 HALL</td>
<td>5.45-6.05 HALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.10-6.30 CLASSROOM</td>
<td>6.10-6.30 CLASSROOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Primary (Years 1 and 2)</td>
<td>Senior Primary (4/5TD, Years 5 and 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.30-7.05 HALL</td>
<td>6.30-7.05 HALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.10-7.30 CLASSROOM</td>
<td>7.10-7.30 CLASSROOM</td>
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CARPARK SAFETY

The beginning of the year is a chance to remind our community of the need to be careful at busy drop off and pick up times. Please remember we have many new students who are learning to cross roads and carparks safely. Some key areas to be careful are;

FRONT CARPARK
Please use the drop off and pick up parking spots safely. Parents should not be getting out of the car in these spots. Students are being reminded to look out for you and to move towards the car. Double parking is strictly prohibited and students should not walk between cars.

BACK CARPARK
The turning circle is small, often requiring cars to reverse in three point turns. Children should not walk across the carpark. Please ensure your child uses the paths to walk around the building to their appropriate playground.

BACK CARPARK ENTRY
Remember there are several children crossing the road and drive extra slowly. The speed limit is 10km. You cannot expect they will always give way.

CURRUTHERS STREET PARKING NEAR JUNIOR PLAYGROUND
Please respect road rules about blocking the student crossing and leave appropriate distance.

You will notice staff monitoring these areas. If required, a staff member may politely remind you of carpark safety. Please accept these as a supportive reminder. We are all here to work for the safety of our children and would like to avoid requesting parking patrols from TAMS.

Thank you,
Merryn
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

HARMONY DAY

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is on Friday the 20th March. This annual day of action against bullying and violence provides a focus for all schools to say “Bullying. No Way!” With the message “Take a Stand together” the aim is to reinforce and demonstrate that bullying and violence is not okay at any time.

Harmony Day – Everyone Belongs is celebrated on the 21st March. It is a day on which we celebrate Australia’s diversity, and demonstrate our respect for other cultures. We learn and understand how all Australians from all cultural backgrounds, equally belong to this nation and make it a better place. Harmony Day is an Australian Government initiative and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The basis of the Indonesian program for term one will combine the two themes and messages of Harmony Day and the National Day against Bullying and Violence (Take a Stand Together). Students will explore why people travel, celebrate and commemorate specific days, learn languages and how understanding other cultures develops empathy.

To assist with the implementation of this programme I need your support. A four question survey will be sent home with the Curtin Courier in week 2. This survey is to stimulate conversation between you and your child/ren. Two years ago a similar survey was sent home and provided a great insight into the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our community. As you can understand, the demographic of a school changes and another survey is being sent out to identify these changes. It would be greatly appreciated if this survey is completed and returned to your youngest child’s class teacher to be collected and analysed by the end of February, as it too will be used as part of the programme.

Terima kasih banyak.
Thank you so much.

BOARD NOMINATIONS - 2015

There are two Parent representative vacancies on our School Board for 2015. Nominations opened on Monday 2 February at 11am and will close at 11am on 16th February 2015.

Nomination forms are available from the Front Office or by emailing the Returning Officer Jo Kluckers.
JoanneElizabeth.Kluckers@ed.act.edu.au

Welcome BBQ – Friday 20 February, from 5 pm

Please join us for a Welcome Back BBQ, hosted by the Canteen and the P&C. Free sausage sandwiches will be provided. Take the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new classmates. BYO picnic rug, drinks, dips, chips etc. See you there!

Excursion Acquittal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindy</th>
<th>Excursion</th>
<th>Payments in</th>
<th>Payments out</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Oct &amp; 10 Nov</td>
<td>$460.00</td>
<td>$582.73</td>
<td>-$122.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2 &amp; 2/3</td>
<td>03/11/2014 Geography</td>
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<td>$1,149.54</td>
<td>-$45.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td>19/11/2014 Farmyard</td>
<td>$825.00</td>
<td>$742.72</td>
<td>$82.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>09/12/2014 M Power Dome</td>
<td>$2,164.00</td>
<td>$2,158.17</td>
<td>$5.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>24/11 - 05/12/14 Swim Lessons</td>
<td>$9,522.00</td>
<td>$9,548.00</td>
<td>-$26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>15/12/2014 Flip Out</td>
<td>$2,239.06</td>
<td>$2,135.06</td>
<td>$104.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>16/12/2014 Grad Dinner &amp; Disco</td>
<td>$818.18</td>
<td>$818.18</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>16/12/2014 Term 4 Kulture Break</td>
<td>$3,116.15</td>
<td>$3,116.15</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
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SRC NEWS

Attention gardeners! Hellebore cuttings wanted! As you may be aware, the SRC planted gardens in the senior playground late last year. All the plants were donated from the Twilight Fair and have grown wonderfully over the holidays. We would like to continue to develop our garden by adding Hellebores. If you are able to help, please get in contact with Miss Smith either via the front office or email (Louise.smith@ed.act.edu.au). Many thanks for your support.
SENIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL  
Friday 27 February (Week 4)  
BIG SPLASH  
Catchpole Street, MACQUARIE

Those children who wish to enter competitive races and/or be considered for the school swim team, will be bussed out to Big Splash in the morning to compete (bus will leave shortly after 9am)

Those children who do not wish to enter competitive races will be bussed to Big Splash after recess (11am) where they can watch and cheer the last few races, participate in mini races, novelties and slides under close supervision.

Swimming notes have been sent home with today's newsletter.

Swimming notes and payment MUST BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY 20th February to ensure entry and to assist with booking transport.

If you would like to come and assist with the carnival, please email me at the above address.

NB: Only children in Year 2 (born 2007) who want to enter a competitive 50m race may attend.

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2015

Curtin Primary School has a House system for sporting, citizenship and other events. There are four Houses each being led by 2 House Captains and 2 Vice Captains. These students act as role models and leaders for the school. The Houses are named after local mountains.

OAKEY  AINSLIE  TAYLOR  STROMLO

House points are awarded for participating in sporting activities and demonstrating the 6 C’s, both in the classroom and on the playground. These points go towards House Trophies for Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics and Citizenship (House Cup).

Year six children have the opportunity to run for House Captain.

Elections for House Captains will be this Friday 6 February.

As a House Captain students are expected to fulfil many different roles within the physical education and sport program.

• House Captains are expected to always compete in house competitions to the best of their ability and set an example that others can follow.

• House Captains will be expected to be able to encourage all other students to compete to the best of their ability.

• Assist in organising, running and packing up carnivals.

• Create and teach house war cries.

• House Captains will be expected to give some of their own time during recess and lunch to meet these requirements
South Weston District

DISTRICT CARNIVALS 2015

Swimming: Monday 30th March – AIS
Cross Country: Tuesday 5th May – Stromlo Forest
Athletics: Tuesday 25th August – Woden

ACT CARNIVALS

Swimming: Thursday 7th May – AIS
Cross Country: Monday 1st June – Stromlo Forest
Athletics: Thursday 15th September – AIS

WEETBIX TRYATHLON
Sunday 15 February

Thank you to those children who have registered to participate in the 2015 Weetbix Tryathlon. Registrations have now closed.

Check-in is between 7 – 8.30am.

SOUTH WESTON DISTRICT TEAM SELECTIONS

Children in year 5 and 6 are eligible to trial for South Weston District Sports teams. Generally there will be 2 after school selection trials from which squads or teams will be selected to play in carnivals during school time. At these carnivals children are selected to join squads to represent the ACT. This is the only pathway to make ACT Primary School teams.

Please note that these trials are for children who have reached a very high level of skill in their chosen sport and we usually only send up to 4 children to each trial.

Notes will be coming home this week. If your child is interested in trialling for any of the teams please complete return the form to Mrs Beresford by the end of Week 2.

NB: These are NOT school teams, they are District Representative Teams. There will be opportunities for children to represent the school throughout the year where they do not have to try out.

NBETBIX TRYATHLON
Sunday 15 February

Thank you to those children who have registered to participate in the 2015 Weetbix Tryathlon. Registrations have now closed.

Check-in is between 7 – 8.30am.

PE PROGRAM K-6
TERM 1

ATHLETICS:
70m, 100m & 200m races
Long Jump
Shot Put, Discus, Javelin (rubber & foam)

FUNDAMENTAL MOTOR SKILLS:
Catch
Leap
Fitness (Beep Test)
Run

BAND INFORMATION

Band times for 2015:
Wednesday 1.30 – 3pm (+ Yr 5 lunchtime rehearsal)
Friday 11 – 12.30pm (+ Yr 6 lunchtime rehearsal)

Week 2:
Friday 13 February: Yr 5 musicality testing (all Year 5 children to attend)

Week 3: Year 6 band begins.
Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a fun and restful break.

Thank you to those who have already put in their volunteer slip, once I receive them all in I will be putting together a roster. Thank you to Sharon Phillips who has redesigned our menu, highlighting red, amber and green foods making it a lot easier to choose from. Cheers Lizzy. The 7th C.

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**STUDENT BANKING - WEDNESDAY**

Thank you for supporting the School Banking Program at Curtin Primary School.

In 2015 school banking will be on Wednesday, starting **Week 2**. Please put your bank books in the canteen basket on Wednesdays.

**Thank you**

Kelly Stephens
School Banking Co-ordinator

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**P&C Report - Welcome from the P&C!**

On behalf of the P&C, welcome to Kindy children and their families, and to all the other new families at the school. I hope you will find that Curtin is a school with a great community spirit, excellent teachers and a wonderful parent body. Welcome back to returning families – I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break!

Curtin has a very active parent community that is involved in many ways – from the P&C activities to helping with reading, volunteering in the canteen, gardening club, chess club and assisting with carnivals and special events. It’s rewarding to be involved and contribute to our school community.

**Welcome Back BBQ, Friday 20 February, 5:00pm**

Please join us for a Welcome Back BBQ, hosted by the Canteen and the P&C in the senior playground. Free sausage sandwiches will be provided, including vegetarian and halal options. Take the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new classmates.

BYO picnic rug, drinks, dips, chips etc.

**P&C Association**

All parents are automatically members of the P&C Association. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, discuss ideas and raise issues. The P&C meets twice each term, in the school staff room. Meetings are advertised in the newsletter and on the school website.

The aims of the P&C are to:

- undertake fundraising activities for special programs and resources
- provide a forum for educational discussion, input and understanding
- organise social activities for the school community
- encourage and develop parent participation and involvement in the school that makes the most of the wide range of skills, expertise and experiences parents have.

Last year, through the efforts of the parent body, the P&C raised over $30 000. With these funds, we helped the school purchase new resources and equipment, refurbished the junior playground and started a fund to help purchase new furniture after the school is renovated.

Our fundraising events and parent volunteers make a real difference in providing additional resources for our children and contributing to the school community.

**AGM and Elections for the P&C: Thursday 26 February, 7:00pm**

The first P&C meeting for the year will be on Thursday 26 February at 7:00pm in the school staff room. It will be an Annual General Meeting, with elections for all positions on the P&C Committee. Positions are for one year, and individuals can hold a position for two years in a row. See the separate note about the positions. Many of the current office bearers are unable to stand again, so we need you! If you would like to find out more, please email me.

All the best for the start of the 2014 school year! We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome BBQ in Week 3.

Have a great week,

Georgie
P&C President
curtinprimarypc@gmail.com
Uniform Shop
Welcome all new families and returning families, good to have you at Curtin primary. Curtin is very lucky to have a uniform shop on site, run and operated by a band of dedicated volunteers on behalf of the P&C. 100% of funds raised through the uniform shop are used to assist in the support and running of the canteen. We are also very lucky to have a canteen that operates 5 days a week.

Uniforms may be purchased:

**In person** – Fridays 8:30 – 9:30am
Cash or cheque ONLY

**Order form** – available on the uniform shop door
Cash or cheque
Direct deposit – uniforms delivered after payment confirmed

Direct deposit
Credit card

**NB:** The Uniform shop has a different bank account number from the school and P&C. Please see bottom of order form for details.

The shop keeps minimal stock on hand, due to funding arrangements and space issues, so it is greatly appreciated if you could pre-order uniforms wherever possible. There generally is not a delay in delivery but sometimes there is a wait. You will be contacted if this is the case.

If you have any questions you can drop in on Fridays or send us an email cpscanteen@optusnet.com.au
Tania & Clare

P&C Association Committee 2015

If you’re interested in becoming more involved with the school, participating in the P&C committee is a great place to start. The P&C fosters community spirit, friendship and supports the school through an active and fruitful partnership with the school. Being part of the P&C committee means you help decide on social and fundraising events, determine where funds are spent, discuss educational issues and generally become more involved in your children’s school.

While all parents are automatically members of the P&C Association, the office bearers of the P&C Committee are elected at the start of each school year for one year. There are lots of different roles, and the more people involved, the easier – and more fun – it is! Please consider nominating for one of the following roles:

**Committee roles**
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Public Officer
Green Team (several members)
P&C Council Delegate
Social Committee (Coordinator & members)
Fete Coordinator
Sponsorship Officer

**Other roles**
Canteen Committee (3 – 5 members)
Uniform shop assistant
Lost Property (2-4 people)

The new committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting, on **Thursday 26 February at 7:00pm** in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you want to find out more about the different roles, please contact Georgie at curtinprimarypc@gmail.com.

Lost Property - Volunteers needed

Why not join the Lost Property Team?
Curtin Primary School actively manage their lost property with the use of volunteer parents and carers with much thanks and guidance from Mrs Gloster. It is really easy and takes about 1 hour once or twice a term. Great way to meet other parents and carers. Please let Michelle Evans know if you can help and go on the roster.
michelle.evans@live.com.au

Reminder - please label all your students clothing, hats - even shoes!!
Last year thousands of dollars of clothing was unable to be returned to students as there was no name or the name was unable to be read.
Throughout the year, we encourage parents and carers to please ensure their students clothing is clearly labelled.
We also like to take this opportunity to thank Belinda James for setting up and running the Lost Property Team over the last two years.

Michelle Evans
Canteen News

The “Seventh C” canteen and the uniform shop have opened for 2015 – welcome back everyone, and hello to new families! We are really lucky at Curtin to have a canteen operating five days a week, and rely on your support to keep it that way.

You can order via the traditional brown paper bag in your child’s class basket, or via our online ordering system available at www.flexischools.com.au. It is very easy to create an account and load funds via direct debit or credit card. You can order uniforms through Flexischools too.

The canteen needs volunteers every day from 9am to 1pm (especially on Thursdays and Fridays, our busiest days). Even an hour is a big help. We have a rolling monthly roster, but you can volunteer whenever you’re able to. It’s a great way to meet other parents and your kids love seeing you! Pop in and see me, or give me a call (just not during recess or lunch, please!).

The running of the canteen is supported by the Canteen Committee. If you’re interested in joining the committee, please contact me or Georgie (P&C president).

Last year we had a great response to the changed prices on our menu – thank you! This year, changes to guidelines by the ACT Government mean some items will no longer be available in the canteen as we phase out many of the “red” rated foods. However we will be trialling new treats and meals and we love hearing feedback and ideas from kids and grownups alike!

Please drop in and say hi - I look forward to seeing you soon!

Liz Patron
Canteen Manager

Calling for a parent representative from every class

Welcome to your child’s new class! The P&C coordinates a program of class representatives to assist with communication across the school community. Class reps communicate between teachers and class parents, and the P&C and class parents. Being a class rep is a great way to get involved with your child’s new class. The role of the class representative is to:

- coordinate, distribute and maintain a class contact list (inclusion is voluntary)
- act as a point of contact for other parents in the class, especially those new to the school
- assist the class teacher – e.g. circulate information, find volunteers for activities or help collect materials
- communicate with class parents about events being run by the school and P&C
- assist in running P&C events by coordinating class involvement – e.g. roster for the class Twilight Fair stall, class table for Trivia Night

To be an effective class representative, you need to be able to pass on information to your class – usually through a weekly email (with notes sent out to those who are not on email). It’s a fun and easy role and a great way to meet other parents and classmates.

If you are interested in being a parent class representative, please email your details to Lis Preston or return the form to the front office by Monday 9 February 2015.

Lis Preston, class rep coordinator
Email: Elisabeth.preston@canberra.edu.au

PARENT CLASS REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate to be a Parent Class Representative for 2015.

Class: ........................................ Child’s Name: ......................................................

Your Name: ...........................................................................................................

Home Tel: ........................................ Mobile: .......................................................

Email: .................................................................................................................