



# CURTIN COURIER

Issue 1

February 7 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

FEB 12-20 K-6 Robotics

March 2 YR 3 -6  
Swimming Carnival

March 2 P&C BBQ

March 21 School  
Photos

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  
6285 4444  
Bookings  
6282 2644

## Welcome to 2018!

Our community have enjoyed a wonderful start to the year, welcoming new preschool and kindergarten students on Monday and Year 1-6 students yesterday. Classes commenced quickly and students spent the day building relationships with their peers and teachers. Building a class, year level team and school community will be the focus of learning programs in weeks 1 and 2. Classroom learning will supported by visits from the AFP's Kenny Koala as well as visiting Robotics clinics. Kenny Koala will be covering appropriate content for year levels related to physical and cyber safety and positive relationships.

This week, I have had the pleasure of welcoming several new families and teachers to Curtin. Upcoming opportunities such as the welcome BBQ, information nights, goal setting interviews and early P&C meetings will assist our new families to quickly make connections. I encourage all families this year to attend school events and consider joining the P&C to participate in the life of the school. Throughout the year, we will also invite interested families to information sessions on varied learning and wellbeing which will be opportunities to connect with school practices and community members. After the success of the principal morning teas in 2017, we will be embedding these discussion opportunities as a regular feature of the year. Look out for dates in next week's newsletter.

Last week, our staff enjoyed two rich professional learning days. We focused on teaching writing as we align our programs across the school. We also explored ways to personalise the learning program based on the information we collect through school testing. Our plan this year is to share more of this information with you as we build partnerships for learning with families. The UR fab program outlined later in the newsletter will provide staff with learning about mental health in childhood during the term. As the term progresses, teachers are excited to be delivering the curriculum through key concepts. This model was planned last year and will be explained in detail in your information nights and through unit overviews. The use of key concepts enables us to engage all students in learning they find challenging and build on their prior knowledge. This year, there are some other changes to school structures that you will notice.

## Assemblies

Assemblies will be hosted by year level teams and occur twice each term in Weeks 4 and 9. These will be a performing arts opportunity for the host grade and the forum for significant PBL awards to be presented. As always, families will be notified when their child is receiving an award. Assembly will be held at 2.00pm but will use the full hour.

## Peer Support

All Year 6 students will be trained as peer support leaders. Peer support groups will then be formed and run on Fridays at 11.45. The content of the groups relates to social and emotional learning and provides a network for students across year levels.

## Passion Projects

These projects will be group based and run on Friday afternoons from Week 3. Students will participate in guided multi-age groups to explore an area of interest. The focus of the groups in semester 1 is build wellbeing through discovering areas of interest and meeting like-minded students. Each activity will be offered for a term. In semester 2 the projects will become more independent as we adopt the *Genius Hour* approach. Next week, you will receive the list of choices for term 1. Please use the opportunity to talk with your child about their areas of interest and opportunities to explore new activities as you guide them to nominate preferences.

**Student Service**

During break times, students will be invited to sign up for a service project. This might involve working with others, maintaining equipment or enhancing our environment. The range of projects is being designed by students and suggestions are being considered. This is an optional program. Interested students will commit to a service project for a term. Those who fulfil their commitment for 8 or more weeks will be acknowledged with a celebration and certificate at the end of the term.

As always, I invite you to communicate with your child’s teacher when you have questions about their learning. Please make appointments for longer discussions as teachers also have duty and meeting requirements and cannot always make themselves available for detailed discussions without notice. Other key contacts for questions or concerns about your child or features of the program are our executive. As principal, I always invite you to chat with me when you are in the school or talk by phone or appointment. Our deputy principal, Maryanne Hayes is another contact for these discussions. This year we have three executive teachers who you can contact regarding student learning.

**Preschool**

Frances Brand [frances.brand@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:frances.brand@ed.act.edu.au) (Please note, Frances is commencing in Week 6 of the term)

**K-2**

Kate North [kate.north@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.north@ed.act.edu.au)

**3-6**

Deborah Fitzgerald [deborah.fitzgerald@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:deborah.fitzgerald@ed.act.edu.au)

We look forward to an exciting year of learning and building a strong community for each child.

Yours in learning,

Merryn O’Dea

**Notes sent Home**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Return By</b>
6/2/2018	Robotics Incursion	8/2/2018

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**Canteen Manager - Expressions of Interest**

Sadly Lizzy, our wonderful Canteen Manager, is moving on to another role in the school to further her career.

As such, the P&C are calling for expressions of interest for an enthusiastic Canteen Manager.

If you are interested in the role, either full time, or in a job share arrangement, please pop in to see Lizzy in the Canteen, or email Joanna McKenzie-Kay, P&C President [joanna\\_mckenziekay@hotmail.com](mailto:joanna_mckenziekay@hotmail.com)

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## Understanding and Responding to Feelings and Behaviours

### UR FaB Program in Schools

Hello from the UR FaB team,

Your child's school is taking part in the UR FaB mental health early intervention program for children in Years 4 and 5. UR FaB is a partnership between the ACT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Education and Training Directorate (ETD). The program is staffed by health professionals from the CAMHS Childhood Early Intervention Program who specialise in early emotional and social development, together with the school psychologist, and a class teacher from Curtin Primary School.

The program aims to support children who are struggling to manage their strong emotions and behaviours. Previous research has shown that helping families and schools work together in the early years can have positive results for children both in their classroom and the wider world. The program specifically focuses on developing children's understanding about their emotions and behaviours and how to manage them, as well as to improve social skills and friendship skills.

UR FaB will be in your school setting up in Term 1, with a small group program being run in Term 2 for some families and children. Families involved in the program will take part in a 2 hour weekly intensive small group. The program involves both a child group and parent group, followed by an hour with parents and children together. Activities of the program are fun for children and provide an opportunity to practice and rehearse the skills learnt. You may also find us running fun classroom based activities in some other classes.

We look forward to running our program at Curtin Primary School. Further information for children in Years 4 and 5 will be sent home later. This information pack will contain more detailed information about the program, a questionnaire for you to complete as well as instructions for opting out if you do not wish your child to participate.

From the UR FaB team

## ***Information Privacy Act 2014: Use of personal information***

### **The Performance Indicators in Primary School Program (PIPS)**

The ACT Education Directorate (the Directorate) is obliged to handle personal information openly, transparently and in accordance with the Territory Privacy Principles set out in the *Information Privacy Act 2014*.

ACT public schools undertake school readiness assessments for students on entry to kindergarten to assess the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness. The Performance Indicators in Primary School Program (PIPS) is used for this purpose.

Student information collected from PIPS assessments enables the Directorate and schools to develop learning programs targeted at meeting individual student needs. Information gained from PIPS may be used, together with NAPLAN data, for reporting and planning purposes.

PIPS was developed by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at the University of Durham in England and is run in Australia by PIPS Australia at the University of Western Australia (UWA). Under contractual arrangements with the Directorate, UWA provides administration of PIPS for ACT public schools and CEM undertake analysis of results. Student information such as name, roll group, date of birth, gender and indigenous status is provided to enable PIPS registration, assessment and reporting of individuals for the assessment.

Under the contractual requirements with the Directorate, both CEM and UWA are required to keep all data secure and only accessible to those working directly with it.

The Directorate's Privacy Policy explains how we handle and manage personal information.

The *Information Privacy Act 2014* is available at the ACT Legislation Register website

([www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)). The Education Directorate's *Privacy Policy* is available at the [About Us](#) page of the Directorate's website ([http://www.det.act.gov.au/about\\_us](http://www.det.act.gov.au/about_us)).

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## **Welcome to Curtin BBQ**

**Friday 2 March 5:30 to 7pm**

Want to get to know other parents at amazing Curtin Primary?

Come along to the Welcome BBQ on Friday March 2

The P&C will provide the sausage sandwiches so BYO everything else!



# SPORT NEWS

[amanda.beresford@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:amanda.beresford@ed.act.edu.au)

## SENIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Friday 2 March (Week 4)

### **BIG SPLASH,** Catchpole Street, Macquarie

Those children who wish to enter competitive races and/or be considered for selection in 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 will be sent home this week.**

Swimming notes **MUST BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY 23 February** to ensure entry and to assist with booking transport.

**Year 2 children born in 2010 - only those who want to enter a 50m competitive race may attend.**

## HELPERS

**We love family members coming along to help at the carnival. We have 2 sessions:**

1. 9.30-12pm Place Judging and Timekeeping
2. 12pm-2pm Supervising slides and assisting with novelties - You don't have to go in the water!

**I'd love to have as many helpers as possible, especially the afternoon session.**

**If you are able to help for either session or both, please email me at the above address.**

## PARENT V TEACHERS V STUDENT RELAY

On the day, we invite parents who are interested, to join us in a 50m relay event.

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## HOUSE CAPTAINS 2018

Curtin Primary School has a House system for sporting, citizenship and other events. The four Houses each being led by 4 House Captains. These students act as role models and leaders for the school. The Houses are named after local mountains.

**OAKEY      AINSLIE      TAYLOR      STROMLO**

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

**Elections for House Captains will be this Friday 9 February.**



## WEETBIX TRYathlon

Sunday 11 February

Thank you to those children who have registered to participate in the 2018 Weetbix TRYathlon. Registrations have now closed.

Check-in is between 7-8.30am

Look out for the Curtin banner near the finish line. Come and say hello.

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## BRONZE RESCUE

Last year we had interest from about 28 children regarding the Bronze Rescue Program for Year 5&6. We need to have 49 children to be able to book this program. If you would like your child to be involved, please return the expression of interest form attached to this newsletter.

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## BAND NEWS

Band times for 2018:

Year 5 band testing will be in week 2

Year 6 band testing will begin Monday Week 3

MONDAY		THURSDAY	
Lunchtime rehearsal Year 5 starting later in the term		Lunchtime rehearsal Year 6	
1.30pm - 2.15pm	Year 6	9am – 9.45am	Year 6
2.15pm – 3pm	Year 5	9.45am – 10.30am	Year 5

Our IMP band teacher this year is Ms Clare Leske

Our school band teacher is Ms Mues



**Brainwaves Club program** is an opportunity for highly able children to meet regularly with children of like-minds and undertake enrichment **out-of-school hours**. The Brainwaves Club runs on alternate Saturday afternoons during the school term.

### Year 1

We still have places available in our cross-curricula **DinoMites** club.

### Years 2 and 3

We still have places available in the **Apprentices**, **SciSpies** and **Omegas** clubs.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact [kathy@gateways.edu.au](mailto:kathy@gateways.edu.au) or call the office on 03 9894 2116.



This is a great initiative by Coles that allows us to order fantastic sporting equipment. The collection bins will be arriving shortly, so in the meantime, please send your vouchers to the front office. When the program finishes we will tally all our vouchers and start ordering.

Thank you for your support.

### **Please support development of Heysen Street Bike Path - between Weston and Lyons**

A number of local residents have been urging the ACT Government to develop a cyclepath along Heysen Street linking Weston and Lyons. This road is currently extremely unsafe for cyclists, and there is no alternative transport options or routes for cyclists for the children travelling between Weston to Curtin Primary School.

The development of this cycle path has recently been included in the ACT Government top 100 priority paths list. Further community support is needed to have this funded during the 2018-19 financial year.

Please support this development by signing the ***Facebook online petition: Heysen Street Bike Path.***

Thank you.