



# CURTIN COURIER

Issue 25

August 23 2017



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

25 Aug Book week Celebration

25Aug 5/6 Excursion Mogo Town

**31 Aug Thursday**  
2:00pm Assembly KK  
Change of Date

**1 Sept –WALKATHON**

**1 Sept – P&C Father's Day Breakfast**

8 Sept – Board meeting 7.30am

8 Sept Assembly 2:00pm 3/4 TM

Principal  
Merryn O'Dea

Deputy Principal  
Kerri Clark

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

# Thank you

To the parents who have given their time, resources and expertise to support our STEM festival program. Students from across the school have engaged with a variety of expert workshops, presentations and activities related to Science, Maths, Technology and Engineering. This festival provides students with interactive opportunities to engage with new ideas that will enrich their understanding across the curriculum. We would not be able to provide this without the ongoing partnership with families.



## Book Week

We are looking forward to seeing children in costume as favourite book characters on Friday. We appreciate the book donations building up in classes and encourage you to consider donating books if you have not yet had a look through your family collections. Students are also encouraged to bring a gold coin to purchase a new book and build a donation to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Thank you to the 62 families who have responded to the School Satisfaction Survey. We truly value the feedback and are aiming for 150 responses. Your feedback, be it positive, negative or full of suggestions is taken very seriously and used to inform our school plans into the future. Please access the survey at <https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/mhqXKVZY> and use the unique code provided to you. If you need a new code, please contact the front office. The survey closes on 28 August. **Please note the codes are not used to identify responses, but just ensure there is one response for each enrolled student.**

# 62

# Naplan Results and School Action Research

Using evidence to inform teaching is a critical part of ensuring all students are learning and have a positive sense of wellbeing at school. One of the main sources of data we use is analysis of student work either through class tasks or tests. We also regularly analyse reports about behaviour and survey students to gather feedback on the tone of the school and ensure wellbeing. These are supported by the data we collect about the demographics of the school. Looking at student results and demographic data enables us to 'tell a story' about student and school performance.

There are three main ways data is used.

- Individual teachers use data to track learning and guide the pace of the program
- Teaching teams use data to group students and discuss cohort needs
- Teaching teams and the whole staff use data to monitor the effectiveness of our work and plan school programs or professional learning.

Families of students in kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5 receive standardised test results through PIPS and NAPLAN reports. NAPLAN reports were sent home last week. As a principal, I analyse the NAPLAN data at a whole school level and staff meet to look at trends in the data. Considering the school demographic data and background context is important in 'telling the story' of school performance. As a school, we have some results to celebrate and some clear information about areas for development.

Strengths:

- Student growth between year 3 and year 5 is strong, particularly in Reading, Writing and Numeracy where over 75% students achieved above average growth.
- The longer a student has been at Curtin, the more significant their learning growth. This is evident in examining the cohort of students who begin their schooling at Curtin
- Many students who have participated in our *Response to Intervention* program have made significant gains in their learning.

Areas for Development

- Spelling is an area for ongoing professional learning. This confirms school assessment data and throughout 2017, we have been working to develop consistent whole school practice.
- Continued emphasis on teaching grammar as a tool for writing will ensure students have not only grammatical understanding, but can use language to craft their writing.
- We will consider how transition and induction processes for new students can be used to support learning for individuals and groups.

## Differentiation Action Research

The diversity of our student population is increasing as our suburb changes and we limit enrolment to students in area. This means that more than ever, we are required to deliver the curriculum in different ways, or at different levels to ensure all students are learning. Our school and NAPLAN data does indicate that there are students across the range of achievement bands who require further differentiation to achieve their potential.

Through the remainder of this term, the school executive team are collecting and examining several pieces of information to consider how the current approach to differentiation could be adapted. We have already made significant changes to the way we sequence and deliver the Australian curriculum and this will be evident in classrooms from 2018. Another area that will be explored is whether the streamed PALs classes are supporting us to meet the academic and social needs of all students. We do understand the PALs program is highly valued by many in the community, and will be exploring this through the following question:

### **Are streamed classes the best provision to ensure the learning of all students in the Curtin community?**

The project will answer this by exploring:

*What is the impact of having PALs classes on academic achievement for participating students?*

*What is the impact of having PALs classes on academic achievement for students in mixed ability classes?*

*What are the social, mindset and wellbeing implications of a streamed program?*

*Is the PALs program meeting its stated purpose?*

*Is the PALs program capturing the intended cohort?*

To support learning data, sample students, teachers, parents and graduates of Curtin will be interviewed or surveyed to capture impressions of the impact of PALs. We are also examining student transition to high school and learning achievements. Please look out for opportunities to participate. Alternatively, if you have stories, reflections or ideas related to the above questions, please feel welcome to contribute your thoughts by email, phone call or in person. All information will be treated with confidence and identified in feedback to the community. Every day, I hear a range of impressions through the school and I hope we can capture these to inform our next school plan.

Next term, we will be holding a series of morning and afternoon sessions to present data about NAPLAN, explore differentiation and present our new curriculum plan. I urge you to engage with these sessions to learn about our school 'story' and plans for the future. This is a very exciting opportunity to participate in a rich discussion about learning in the Curtin community and I look forward to the conversations and opportunity to enhance our quality practice and create the best possible learning environment for our students.

## Notes sent Home

Date	Note	Return By
17/8/2017	Year 3-6 Footsteps Dance Company	22/9/2017



# LET'S CELEBRATE BOOK WEEK! (Week 6)

## Donate a book

Please bring in any books you have outgrown to your class teacher. Classes will read these before selecting 5 books to donate to library for book week. Any remaining books will be displayed in the hall for a Great Book Swap.

## The Great Book Swap

On 24 August students can make a gold coin donation to come into the hall and choose a new book to take home. The money raised will be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to contribute to the purchase of quality literature for remote schools. Remaining books will be collected and delivered to charity that distributes books to schools overseas. This charity will be selected by the SRC and shared with each class.

## Dress up day

Which character will you dress up as? To celebrate Book Week, students can dress up as their favourite BOOK character on Friday 25 August.



## P&C Father's Day Breaky - Friday 1 September

Bring Dad to school at 8am on **Friday 1 September** and have an egg and bacon roll with him, head into the library and read your favourite book with him, grab some sporting gear and kick, shoot or have a hit around with him and (if we can organise it) have a game of dodge ball against him (kids vs Dads!). The egg and bacon rolls will be in the Junior courtyard and will cost \$4.

## Twilight Fair Committee Meeting

**Monday 28 August, 7.00pm, Statesman Hotel**

The organising committee for the Twilight Fair is meeting to start planning the 2017 Fair. If you have an idea for the Fair, or would like to be involved in the planning, please come along at 7pm on Monday 28 August. We need lots of hands to make the Fair a success, especially at this early stage - all welcome!

For more info please contact Georgie Kelley ([georgie.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:georgie.kelley@gmail.com))

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## SRC Update

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We are still collecting any type of tin with a lid. Can all containers please be given to Mrs Zarb and Ms North.



# THE WALKATHON IS COMING AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

All money raised will be used to upgrade the junior and senior playground in the term 3 holidays!

HELP US REACH OUR

GOAL OF \$20,000!



### **SRC Colour Walkathon Friday 1 September, 2017**



Date: Friday 1 September, 2017

Venue: Surrounds of Curtin Primary School (3km cross country track)

Classes: Whole school program – Preschool – Year 6

Time: 9.30am

Colour Run:

**This term the SRC have organised a colour walkathon for participants. The powder is maize based with colour dye. If your child does not wish to participate, they will take an alternate route to avoid the colour section.**

**If you do not wish your child to be covered with colour, please contact your child's class teacher.**

If the weather is unsuitable, the walkathon will be postponed to a later date (TBA)

What to bring:

- ❖ water bottle
- ❖ hat
- ❖ mufti clothing ( including an old white T-shirt) and suitable walking shoes
- ❖ recess and lunch(if not having a sausage sizzle)

Don't forget:

- ✓ Sponsorship forms must be returned to the class teacher
- ✓ If your child is asthmatic or requires an EpiPen they MUST carry their own medication in a small backpack or in their pocket

Thank you to parents who have volunteered to assist during the day. All parents/carers participating or assisting during the walkathon need to sign in at the Front Office before meeting Mrs Devenish on the senior oval.

Thank you  
Walkathon Committee

Curtin SAC  
**2018 ENROLMENTS  
OPEN 14 August 2017**

**Existing Families:** Please place a booking request through your **My Family Lounge** account

**New Families:** Please register for an account with **My Family Lounge** through the link on our website and put through a booking request.

<http://www.wcs.org.au/2016-08-25-01-57-46/school-age-care/enrolments-and-fees-2018>

Places are limited and offered on a first in first serve basis. We will try to accommodate all families the best we can.

If you have any questions please email [enrolments@wcs.org.au](mailto:enrolments@wcs.org.au) or call 6234 6829



**ACT Council of P&C Associations**  
Canberra Preschool Society  
Participating Preschools:

## Future of Education Forum

### What do you want from your school?

What might our schools look like?  
How can our schooling system be improved?

Join us to hear about the Future of Education consultation and then have your say.

All welcome.

Brought to you by ACT Council of P&C Associations and Canberra Preschool Society

Dear Woden Community

## **Call for nominations for local faces for the Melrose Drive mural**

Do you know a local hero? The Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) calls on the community to nominate Woden residents who have contributed to the wellbeing of the Woden Valley community to appear on the mural.

The WVCC undertook an Expression of Interest process, and on the basis of the concept designs received, has commissioned Mr Geoff Filmer of Graffik Paint to design and paint the mural. The concept design includes features and faces of Woden.

The objective of the mural is to deter tagging and at the same time provide an artistic piece that is valued by the community. The wall is situated in a prominent place in Woden (Corinna Chambers) and to involve the community in the project we are seeking to paint faces of people that have made a contribution to the Woden community.

Please send your nomination, with a photo and a short outline of the contribution made to the community, to [president@wvcc.org.au](mailto:president@wvcc.org.au) by Friday 8 September 2017.

The concept design is included below for your information.



Yours sincerely

Fiona Carrick  
President  
Woden Valley Community Council  
14 August 2017