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2 November 2017

Principal's Report



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

What's coming up?

Music Count Us In

On Thursday 2 November our whole school will participate in Music Count Us In, singing the same song at the same time as many thousands of school children around the country. Mrs Young has been preparing our students for this event. It is the eleventh year of Music Count Us In and the eleventh time Larapinta has taken part. Parents are welcome to join us in the Music Room; we will start at 11am precisely.

Fun Day Fundraiser Obstacle-a-thon

On Friday 3rd November we will hold our school's annual fundraising event. This year the student leadership team has come up with the idea of an obstacle-a-thon, an event where participants negotiate a series of obstacles by crawling, jumping, running and climbing etc. They kids have added some messy elements such as slime and water to make it even more interesting! Students can complete the course as many times as they like in the time allocated.

All money raised will go toward updating our iPads and purchasing new digital technology equipment such as Sphero SPRK and a green screen for making movies! To encourage donations, the student leadership team have built in some fun for the teachers too! If students raise \$15 they can throw sponges at their favourite staff member or \$30 will get them some tennis balls to throw at a target to drench them with a bucket full of water!

The top fundraiser from each area of the school (T-2 or 3-6) will get a small prize pack and the top fundraising class will have an ice cream party!

It's important that we get behind our kids and support this event! Please keep your eye out for more information about times and what to wear etc. If you have any questions, please contact Josie at the front office on 8958 5155.

Term 4

**Kind Regards,
Brenda and Jackie**

School Snapshot

Back to School Payment Scheme

The Northern Territory Back to School Payment Scheme Policy has been updated to provide better clarity around the use of the scheme, including providing a choice of appropriate goods and services. To further assist in understanding the scheme, supporting Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions are now also available on the department's website. The purpose of the Back to School Payment Scheme remains unchanged - to assist families with the costs of getting their children back to school at the beginning of the school year.

The scheme entitlement is to the value of \$150 of eligible goods and services per enrolled student and is redeemable from the school at which the student first attends. Goods and services must assist with educational outcomes.

It provides eligible students with an entitlement to receive educational items in each school year, with these items to be purchased only from the eligible student's school. The scheme entitlement is not intended to support the provision of standard curriculum or to redeem parent voluntary contributions.

In Term 4, 2017, you will receive information on how you can redeem the Back to School Payment Scheme for 2018.

Changes to school term dates

Commencing in 2018, Northern Territory (NT) government schools will operate with new school term dates and holiday breaks. The new dates have been set well in advance in order

to assist forward planning and national coordination. The new school term dates and holiday breaks have been approved for a five-year period, from 2018 to 2022.

2018 term dates

From 2018, term and semester breaks will be in a 1,3,2,6 weeks break model compared to the current 1,4,1,6 model. This means a three-week break in June and July and a longer two-week break before Term 4. The Christmas break is still six weeks. Term 1 will run for 11 weeks, Terms 2 and 3 for 10 weeks and Term 4 for nine weeks.

Spare School Uniforms

We are always in need of spare uniforms in the front office so if you have any in the cupboard that no longer fit your children, we would really appreciate them. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Preschool News

See-Saw Fun

After a request for the see-saw when it was spotted in the storeroom, a lot of mathematical discussion and problem solving followed. Who is heavier? Who is lighter? How do you know? What do you think you can do to get 'unstuck'? Get me down please? This was some of the language that followed. In conjunction to the language and questioning skills being used, children had to practise sharing, negotiating and waiting for their turn. Weighing was then extended inside with the introduction of the balance scales and items to weigh and compare.



Outcome 5 – Communication: Begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work 5.4c develop measurement and geometry concepts

Outcome 5 – Communication: Interact verbally and non-verbally for a range of purposes 5.1e begin to use and extend language in a range of contexts

Amazing Plants

We have been observing plants growing from seeds and seedlings and learning about the Broad Bean Plant Life Cycle. Children have been sharing their discoveries and have begun to compare the height of their plants and use a ruler with some help to measure them. Some plants were a challenge to measure because they were growing sideways.



Outcome 4 – Learning and Thinking: Develop a range of skills and processes for learning and thinking 4.2a develop problem

solving, investigation and inquiry strategies

Outcome 5 – Communication: Begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work 5.4c develop measurement and geometry concepts

Larapinta Primary Transition Visits

Children going to Transition at Larapinta Primary School in 2018 visited the Transition classes, having the opportunity to explore that environment and ask the Transition students and their teachers about what to expect next year. Other visits are scheduled for Tuesday 13th November, Thursday 16th November, Tuesday 28th November and Thursday 30th November from 9.30 to 10.30. If your child attends in the afternoon you are welcome to bring your child to these visits, however, you will have to stay with them.

Water Fun Days



With the weather warming up water play is becoming a very popular preschool activity. It is good idea to include a labelled spare set of clothes in your child's bag every day just in case they need to get changed. On Tuesdays and Thursdays children can bring labelled:

- Bathers
- Towel
- T-shirt/Rashie that cover your child's shoulders
- Swimming hat

Children will have the opportunity to splash in the boat, play under the sprinklers and join in lots of other watery activities.

2017 Alice Springs Art Expo Display

Artwork we created for the 2017 Alice Springs Art Expo is still on display in the Alice Springs Town Library until mid-November if you missed the opening. The Town Library is open on Monday - Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday & Sunday 10am-1pm.

Parent Direct Catalogues

Thanks to our families who have already ordered from the Parent Direct Fundraiser catalogue. You can place an order any time but if you were hoping for delivery before Christmas it is important to place your order soon.



2017 Preschool Concert

Save the date. Our preschool concert this year will be on Thursday 30th November from 5 – 6.30pm. More information to follow.

Child and Family Centre (CFC)

*Our vision is that every child has the best possible start to life.
Children & families are at the centre of all we do.
Families are their child's first teachers and we support a
strength based approach.*

Healthy snacks at playgroup!

Anthea Brand is our visiting dietician from Flynn Drive. She pops in regularly to help us learn more about healthy eating. If you want some ideas, come in and check out our resources and recipe folder – you can take copies home and try them out.

Here's Anthea with some of our Families as First Teachers (FaFT) families. FaFT is more than just learning fun for kids - it's healthy, food fun for families too! The mums and kids are making healthy and tasty veggie fritters. Yum! Yum! Yum!



Come to Wednesday Playgroup on November 15 at 12:30 if you want to join in and cook up some healthy food with Anthea!

Food Fun!

Anthea will also be hosting another Food Fun session at our centre on Thursday 23 November at 12noon. The focus is on 'Family Food Three Ways' (Babies, toddlers and adults). Bring your little kids, have a cuppa and cook up a storm (and of course taste it too!) Put it in your diary and we will see you then!

Water Babies!

The weather is heating up so it was time for the water play trough. These two water babies couldn't help themselves and climbed right in!



Alangwe...Langwa...Bush bananas!

Last week one of our families planted our bush banana seedlings. They are called *alangwe* in Arrernte or *langwa* in

Western Arrernte. We planted them from seeds last year. This could be a very small beginning of some bush foods in our garden! If you are interested in working with us to create a bush foods and bush medicine garden (or know anyone or an organisation that can help), please let us know!



Community News

Meningococcal ACYW vaccine program to be expanded

31 October 2017

The meningococcal quadrivalent (ACWY) vaccination program, developed to control an outbreak of meningococcal W disease in the Aboriginal population of Central Australia and the western Katherine regions, is to be expanded to include all young Territorians aged one to 19 year old in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

The quadrivalent ACWY vaccine will be added to the Northern Territory (NT) Childhood Vaccination Schedule on 1 December 2017 for all infants throughout the Territory at 12 months of age, replacing the current meningococcal C vaccine.

"All cases to date of meningococcal W disease in the NT have been in Aboriginal people and in the initial roll out we have been focussing on the groups at highest risk of disease," said the Centre of Disease Control Director Dr Vicki Krause.

"From tomorrow we are expanding the program to all children one to 19 years old in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine together with all those aged one to 19 years in the remote communities of the Katherine region."

"It is important to stress that our efforts must continue in those groups most at risk; who are those children aged one to 19 years in remote communities in Central Australia and Katherine regions and urban Aboriginal children in Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

There have been 29 reported cases of meningococcal W in Central Australia, with the last case on 17 October. All cases have been in the Aboriginal population with the majority being aged between one and 10 years. Prioritising those most at risk of getting meningococcal W disease and working to stop the spread has been the aim of our outbreak response.

"The community-controlled Aboriginal health organisations and the NT Department of Health staff, along with those living in communities, have done a fantastic job in achieving high vaccine coverage rates in much of the high-risk population areas," Dr Krause said.

"These efforts have limited the outbreak, but we need to maintain our vigilance and continue our response and look to the next step. It is time now to vaccinate those in the lower risk group," Dr Krause said.

Meningococcal disease is an uncommon but very serious disease. It is treatable with antibiotics but the infection can progress very quickly. It is important for people to be aware of the symptoms and to seek medical advice early for either themselves or children in their care if they have any concerns.

Symptoms may include fever, headache, neck stiffness, an aversion to bright lights, a rash and joint pain. Those affected may also have vomiting and diarrhoea, be difficult to wake up and babies may refuse food and drink and have a high pitched cry.

"The meningococcal W bacteria continues to be carried by healthy people in Australia, in fact we know that the meningococcal bacteria are estimated to live in the nose and throat of about 10% of the population at any one time," Dr Krause said.

"The meningococcal ACWY vaccine works to stop the carriage of the ACWY meningococcus germs from those people who are carrying them and also to protect persons from getting sick with meningococcal disease.

The vaccine will be available free from the following health services for all young Territorians aged one to 19 years in Alice Springs, Barkly and Katherine Regions:

- Northern Territory Government primary health care and community health clinics in both urban and remote areas of Alice Springs, Barkly and Katherine regions.
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service clinics in urban and remote areas of Alice Springs, Barkly and Katherine regions.
- General Practice clinics in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine (a consultation fee may apply)

School-based programs will commence mid-November in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs for all students in year 7 to year 12. Parents are encouraged to learn about the vaccination program and register their consent. It is important for consent forms to be returned to the school to ensure this program will be successful.

Details regarding the meningococcal ACWY vaccine availability:

Alice Springs

Community Health, Centre at Flynn Drive.

Telephone: 8951 6521 (business hours Monday to Friday)

The vaccination clinic will be available by appointment only:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am – 4pm

Tuesday and Thursday 8am - 8pm

Saturday 9 - 2pm

Katherine

Community Health Centre, Government Centre, First Street.

Telephone: 8973 8570

The vaccination clinic will be available by appointment only:

Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Tennant Creek

Child and Family Health, Allied Health Corridor, Leichardt Street.

Telephone: 8962 4218

Appointments available:

Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm

STEAM Hub

The Alice Springs Public Library is hosting another STEAM Hub evening and we'd love you to come along and invite other interested parties. Everyone is welcome.

When: Thursday 23 November, 6pm-7.30pm

Where: Alice Springs Public Library, Cnr Gregory & Leichardt Terraces, Alice Springs NT

Who: Adults with a passion for tech education and the desire to see Alice Springs become a hub for coding, programming, robots, 3D printers or anything else tech-related!

What's on: Introduction to LEGO Mindstorms - learn how to build and code LEGO Mindstorms (used for RoboCup 2018) and RoboCup Junior 2018 information session

RSVP: Please register your interest in this FREE networking & learning opportunity via the link below

<http://www.aspl.eventbrite.com.au>



Relationships Australia.

Relationships Education Course
Parenting Adolescents

Do you want to know more about how to enjoy the teenage years with your Adolescent? Do you ask yourself: What's happening in their heads? Why do they act the way they do? How can we build a better relationship with them? Come and be part of some exciting discussions and new learning.

This course is for Parents/Carers of Adolescents aged 10-18 years.



Date: Wednesday, 15 November 2017

Time: 06:30PM - 09:00PM

Cost: \$35 Individual or \$50 Couple

Venue: Relationships Australia

4/11 Railway Terrace

Alice Springs

For further information or to book, please contact
Relationships Australia on receptionas@ra-nt.org.au or 8950 4100