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1 August 2018

Acting Principal's Report

Dear Families,

A big welcome back to everyone and a special welcome to all our new families. It has been great to walk through classrooms and see all our students engaged in learning from the first day of term!

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Young and Mrs Steed are both taking some leave this term. A new teacher, Mrs Jenni Harrison, will take on the music program for the term and Miss Jess Luobikis, who already works with us, is teaching in the Year 1/2 class.

Mrs Wendy Kleeman has been teaching our Year 4/5 class while we wait for the new teacher to arrive from interstate. I am hopeful that she will be here, ready to go in the next week or so. I will send families a letter once a starting date has been confirmed. Thank you for your patience as we finalise the recruiting process.

Mrs Jacki Raybould will act in a senior teacher position this term, supporting the Transition to Year 2 classes as well as continuing as one of our Transition teachers. Mrs Eleanor Diflo will teach in Transition Raybould on Wednesdays.

Ms Jolley is also on leave this term and I will act in the Principal role. Mrs Bramley will be Acting Assistant Principal.

LEARNING UPDATE

Our children are very interested in the 'War on Waste' currently screening on the ABC and I am hearing lots of great conversations about how we can reduce our impact on the Earth by reusing and recycling instead of throwing things out. Mr Howard's Friday Green Team and Mrs Raybould's Transition students are currently investigating a number of recycling initiatives to introduce to the school, including recycling bins in the playground and a waste-free day each week where everyone will be encouraged to bring food that

produces no waste products (except things that can be mulched!).

Randomly selected students from Year 3 and Year 5 will complete a series of NAPLAN online tests over the next few weeks. If you did not receive a parent information sheet last week, please come into the office, call or email Josie for details.

We continue to focus on improving our writing results. This term students will be learning about character descriptions and poetry. To help them at home, please continue to read them fabulous stories to expose them to the language they will need to write amazing descriptions to paint pictures in the minds of their readers with their words.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Lots of very excited children discovered the new climbing wall at the back of B Block on the first day of school. We let them determine how to play safely and to solve problems as they arose and they have done a fabulous job of monitoring this over the past week and a half.



As our school continues to grow, we have run out of space for teachers to meet and plan! We have been lucky enough to get an additional demountable classroom at the back of the school. This space will be used as a teacher meeting and planning space for the remainder of this year and we will re-assess this for the start of 2019.

IMPORTANT DATES

There are many exciting events on the calendar this term for some of our students, including this year's Alice Can Dance project, culminating in two performances at Araluen on Friday 28th September.

Our whole school concert will be held on Thursday 20th September. Please keep your eyes on the school newsletter and Facebook page for regular concert updates.

Our annual **SCHOOL SURVEY** opens Monday 13th August and closes Friday 31st August (Wk 4-6). There will be a link attached to the newsletter and on our Facebook page. Please come into the office and use one of our school devices to complete it online. Alternatively, we will have some paper copies available for families to fill out and return.

Our first **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING** for this term will be held in the staffroom on Monday 20th August.

Both Jacqui and I are really looking forward to working with all our families this term so please pop into the office if you have any questions or concerns, or simply drop by to say hello.

Kind regards,

Jackie Mullins

School Snapshot

TRANSITION CELEBRATE 100 DAYS!

Last week the Transition students celebrated their first 100 days of school. In the lead up to this momentous milestone, over the holidays, families worked together to paint, draw, write or create fabulous art works that reflected the number 100. On Thursday all the children participated in activities relating to 100 such as building Lego structures with one hundred pieces or writing with 100 letters – they even used an app to make themselves look 100 years old!

The students have set up a fabulous museum in the library showcasing their work.



CAR PARK SAFETY

The car park behind the Early Learning Centre is designated for **school staff** only with a small number of parks allocated to the Early Learning Centre right outside the preschool entry gates. For safety reasons students are not allowed to arrive or leave through this car park and parents are also asked not to take children through this area. Please use the 'kiss and go' area at the front of the school for drops offs and pick ups.

It is absolutely vital that we model safe behaviour in the car park area for all our students. Please do not cross in front of cars in the 'kiss and go' area, instead please use the crossing when moving from the flag area to the parking bays. Also,

please pay attention to the crossing and do not use your mobile phones when you drive. These things are important every day but especially important when our children are waiting to be collected as they watch our every move!

In the afternoon school finishes at 2.50pm, however, the preschool operates until 3.30pm. As the Preschool and Early Learning Centre operate in a shared, regulated space it is not appropriate for primary school children to walk through to the preschool and play in the grounds after school or wait there for parents. Primary school children should instead be collected from the primary school – thank you for your cooperation to ensure everyone stays safe and we operate within requirements.

FREE NEWSLETTER APP

Families can download the free Schoolzine Newsletter App (SZapp) onto their devices as a great way to keep up to date with important information about upcoming events and exciting things that have been happening at school. It also enables you to view previous newsletters. For instructions on how to install the APP, click on the link below:

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

If your child is required to be given medication at school (e.g. antibiotics, Panadol, cough syrup etc.), please ensure that you visit the front office and complete the required paperwork. First Aid staff cannot administer any medication without appropriate consent. All medications are to be kept in the First Aid room. Children should not have asthma puffers or other medications in their school bags.

Preschool News

We would like to welcome back our families after the break and hope you had an enjoyable time and safe travels if you went away. We would also like to extend a big welcome to all our new children and families who have started with us this term.

We would like to wish Mrs Cathy Bridges all the very best as she enjoys her travels whilst on Long Service Leave. We wish Mrs Holly Bennett the very best in her new position as Preschool Assistant Educator and welcome Miss Sam Hull who will be working in a support role at preschool.

Exciting Alice Springs Show News



This year we created a paper plate chook mobile for the Alice Springs Show which received 1st place for Category J26 – Mobile, School and Organisation Group Projects. A "Teddy Bear's Picnic" display was entered in the Under 7 Art Junior section and won 3rd Prize. This entry was also awarded the Steward's Pick ribbon. Some of our children's robot drawings were also entered and are now displayed in Unit 1. All of this

art work is now displayed at Preschool so have a look next time you are in.



Reminders:

- Preschool families are welcome to use the playground and yard during drop off and pick up times however we ask families to be mindful that the Early Learning Centre (ELC) is still operating during these times. We ask for your cooperation in encouraging your child to clean up the area they are playing in before you leave.
- Children grow and learn better with healthy foods. Please provide a healthy lunchbox which include foods such as **fresh fruit, crunchy vegetables, a meat or protein food** such as lean meat, **Dairy foods** such as cheese, milk or yoghurt and a **starchy food** such as bread, roll, flat bread, fruit bread or crackers. Please leave out **sugary drinks** like fruit juice, fruit drinks and cordial, chocolate and muesli bars, sweet biscuits, cakes, roll ups and potato chips.
- If your child is going to be away, please notify the Preschool on 89585145 or reply to the text message (FREE).

Upcoming Events

- “Josephine can Dance” workshop for Wed/Thurs groups and afternoon sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in Week 2.
- Excursion to “Josephine can Dance” performance on Wednesday 8 August (Week 3) at 1pm.

Parent interviews are ongoing. Please see your child’s teacher to book in a time.

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.

It’s been a busy time for our Child and Family Centre during the school holidays. We have had nearly 100 young children visit our centre during the break (about 6-8 families a day)! We hosted two breast feeding focus groups with Flynn Drive and have also connected up quite a few families with Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy. We celebrated NAIDOC Week and hosted playgroup in the park.

NAIDOC Week!

A few weeks ago we celebrated NAIDOC Week. This year’s theme is “Because of her, we can!” and celebrates the

enormous contribution Aboriginal women have made for children, for families, for our community and for our country.

Larapinta Child and Family Centre staff attended the Aboriginal flag raising ceremony on Anzac Hill.



We also created a banner and participated in the NAIDOC march – it has the names of Aboriginal women who have inspired lives here in Alice Springs.



We are collecting stories of Aboriginal women who have inspired and contributed to families and the community here in Alice Springs. If you know of a local, inspirational Aboriginal women, please come and tell us. We can add their name to our NAIDOC banner and also capture their story. We hope to host a community event at the end of term to share the stories.

Playgroup in the Park

A few weeks ago we had ‘playgroup in the park’ at Lyndavale Park. We invited families in the local area and a few services who support families. We took pumpkin soup and a sausage sizzle. It was a beautiful day in the winter sun and the children and families had great fun playing and learning together.





PECS
LEVEL 1 TRAINING

“ EXCELLENT PRESENTATION OF A VERY INTERESTING SUBJECT. The best course I have attended in 20 years as a teacher. Many thanks. ”
- PECS Level 1 delegate London

**Professional: \$660
Parent: \$400**

**Alice Springs | Venue: TBA
17 & 18 September 2018**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
13 HOURS OF CONTACT TIME

The evidence-based Picture Exchange Communication System[®] (PECS) is used to rapidly teach communication skills to those with limited functional speech. The PECS[®] Protocol is successfully utilised in learning environments by hundreds of thousands of professionals worldwide.

PECS[®] Level 1 Training is engaging and interactive. It begins by teaching spontaneous request, teaches additional communicative functions such as responding to questions and commenting. Learn to implement the six phases of PECS[®] and attributes, utilizing the PACE Approved PECS[®] Protocol. Participants will leave the workshop with an understanding of how to implement the PECS[®] Protocol in classrooms with learners who have complex communication and behavioural needs such as autism, and related disabilities.

An added benefit for preschool children with autism and related disabilities is the high proportion who acquire independent speech. "When three students with autism, ages 5-9, were taught PECS[®] over a period of less than two months, their spoken language consisted of more words and they used more complex grammar in speech." Ganz and Simpson 2004.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ▶ Help Meet ECH Requirements
- ▶ Learn classroom instruction strategies
- ▶ Identify key components to designing effective educational environments using The Pyramid Approach to Education
- ▶ Develop strategies to create an abundance of opportunities for communication
- ▶ Identify the relationship between PECS & traditional communication training approaches
- ▶ Implement all six phases of PECS using a behaviour analytic orientation
- ▶ Identify criteria for transitioning from PECS to other communication modalities

Tuition Includes - Pecs[®]
Training Manual, a CD with data sheets, checklists, detailed handouts, CEU Credits and Certificate of Attendance.

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<https://www.asg.com.au/about-asg/neita>



Saturday AUSKICK Centre
SATURDAY MORNING - Traeger Park Oval
9:00AM - 10:00AM
REGISTER AT www.aflauskick.com.au
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