Welcome back to an exciting and productive term.

**The Learning and Teaching Program**

**English**
In English the 5/6 team will be focusing on information report writing. Information reports are designed to present factual information clearly and succinctly. The students will be exposed to various examples of reports throughout the term, linked directly to our Science unit of work – Monster Storms. Students will examine the different structural and grammatical components that make up information reports and implement this in their own writing. Students will continue to develop their speaking skills through Rostrum & in-class presentations. As part of our whole-school approach to reading, students will use cooperative reading and first steps reading resources to engage in questioning and critiquing texts, and will continue to examine text structures and features. Students will also work on related aspects of grammar and further their understanding of spelling strategies.

**Mathematics**
This term we will cover concepts including: estimation and rounding, factors and multiples, length and area, 12 and 24hr time, timetables, 3D shapes and division. Students are encouraged to continue to access Mathletics, as this program provides flexible and relevant consolidating activities that support our Mathematics unit.

**Integrated Studies – Geography**
In Geography students will focus on factors that shape the characteristics of places, particularly climate. They will extend their understanding of the world map to include North America and Europe, and will consider the influence that Aboriginal Australians had on the environment in Australia. In the final part of the unit, students will investigate how people work to mitigate and prepare for natural hazards, such as bushfires. To support students’ understandings of this unit, they will participate in an excursion to the Jerrabomberra Wetlands to conduct field research.

**Drama**
Drama for Year 5 this term will continue to engage the imagination. Students will explore prescriptive scripts and how music creates atmosphere. They will further familiarise themselves with drama terminology and work collaboratively in short and more sustained activities. The two interrelated reporting strands will continue to be about making and then responding, with an emphasis on analysing their work and the work of others.

**Science**
This term students will embark on our first mission from the JASON project – Monster Storms. They will be asked to gather critical weather intelligence for their community in order to anticipate any possible threat from a monster storm. To fulfil this, students will learn how energy gets from the sun to the earth, recognise the difference between the greenhouse effect and global warming, identify the components of air and explain how wind is generated. This unit links closely with our Geography unit.

**Physical Education**
Our focus in Physical Education will be to prepare students for their Athletics Carnival with the skills they need to participate in this event. In class groups, students will work through a weekly rotation comprising shot put, discus, running, hurdles and long jump. As always, we ask that students who are unwell or injured be provided with a note from home.
**Bounce Back**
This term we will continue with our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. This program explores topics related to student resilience including: developing positive and pro-social values; developing strategies for coping and bouncing back; finding courage in everyday life as well as in difficult circumstances; optimistic thinking and looking on the bright side; developing relationship skills; and skills and attitudes for being successful. A whole school focus will occur in assemblies and then be unpacked through explicit teaching in class groups.

**Indonesian**
In Indonesian students will produce a written and visual text (comic/cartoon strip) based on the topics learnt during Term 1. They will also be involved in collaborating with peers to complete a small research project culminating in a cultural and factual big book about Indonesia, including an artefact and incorporating Indonesian language. Students will continue to be exposed to grammatical structures and rules as well as recognise that Indonesian contains influences from other languages. Our topics for this term include numbers 100 – 1 million, body parts, clothing and adjectives where students will have the opportunity to participate in games, songs and skits; contribute to class activities and create and translate simple bilingual texts.

**Music**
In Year 5 the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask will be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. Tempo and dynamics will be the main focus for Term 2. We will be looking at different rhythmic patterns using ostinato and canon. Using the Kodaly method, songs, tuned and non-tuned percussion and body movement will be used to consolidate their understanding. Some Australian bush dances will be taught in addition to the Upbeat program. The Curwen hand signs for the full octave will be revised and used in sight singing.

**Library**
Students are encouraged to borrow and return library books on a regular basis, and to do so, they need to bring a library bag to school. Please check in with your child and ask how they are going with the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge!

**Homework**
Homework is sent out on a fortnightly basis, and started in week 1 this term. Encouraging your child to put aside small, regular homework times sets them up for good study habits in preparation for High School.

**Important Information**
**Student Requirements** – It is important that students have a broad brimmed or legionnaire style sun-smart hat at school every day for recess, lunch and PE sessions. We encourage students to bring water bottles and a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for fruit break in the morning.

**Absence Notes** – It is a directorate requirement that a written note be provided following a student’s absence from school. An email to your child’s teacher or the front office is also acceptable, as is a message sent via the Garran Primary School app. Whilst a phone call to the school is appreciated, it does not meet the legal requirements for notification of absence.

To contact your child’s teacher by email - firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 May</td>
<td>Cyber Safety Presentation (Year 5/6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6 May</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day Celebration Assembly, 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10 May - Thurs 12 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN (Year 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>Thurs 12 May</td>
<td>School Rostrum Final, 11.30am</td>
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<td>Mon 16 May</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad 1 (Years 3-6)</td>
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<td>Tues 17 May</td>
<td>ICAS Digital Technologies</td>
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<td>Wed 18 May</td>
<td>Musica Viva</td>
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<td>Fri 20 May</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 May</td>
<td>School Photos (MSP), K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 May</td>
<td>James Hird Cup (Boys)</td>
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<td>Mon 30 May</td>
<td>Parliament of Youth on Sustainability (Years 3-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 31 May</td>
<td>ICAS Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 June</td>
<td>Da Vinci Decathlon (Years 5/6)</td>
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Tues 7 June       School Athletics Carnival
Wed 8 June       Maths Olympiad 2 (Years 3-6)
Fri 10 June       James Hird Cup (Girls)
Mon 13 June      Queen's Birthday Holiday
Tues 14 June - Wed 15 June    Christian Education in Schools
Wed 15 June      ICAS Spelling
Thurs 16 June    ICAS Writing
Fri 17 June      Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Thurs 30 June    Nexus Arts, Circular Rhythm Performance
Fri 1 July       End of Term 2

Please note that Nude Food Day is every Thursday.

Kind Regards,

Mhairi Henderson, Tim Ward-Harvey, Lindsay Radburn, Justin Moyle, Sally Martin, Suzanne Prowse, Marina Fowler and Andrew Buesnel – Team Leader.

2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school's staff room.

Term 2
• 18 May
• 15 June

Term 3
• 10 August
• 7 September

Term 4
• 2 November
• 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.