Welcome to 2016! We look forward to working with your child in exciting and engaging ways and sharing their learning with you throughout the year.

About the Year 6 Team

Mrs Chris Nuttall
My name is Chris Nuttall, and I am delighted to be teaching Year 6 this year. Singling out one favourite subject to teach would be too hard – all areas of the curriculum are fascinating. Before coming to teaching, amongst other things, I trained in and performed classical music. Working in the Garran Primary School community is extremely rewarding, and I am looking forward to enjoying this, the final year of primary school for our Year 6 students.

Mrs Sarah Sweeney
Hi, my name is Sarah Sweeney and this is my second year at beautiful Garran Primary School. I have been teaching for over 5 years in the NSW and ACT systems. I am a Year 6 specialist and thrive on challenging, mentoring and educating students in their graduation year. My hobbies include bushwalking, yoga, reading and learning about gardening with native plants. I love teaching all subject areas but have a special passion for HASS subjects (Humanities and Social Sciences). I will be going on maternity leave at the end of Term 1 and the school is currently filling my position with another teacher to ensure we have plenty of time to handover the class smoothly.

Mr Justin Moyle
I am delighted to be part of the upper primary team at Garran this year, teaching History, Geography, Mathematics and Literacy across some of the year 5 and 6 classes. Last year I taught casually across all year levels at Garran, including longer stints in two of the upper primary classes. Over the past 15 years I have worked in education in a variety of settings and roles. I have taught in the Department of Education of South Australia, in Japan as an English teacher and at the University of Canberra’s English Language Institute. I also worked in the Australian Public Service (Department of Defence) in policy and in education and training prior to working at Garran.

Mrs Sally Martin
My name is Sally Martin (Ibu Sally) and I am looking forward to teaching Indonesian this year in grades 3-6. I have recently returned from maternity leave as my husband (Trevor) and I have a 4 year old (Emilie) and a 1 year old (Oliver). Previous to that I was teaching at Monash Primary on a year 3/4 class. For nearly 5 years, I lived in Jakarta, Indonesia where I worked at an international school for 2 years. I also studied Bahasa Indonesia while I was there. We travelled to some lovely places in Indonesia, met wonderful people, and shared amazing experiences; all of which I hope to share with the students this year.

Mrs Suzanne Prowse
My name is Suzanne Prowse. This year I will be teaching music from Kindergarten to Year 6 and also taking the senior choir. I enjoy leading a choir out of school hours and have expertise in a range of dance genres. I am an experienced teacher and have taught all ages from Preschool to Year 12.

Mr Andrew Buesnel – Team Leader
My experience with our ACT Directorate began in the mid 1990s and I have enjoyed teaching in a range of ACT schools in this time. I have now been teaching long enough in our system to see ex-primary school students of mine begin to enrol their own children in schools where I’m teaching. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, bike riding, camping and getting in the ocean whenever I can. I am really excited about being at Garran
again in 2016 and look forward to working alongside our teachers and students to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.

The Learning and Teaching Program

English
In English this term students will be focusing on speaking and listening, writing to persuade, and engaging with non-fiction texts that support our Integrated Unit. Through exploring and investigating the exposition text type, students will have opportunities to develop their understanding of specific grammar and spelling conventions and rules. Students will be expected to read independently and respond to what they have read through a variety of reading activities. They will be developing their public speaking skills along with their ability to interact with peers through cooperative learning. Please ensure that your child has a novel for silent reading time – they may borrow from the library or bring one in from home.

Mathematics
In Mathematics this term, students have been placed in ability maths groups allowing for a comprehensive and differentiated program that will support their individual needs. In planning our program we use the Garran Primary School Scope and Sequence documents as core curriculum guides.

This term we will cover concepts including:
Prime and composite numbers, square and triangular numbers, negative numbers, perimeter and area, timetables, Cartesian coordinates, addition and subtraction of decimal numbers, averages and angles.

Integrated Studies – Australian Colonial History
In Term 1 students will study colonial Australia in the 1800s including the reasons for the founding of British colonies in Australia. They will develop research skills by exploring the impact of a development or event on one Australian colony, and they will examine what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period. In covering this period of history, students will analyse sources and compare points of view.

Drama
Drama for Year 6 this term will further consolidate presentational and analysis skills by offering, accepting and extending situations to shape dramatic action in both improvised and devised drama. They will also identify, describe and comment on their own work and the work of others. Not only will this nurture creativity, but will help troubleshooting and problem solving in all areas of their academia. Students working in various extension groups, both in class or extra-curricular (advertised throughout the year) may also develop and establish theatre roles such as advertising, choreography or stage managing and technical operation such as lighting and sound.

Science
This term students will be investigating how they can reduce the environmental impact of the average Canberran. They will investigate and inquire into sustainability through the concept of an ecological footprint and consider the factors that influence this. They will also explore the actions that can be taken to reduce the size of our ecological footprint to ensure that Canberra becomes a more sustainable environment to live in.

Physical Education
In PE students will refine and further develop a wide range of fundamental movement skills in more complex movement patterns and situations. They will also further develop their understanding about movement as they learn to monitor how their body responds to different types of physical activity. In addition, they will continue to learn to apply rules fairly and behave ethically when participating in different physical activities. Students will also learn to effectively communicate and problem-solve in teams or groups in movement settings. They will participate using a variety of skills in game situations in mixed groups.

If your child is unable to participate in the daily sessions please inform their class teacher in writing. Suitable shoes and sunsmart hats are required each day.

Bounce Back
This term we will continue with our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. The 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 each week and then be unpacked through explicit teaching in class groups afterwards.
Indonesian
This term students will create their own comic book/cartoon using modelled language, formulaic expressions, subject specific vocabulary relating to daily life, school, friends and pastimes, and use more complex, grammatical sentences learnt during Bahasa lessons. Students will be given opportunities to participate in classroom tasks that involve interacting with peers, asking and responding to questions, engaging with texts and responding to teacher instructions.

Music
In Year 6 the Kodaly method, will be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. Beat, rhythm, pitch and dynamics will be the main focus for Term 1. They will look at 4/4, 6/8 and 3/4 time through dance and song to demonstrate and awareness of beat and rhythm. They will create counter-melodies (harmonies) and ostinato to accompany the songs. Songs, tuned and non-tuned percussion and body movement are used to consolidate the students understanding of the musical elements. The Curwen hand signs will be revised and used in sight singing.

Library
The help of parents and carers in providing students with a library bag is very much appreciated. During this term students will be encouraged to read and borrow a wide variety of literature and to share their responses with their class mates. They will also learn how to select and locate library resources effectively and efficiently.

Homework
Homework goes home fortnightly on Thursdays starting in Week 5. This will include spelling, reading, maths, history, music and Indonesian activities. Due dates will be included on the homework grid.

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

Nude Food Day every Thursday

Wednesday 17 February  Parent Information Evening
Friday 26 February  Assembly, 11.30am
Tuesday 1 March  Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House
Friday 4 March  School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am
Friday 11 March  Swimming Carnival
Monday 14 March  Canberra Day
Friday 18 March  Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Tuesday 22 March  Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)
Wednesday 23 March  CEIS
Friday 25 March  Good Friday
Monday 28 March  Easter Monday
Monday 4 April – 6 April  Year 5/6 Camp Cooba
Thursday 7 April  Cross Country: 9am -11am
Friday 8 April  Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am

Kind Regards,

Marina Fowler, Suzanne Prowse, Sally Martin, Justin Moyle, Sarah Sweeney, Chris Nuttall 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 1
- 24 Feb
- 23 March

Term 2
- 18 May
- 15 June

Term 3
- 10 August
- 7 September

Term 4
- 2 November
- 30 Nov

You are cordially invited to attend.