We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our Kindergarten students and their families to Garran Primary School. We have had a very positive start, with all students settling in extremely well. Miss Kirchner’s class will be known as the ‘Hungry Caterpillars’ (KK), Mrs Nye’s class will be known as the ‘Turtles’ (KN) and Ms Brown’s class will be called the ‘Elves and Fairies’ (KB). Ms Penny Taylor-Yates will be the Executive Teacher leading the Kindergarten team.

As a team we bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to cater for all students and will provide a range of activities and experiences to make Kindergarten a memorable year. We are all really excited about the year ahead and aim to instil a love of learning in all of our students.

About the Kindergarten Team

Miss Joanne Kirchner
I am very excited to be teaching at Garran Primary School for my second year. Last year I team taught on Kindergarten with Janice Hourigan and taught across all of the primary grades. Before completing my teaching degree, I obtained a degree in Psychology from the Australian National University. I have a passion for early years education and child development. I love teaching and learning and I aim to instil a lifelong love of learning in my students. I am eager to get to know you all and work in partnership with you to guide your children to become independent and confident learners.

Mrs Mandy Nye
I moved to Australia from Christchurch, New Zealand with my Australian husband. Previously I studied Biology at the University of Canterbury and then discovered my love of teaching. I am excited to be teaching in Canberra for my fifth year and this will be my third year on a Kindergarten class. I am looking forward to getting to know you and beginning a learning journey with all the brilliant Kindergarten students this year.

Ms Gina Brown
I have been a teacher in the ACT system for 30 years. I have taught all grades and am still passionate about helping our children to become resilient, positive learners for life. I have two grown up sons. I enjoy reading and gardening and I have recently begun to cycle. I look forward to continuing my involvement in the Garran community.

Mrs Fiona Quigley
This is my eighth year teaching Indonesian at Garran Primary. I have also taught Indonesian at a number of other schools, including Weetangera, Turner and Majura Primary Schools. I’m married and have one daughter who is working in London and a son who has started an Engineering degree in Sydney. I love teaching children that learning another language is FUN! Away from school, I enjoy going to the gym, cooking, photography, going to the beach and travelling, both within Australia and overseas.

Mrs Jodie Lawson-Santos
Hello Kindergarten! I am married to a Spaniard and we have two teenagers. Students may call me, ‘Ms L-S’. I have been teaching for over twenty years and have taught all grades from Kindergarten through to Year 10. I am passionate about school being a significant place for students and their families, and have post graduate qualifications in gifted education. I am very excited to be teaching Science and Mathematics at Garran School 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.
Mrs Penny Taylor-Yates – Team Leader
My name is Penny Taylor-Yates and I am lucky enough to be the Executive Teacher for the Kindergarten team. My pride and passion for students is at the heart of everything that I do. In handing my son Patrick over to new carers in his new room at childcare, I have great appreciation for the trust that you place in your child’s teachers and I look forward to earning yours this year. This year I take on a slightly different role, with the privilege of leading the K-2 team and conducting the School Bands and Recorder Ensembles. I am passionate about Early Childhood Education, and exposing children to the wonderful literature that is available to them. I enjoy working with students to help them gain the literacy and numeracy skills that will set them up for life. Most of all I look forward to providing an environment for your child to develop their love of learning and to help them discover their hidden (or perhaps already discovered) talents. In my spare time I love to read and watch mysteries. My love of chocolate is well known and one of my favourite activities is going out for breakfast with family and friends. I look forward to meeting you all as the year progresses.

The Learning and Teaching Program

**English**
This term our English program will comprise of sounds, weekly sight word vocabulary, news, handwriting, modelled and guided reading and writing journals. Each week your child will participate in “news”. Students will be given a set news day for the entire term. It is important that students prepare their own oral news with your assistance. Our phonics sessions offer captivating, interactive and enjoyable activities to learn single sounds and much more.

**Mathematics**
Garran Primary School follows the Australian Mathematics Curriculum. This term our Mathematics program will focus on the following concepts: **Number and Algebra** – focusing on counting sequences forward and backward, and **Measurement and Geometry** - 2D shapes. We will also be introducing mental computation strategies including subitising and counting from one to twenty, both forwards and backwards.

**Integrated Studies – History**
As part of the Australian History Curriculum, Kindergarten will participate in a unit of work called *As Time Goes By*. Students will explore and develop an awareness of family history, focusing on the similarities and differences between generations. Topics will include school life, birthdays, games, toys and songs. Students will gain an appreciation of family histories through exploring artefacts, photographs and listening to guest speakers. A part of our unit will be a comparison of toys from the present and past with a focus on energy consumption and efficiency. There will be discussion around sustainable practices.

**Science**
Garran Primary will be implementing the *Primary Connections* Science Program to deliver the Australian Science Curriculum. Kindergarten will participate in two units of work called *Weather in My World* and *What's it Made Of?* Through investigations, students will increase their knowledge of how the characteristics of weather will affect their daily lives. By incorporating hands-on activities, students will have opportunities to explore the properties of different materials in the school environment.

**Physical Education**
Students will participate in daily P.E. sessions including games, Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) and Gross Motor. This term the FMS focus will include: running, catching and spatial awareness. It is advisable for students to wear comfortable clothing and footwear such as shorts and runners/sneakers/joggers.

**Bounce Back**
This term students will be introduced to our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. The program explores topics related to student resilience. These topics include: developing appropriate social skills and values, developing strategies for coping with difficult situations and developing relationship skills.

**Indonesian**
All students will be introduced to Indonesian language and culture through oral language, stories, songs and games. Mrs Fiona Quigley (Ibu Fiona) will be the Kindergarten Indonesian teacher.

**Music**
Students will also participate in weekly music sessions and daily singing. In Term 1 the students will be learning about pitch and beat through a variety of songs, movement and percussion.
Library
Students will have a weekly library session with their class teacher. During this time, students will have an opportunity to borrow books, participate in storytelling activities, and learn about the way a library functions. Students may use a library bag or their Garran Book Bag. More information will follow concerning specific library days for each Kindergarten class.

Homework
The Kindergarten Homework Grid will go home every Thursday of odd weeks, to be returned on the Monday of the following odd week. Homework will include daily home reading, learning sounds and sight words, news preparation and number concepts. Homework will start in week 5.

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.

Munch & Crunch – Please provide your child with a serve of fresh fruit or vegetables for our “Munch & Crunch” break around 10am.

Smocks – We would appreciate it if students could please bring in a labelled smock which will be used during art lessons.

Communication – We encourage, and value open communication between parents and their child’s teacher. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. You may choose to email your child’s teacher, however we ask that you leave at least 24 hours for them to get in touch with you, as our priority is to spend days with the students. The other option is to phone the front office to make a convenient time to chat either in person or over the phone. Teachers are unavailable for meetings with parents on Tuesday and Wednesdays afternoons as these are our Professional Learning Days.

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

Important Dates

Nude Food Day every Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 February</td>
<td>Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am</td>
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<td>Water Fun Day (Preschool – Year 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 March</td>
<td>Kindergarten Parents Guided Reading Tutors Workshop 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>Canberra Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 March</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 March</td>
<td>Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 March</td>
<td>CEIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 April</td>
<td>Cross Country: 11.30am - 1pm (K-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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Kind Regards,

Joanne Kirchner, Mandy Nye and Gina Brown, Suzanne Prowse, Fiona Quigley, Jodie Lawson-Santos and Penny Taylor-Yates - 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 February
- 23 March

Term 2
- 18 May
- 15 June

Term 3
- 10 August
- 7 September

Term 4
- 2 November
- 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.