Welcome to 2016! What a busy and exciting start to the year. We hope that you enjoyed the holidays and found time to rest and relax.

At the beginning of this new school year, we wanted to take the time to inform you of the events planned and the expectations that we hold for the students. This will ensure a smooth transition for our team – the students, parents and teachers.

This year our class names are drawn from a variety of books. Can you guess what they are? Have you read them?

About the Year 1 Team

Mrs Julie-Anne Lambert
My name is Julie-Anne Lambert and this is my second year working at Garran Primary. I am fortunate enough to be a Year 1 teacher again this year and am working with 1L (The Super Pups). I am teaching in the Franklin portable. I have been teaching now for over ten years at various schools around the A.C.T. including Fadden Primary and Isabella Plains Primary. Year 1 is such an exciting and important year for children. It is a year in which you will see children become more confident and competent in their reading and writing. They also deepen and expand their knowledge in subjects such as Maths, Science, History and Geography. I just love teaching Year 1. I look forward to working with The Super Pups this year and the Garran school community.

Mrs Heather Ross
My name is Heather Ross and this is my second year at Garran Primary. I am delighted to be teaching Year 1 again with Julie-Anne Lambert in the portable. This year my class is called ‘The Wombles’. We are named after the book of the same name by Elisabeth Beresford and are already several chapters in, discovering the exciting adventures of these furry recyclers who live under Wimbledon Common near London. Of course, we are the Australian branch of the family! I have been teaching in the Woden Area for the past fourteen years and enjoyed time at Chapman, Arawang, Curtin, Torrens and now Garran, always specialising in lower primary. I love exploring literature with children and also sharing my interest in Science and sustainability. When not at school I enjoy puzzles, walking, travelling and singing in a choir. I’m very much looking forward to another year working with the wonderful Garran community.

Miss Tess Muir
My name is Tess Muir and I am the teacher of 1M - Giraffes. This is my third year working at Garran Primary within the 1/2 teaching team. My previous teaching experiences have been in both Canberra and the United States working with both senior and junior classes. I have a passion for Physical Education, Mathematics and Art; however I enjoy teaching all aspects of the curriculum. I am excited to have the opportunity to get to know your child and I look forward to guiding them through many positive and successful learning experiences this year while they reach new heights in Year 1.

Miss Emily Weber
My name is Emily Weber and I am a Year 1/2 teacher at Garran Primary School. I was born and raised in Canberra. I graduated from the University of Canberra in 2014 with a Bachelor of Education. I spent my first year working part time at Garran Primary School alongside Penny Taylor-Yates. I am lucky enough to spend another year here on my own class, team teaching with Sharen Lyons and the Year 1/2 Starfish. I enjoy being active and spending time outdoors. I love to escape to the coast during the warm weather months to relax and read a book on the beach. I am a part of the Garran netball team, playing alongside teachers across all year levels and have a passion for gymnastics. I am looking forward to the year ahead as a new educator and getting to know and teach the wonderful students at Garran Primary School.

Mrs Sharen Lyons
Hello, my name is Sharen Lyons and I have been teaching at Garran Primary for 10 years. During this time I have taught all grades from Kindergarten through to Year 6. In 2011 I went to university (UNSW) to complete postgraduate studies in gifted education. I found this extremely rewarding and have enjoyed teaching students in this area ever since. I enjoy reading, travel and bushwalking. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks.
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 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 Frances Gleeson
2016 is my seventh year at Garran PS in the EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) and literacy support role. My main goal is to provide reading and writing support to students who may benefit from a little extra literacy assistance. I plan and collaborate closely with our terrific classroom teachers and work with students both in the classroom and on a withdrawal basis. When not thinking 'literacy', I can be found attempting to control my garden or racing off to a yoga class!

Ms Jodie Lawson-Santos
Hello Year 1! 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 Penny Taylor-Yates – Team Leader
My name is Penny Taylor-Yates and I am lucky enough to be the Executive Teacher for the Year 1 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
Our writing focus for this term will begin with a blitz on sentence structure, grammar and punctuation. We will then focus on the writing of information reports, recounts and exposition. Students will be reading a range of texts that explore rich vocabulary to enhance their own writing skills. Our reading program consists of shared reading, independent reading, guided reading and home reading. Guided Reading will commence at the beginning of week four. If you have any time to spare we would appreciate any assistance you can give us at this time.

Students borrow books to read at home every day. It is important that the blue reading satchel is returned daily. This year we will continue with the differentiated spelling program, Bee Spelling, catering for the needs of each child.

Mathematics
This term our Mathematics program will focus on place value, counting collections to 100, addition, subtraction, fractions, patterns, length, capacity, time, identifying 2D and 3D shapes.

Students will be working in differentiated groups rather than within their classes. This will enable teachers to fully cater to the needs of each child, ensuring that Mathematics concepts are explicitly taught and practised at an appropriate level for each student. During maths groups, mental computation strategies will be developed as part of our whole school focus.
Students’ learning will continue to be supported by Mathletics. This subscription was included in your child’s book pack.

**Integrated Studies – History and Geography**
This term the students will investigate the history and environment of the Cotter Region. Students will investigate the following questions:

- What is the significance of the Cotter region?
- How have humans impacted on the Cotter region?
- Why is sustaining the Cotter environment important?

This unit will include an excursion out to the Cotter on Thursday 3rd March. Students will explore the environment, walk to the dam, seek out the flora and fauna of the region and have a picnic lunch.

**Physical Education**
In PE students will participate in movement & physical activity (Fundamental Movement Skills) on a daily basis. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear for running and brings a sunsmart hat in order to take part in these fun lessons. Later this term students from K-2 will participate in a Water Fun Day at school, while students in 3-6 attend the Swimming Carnival. Details to follow.

**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 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.

**Indonesian**
During the first few weeks of Term 1 students will learn or revise ways of engaging in simple conversations, noticing how culture affects the ways we greet others and ask for information. Later in the term we will begin a unit of work called ‘Mari Kita Bermain’ (Let’s Play).

**Music**
Students in Year 1 will follow the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask. In Term 1 they will focus on beat and rhythm and learn the difference between them. They will look at rise and fall, high and low and patterns, in pitch. Using the Kodaly method, songs, tuned and non-tuned percussion and body movement will be used to consolidate student’s understanding. The Curwen hand signs will be taught. Other dances will be used in addition to the Upbeat program.

**Library**
Students will take part in information literacy sessions, as well as book borrowing and exploration of texts. Students must have a library bag to keep their books safe.

**Homework**
Homework will begin in week 5. **ALL** homework is sent out on Thursdays in odd weeks and is due back on the Monday of the following odd week. Regular reading practice is essential for your child’s reading development. Please encourage your child to read every day. Your child is welcome to read books from your home collection, the public library or our school books.

**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

Wednesday 17 February  Parent Information Evening
Friday 26 February  Assembly, 11.30am
Tuesday 1 March  Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House
Thursday 3 March  Cotter Dam
Friday 4 March  School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am
Friday 11 March  Water Fun Day (Preschool – Year 2)
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
Thursday 7 April  Cross Country: 11.30am - 1pm (K-2)
Friday 8 April  Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am

Kind Regards,


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.