Welcome back to an exciting and productive term.

The Learning and Teaching Program

English
Our English program covers the strands of reading, writing, spelling and speaking. In reading, students will be presented with a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and taught specific strategies to help develop thorough comprehension. Some reading texts will be selected to link with and enhance other areas of the curriculum, such as history and writing. Students are strongly encouraged to borrow library books, and will be provided with regular time to read independently for enjoyment. Writing procedural texts will link to our science unit this term. We will continue to focus on grammatical conventions and sentence structure. Spelling will be targeted at individual student level, with a focus on patterns and spelling rules. The formal speaking task for this term will be a speech to the class based on this year's Rostrum topics.

Mathematics
Students continue to work in maths groups allowing for a comprehensive and differentiated program that supports students' individual needs. This term students will cover various concepts including multiplication, division, chance, data, angles, lines and problem solving. Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught to students to encourage recall of basic number facts. Mathletics is an excellent tool for practising concepts, and we urge families to make the most of this well-designed program at home. We also encourage students to practise their times tables to assist in their instant recall of multiplication facts.

Integrated Studies – Visual Arts
This term we are exploring various artists of the 21st century, including a number of significant Australian artists. Our focus will be on using different artistic methods and mediums when responding to famous artworks.

Drama
Drama this term is all about introducing students to live presentation. The objective is to build confidence and to focus when speaking to an audience. It is also to create stories with imagination, action and dramatic meaning. Students will be introduced to fundamental drama terminology and build on their skills. The two interrelated reporting strands will be about making and then responding, with an emphasis on the awareness of themselves and their peers.

Science
Our science unit this term is entitled 'Melting Moments' and is a chemistry unit from Primary Connections. This unit focuses on the exploration of the properties of materials and how they change state in different conditions. Students will investigate the rate at which materials changes state and will take part in experiments.

Physical Education
Students will participate in daily physical education activities. Sessions will involve instruction in various fundamental movement skills, including throwing, running, kicking, jumping and dodging. Fitness activities and modified games will incorporate these skills and allow students to develop good sporting spirit. Students will be practising skills leading up to the Garran Athletics Carnival. Students will also participate in hockey clinics for four weeks. Students must wear a sun-smart hat during all physical education sessions.

If your child is unable to participate in the daily sessions please inform their class teacher in writing, including the expected duration of the exception period.
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.

Indonesian
Students will create and produce texts that include dialogues, descriptions and signs in Indonesian. They will continue to be exposed to grammatical structures and rules as well as understand that language varies according to age, gender and social position. Students will also be involved in collaborating with peers to complete a small research project culminating into a cultural and factual big book about Indonesia. Our topics for this term include numbers 20 -100, body parts and clothing and textiles (batik). Students will have the opportunity to participate in games, songs, stories and role plays, contribute to class activities, and communicate in Indonesian using routine phrases and expressions.

Music
In Year 3 the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask continues to be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. In Term 2 students focus on tempo and dynamics and continue to reaffirm beat, rhythm and pitch. They look at fast and slow, high and low, and louds and softs. Students continue to use the Kodaly method. Songs and melding body movement with words will facilitate memory recall. More complicated solfa tunes are used to enable accurate pitch. We use the Curwen hand signs to show where the tunes go. New dances will be taught in addition to those in the Upbeat program. Musical notation will be taught.

Library
Students will continue to visit the library with their teacher once a week. Encouraging your child to fully utilise the Library helps to promote an enjoyment of reading, and enables access to useful and informative texts to support integrated units. Students must have a library bag in order to borrow books. Please check in with your child and ask how they are going with the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge!

Homework
Homework goes home every odd week Thursday starting in Week 1. This will include spelling, reading, maths, integrated unit, music and Indonesian activities. Due dates will be included on each 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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4 May</td>
<td>Hockey Clinics (Wednesdays &amp; Fridays for 4 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 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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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 May</td>
<td>School Rostrum Final, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<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>BYOD Information Session, 6pm Library</td>
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<td>Thurs 19 May</td>
<td>Musica Viva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 May</td>
<td>School Rostrum Final 11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 May</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 31 May</td>
<td>School Photos (MSP), K-6</td>
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<td>ICAS Science</td>
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Tues 7 June       School Athletics Carnival
Wed 8 June       Maths Olympiad 2 (Years 3-6)
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,

Stacie Barry, Andrew Beit, Gail Lamond, Natasha Ecimovic, Suzanne Prowse, Marina Fowler, Sally Martin and Mandy Lee – 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.