FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

How well does your child’s teacher know your child? At the beginning of each year an important aspect of each teacher’s job is developing relationships with the students they work with. Aside from the academic progress of each student, we also want to know about our student’s interests, passions, skills, how they spend their spare time, relationships with others, and lots more. To support and build on this we meet with parents/carers of each child. These meetings will help us learn more about your child as an individual. We want to know about your aspirations for your children, things you find work well for them and to build a relationship with you as parents/carers with the aim of providing the best learning opportunities for your children. It has been wonderful to see how many parents have made time to meet with their children’s class teachers this week to share this special information and build relationships. If you have not yet made an interview time, please do so. We really do value this connection with families.

Our teachers focus on recognising and celebrating student effort and achievement in a timely manner. This year teachers will be sending Merit Awards home to families from class to allow you to celebrate your child’s achievements as they occur. We will continue to give out awards during our whole school Assemblies. These assembly awards will be presented for displaying our school values of Respect, Excellence, Honesty and Fairness. Recipients of awards presented in assemblies will continue to be listed in the school newsletter prior to the assembly. By publishing awardees names prior to the assembly we hope parents and other family members are able to attend the assembly to celebrate and recognise their child’s contribution towards our school values.

I would like to invite all families to our first assembly of the year which will be at 2pm on Friday this week, 17 February. Our school captains will be hosting the assembly. Many of you will already know that during the summer holiday break two of our teachers Nicole Mengel and Danielle Hey were notified of their successful transfer applications to other schools. We particularly want to thank Nicole for her role in supporting staff and children to develop a love of music through singing, and for all her work with the broader community through the outreach singing program she introduced to our school. Danielle will particularly be remembered for her role in creating a passion for science in our students through establishment of the specialist science program in our school. At our Assembly on Friday we will be recognizing and thanking Nicole and Danielle for the significant contributions they have made to our school. We hope to see lots of families at Assembly to farewell these two teachers.

This term we are delighted to have two groups of student teachers from the University of Canberra based at our school every Tuesday. These students are in the third year of their four year teaching degree. Their university tutor will be here with them for ‘The Practice of Teaching English’ unit. As well as tutorials they will be working in classes with small groups of students focusing on explicit instruction in oral language, reading and writing. This is a perfect opportunity for our school as these are focus areas for us too.

Many thanks to all those who are using our drop off/pick up zone adjacent to our north playground in Alfred Hill Drive at the beginning and end of the school day. This area works really effectively when drivers either drive through or remain in their car while waiting for their child. Please DO NOT PARK in this zone. The driveway at front of the school is not safe for drop off and collection of children. Please remind your children to meet you at the drop off zone near north playground.

For those of you collecting your child from the playground please consider local residents when parking in the adjacent streets and make sure you park legally. We have had complaints from local residents due to cars parking across driveways, on nature strips and footpaths.

Thanks for all your support in a successful start to the school year.

Sue Harding, Principal
INTRODUCING STAFF MEMBERS

Hi, my name is Amarylise Bessey, and I am the Canteen Manager in the Healthy Hut. Great cooking is a big passion in my life, and you will often find me spending the weekend creating a special meal for family and friends. I’m also a visual artist, and teach art to adults and kids in my spare time.

I really believe that food has amazing power – the power to bring people together, the power to show our love for each other, and the power to reflect our culture and beliefs. I’m really enjoying bringing this passion to the Healthy Hut and helping our students understand and harness that power for themselves.

I strongly believe that healthy food can be lots of fun, and enjoy showing this every day in the Health Hut. I’m focused on changing mindset that “treat” foods must be junk, by showing that treats can be anything special or out of the ordinary. Just look for my fun fruit sculpture for proof of this!

I look forward to welcoming families into the Healthy Hut in 2017.

CHINESE NEWS

Chinese New Year 2017 is the Year of the Fire Rooster. It is the most important traditional festival which is also known as Spring Festival in China. It begins on the first day of the first lunar month (usually in late January or early February) each year and ends on the 15th day of the first lunar month which is the Lantern Festival.

Our Year 3-6 students will be busy learning about Chinese New Year customs and the Lantern Festival as well as singing a Chinese New Year song and writing the Chinese character 鸡 jī and other Chinese New Year Greetings this month. We would like to wish you and your family a prosperous Year of the Rooster and a happy Chinese Lantern Festival!

For the Chinese New Year customs, song and information about Chinese Lantern Festival, please click on the following links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of7G_8MWBOk Gōng xǐ song
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEtADJI97Q0 Chinese Spring Festival
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwjhRF5ynDI Chinese Lantern Festival

SUSTAINABILITY & STEPHANIE ALEXANDER PROGRAM

Welcome to the first instalment from the Sustainability and Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. We were very lucky that many of the plants survived the extreme heat over the holidays thanks to Daryl’s care, with plenty of watering.

What is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program?
Stephanie Alexander’s aim is to introduce pleasurable food education to primary school children.
The program is designed to:
• emphasise the flavours and health benefits of fresh seasonal foods
• use dishes that reflect what is growing in our organic garden
• reflect upon healthy and unhealthy choices
• build confidence to try planting and cooking at home
• develop social benefits when coming together to share meals
• be fully integrated into the curriculum to reinforce literacy, numeracy, science, cultural studies and environmental sustainability.

How does the Kitchen Garden program work?
Classes are timetabled to visit the Green Space weekly and have the opportunity to experience planting, harvesting and cooking.
If you would like to be involved in some small way with our program as it evolves, I will be calling for volunteers to help out in either the kitchen or the garden. A rostered time will be available where you could nominate to help out for as little as an hour or a session.

Some of the 5/6 classes have already experienced our program by harvesting potatoes and carrots and using them to cook potato salad.

Our sustainability focus for the term from K-6 will be Waste.
All classes will be investigating types of waste; what happens to our waste and how we can manage and reduce our waste at home and school. This will coincide with our participation in Clean Up Australia on Friday, 3 March. A more detailed outline of the program for each year group will be in the term’s overview.

Vanessa Stephens
The Healthy Hut is off to a great start in 2017, but we need your help! Volunteering at the canteen is a great way to get to know staff and students at the school, and your child will love seeing you in the canteen!

Volunteering can be as simple as staying for a couple of hours after school drop off, or coming in at 11 for a bit - whatever works for you. We have a play room for toddlers, a high chair for babies - we really try to make things as easy for you as possible! We rely on parent helpers to keep the canteen running, and ask that each family volunteer once a term. At this stage, only 14 families have volunteered for Term 1. Please pop in or call 6258 1552 to volunteer.

Here is the calendar for the next few weeks so you can see what we need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 FEB</td>
<td>16 FEB</td>
<td>17 FEB</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meeta</td>
<td>WE NEED YOU</td>
<td>Angela</td>
<td>Karen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20 FEB</td>
<td>21 FEB</td>
<td>22 FEB</td>
<td>23 FEB</td>
<td>24 FEB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn</td>
<td>Skye</td>
<td>Meeta</td>
<td>Nat</td>
<td>WE NEED YOU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>27 FEB</td>
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<td>1 MAR</td>
<td>2 MAR</td>
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<td>WE NEED YOU</td>
<td>Nicola</td>
<td>Meeta</td>
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<td>3 MAR</td>
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Hopefully you have received your Term 1 Menu by now. It is also available on the Skoolbag App and on the school website. The full menu is also available on Flexischools. We really encourage families to use Flexischools - it make life easier for everyone. It is also the best way to makes sure you are up to date with the current daily specials.

Our 2017 food drive note has gone home – we look forward to filling up the pantry with your generous donations.

Amarylise
Reminders

DUE DATES FOR EXCURSION NOTES WITH PAYMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>RETURN BY</th>
<th>PAYMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Camp – Cooba outdoor Pursuits</td>
<td>Now FINAL PAYMENT</td>
<td>$95.00 Last instalment OR Outstanding balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>2017 Curriculum Resource Requirements</td>
<td>Now</td>
<td>$60 ea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excursion notes and payments received after the due date will not be accepted.

Important Reminders

PERMISSION NOTES FOR EXCURSIONS & EVENTS
Please return ALL permission notes, money or other notes to the school in an envelope or similar via your child’s classroom teacher. Please do not take notes directly to the Front Office.

PAYMENTS FOR THE CANTEEN AND P&C (eg special lunches) MUST be in a SEPARATE envelope – please do not combine payments with any other school event. These payments can be given to your child’s teacher also.

DIRECT DEPOSIT
If you are using Direct Debit for payments to the School’s bank account, it is most important that you include the following in the reference field:
• Student’s LAST NAME and FIRST INITIAL
• EXCURSION TITLE or OTHER REASON for deposit

Also, please let us know either on the permission note or by email that you have made a direct deposit AND promptly return your signed permission note or form.

ENTERING THE SCHOOL
If you are entering the school buildings at ANY time of the day you are required to sign in at the front office as either a registered or unregistered volunteer or visitor.

Allergy Awareness
ANAPHYLAXIS
Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening type of allergic reaction commonly caused by food allergies or insect bites/stings.

We have students with NUT, SESAME and FISH allergies in this school.

At Mount Rogers Primary School we do not provide, nor wish children to bring to school any:-

SESAME (eg hummus, health bars, vege chips, tahini bread toppings etc)
FISH including tuna, prawns etc
NUTS all nuts and nut based products (eg peanut butter, health bars, dried fruit mixes, snack packs, some biscuit varieties, some chocolates, pesto etc)

LATE TO SCHOOL...
If your child arrives at school after 9.15am, parents and carers are required to come to the front office WITH your child to sign them in. Your child will then be given a late slip to hand to their teacher.

COLLECTING YOUR CHILD EARLY....
If you need to take your child out of school before 3pm or for an appointment during the day, parents and carers are required to come to the front office BEFORE collecting your child to complete an exit slip that is to be handed to the class teacher. Parents and carers are also required to sign children back into school at the front office on their return.

PLEASE NOTE....
Students can only be collected by those people who are listed on the Emergency Contact card for your child. Please ensure this contact card is kept up to date.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY SURVEY
The Education Directorate is currently undertaking an evaluation of support for students with disability in Canberra public schools. To inform this work we are seeking a wide variety of views on how we best support both students and schools.

The Directorate is consulting with students, families, school staff, peak bodies and leading practitioners to ensure a wide variety of views are considered.

We would like to invite the Canberra community to contribute to the review process by completing a short survey or providing a written submission. Information on how to contribute is at: http://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/students-with-disability-review

This is an important review and your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Tuning in to Kids
Eight week Parenting Skills Program for parents of children preschool to ten years old

Would you like to:
• Improve interaction links with your child?
• Better understand your child?
• Help your child learn to manage their emotions?
• Help to prevent demanding problems in your child?
• Teach your child to deal with conflict?

When: Sessions are held at Kippax several times a year. Please contact us for dates, times and to be included in future sessions.
Where: BCS Group Rooms, Old Kippax Health Centre, Kippax St, Hall

Contact BCS: 02 6268 3100
bsc@bscact.com.au
http://www.bscact.com.au
www.facebook.com/bscact

Registrations are essential as places are limited. Contact Matthew on 6278 8140 or email Tina on Tina.Jackson@bscact.com.au