Welcome back to school all our continuing and new students. Our unit teachers are KG (Mrs Gough) and K/1G (Ms Gore-Johnson) in Red Unit, 1C (Ms Coutts) and 2M (Ms Maloney) in Blue Unit, 2/3H (Mrs Hanson) and 3B (Mrs Booth) in Green Unit, 4W (Ms Wilson) and 4/5F (Mr Fuller) in Orange Unit and 5/6D (Mrs Deards) and 6B (Mr Bond) in Yellow Unit. Ms Maybury is teaching Japanese in Purple Unit, Mrs Hine teacher/librarian and Ms Harders teaching literacy groups. We also welcome Mrs Michelle Lord to the executive team.

We welcome our new Dolphin, Penguin, Seahorse and Turtle preschool children with Judy Richards, Virginia Fanning and Karen Cooper, who have commenced full sessions this week.

Stationery Requirements
It would be appreciated if parents can ensure that their children are equipped with all the necessary clearly labelled pencil case items as outlined on the stationery list. Just a reminder that Friday 14th February is the due date for payment of our school requisite bookpack and internet access.

Parent Contact Updates
Student information with parent contact details from our database will be sent home soon. Please make any amendments necessary and return as soon as possible. Even if details are correct and still current, please initial as such and return to the front office. We will also advise of any outstanding documentation required for your child, such as birth certificate, immunisation records, Code of Practice for computer/internet usage etc.

Kindergarten Health Screening
The Child, Youth and Women’s Health Program, ACT Health, offers a health check for all Kindergarten children in the ACT. This health check is designed to identify health issues early, to allow for appropriate referral and intervention. The process of the health check requires completion of a questionnaire which will be distributed. Please return this to your child’s teacher before Friday 24th February. The health check will take place at school on Wednesday 2nd April.

Wanniassa School Hats
Students are required to wear a hat during outdoor class activities and during recess and lunch. Due to health regulations, spare hats cannot be issued. Hats are $6-50 each.
Administration Matters

Junior Campus Front Office hours are 8.30am to 3.30pm. Payments for excursions, bookpacks etc should be forwarded to the school in an envelope or clickseal bag with details of the students name, class, amount and purpose. Correct money is appreciated as banking is completed each day and the office does not carry change. Notes and payments can be given to the class teacher to be forwarded to the front office for processing. Large cash payments may be handed directly to the front office upon arrival at school. Receipts are returned to the class to be sent home with the child.

Medication

If your child requires medication whilst at school please provide a statement/letter from the prescribing doctor and complete an ‘authority to administer medication’ form at the front office. Medication must be supplied in its original, labeled packet, box or bottle. Office staff are not permitted to administer medication without authorisation from a parent/guardian and/or medical practitioner. This is in line with current departmental policy.

Student Supervision

Supervision is provided during the following times – before school 8.45am - 9:00am and after school 3:00pm - 3:15pm. Unless children have parental supervision, they are requested to arrive at school no earlier than 8.45am. In terms of after school supervision it is important that all children have left the school premises by 3.15pm. After this time it is difficult to ensure appropriate supervision as teachers are required to attend regular meetings after school. If parents are running late please inform the front office so that your child does not become distressed.

Arrivals and Departures

Please ensure that you complete necessary details in our Student Arrivals/Departures book when you are picking up or dropping off a child out of regular hours. There is also a Visitor Sign In Book, which needs to be completed when parents or carers are doing any type of voluntary assistance within the school during school hours. These books are kept on the front office counter. During any emergency situation, we need to be able to account for each and every person in the school. Parents are not permitted to visit teaching areas without appointments. Any messages or personal items for students will be forwarded by office staff. Students may enter or leave the school via the front office ONLY if accompanied by a parent or carer.

Second Hand Uniforms

The second hand uniform stall will be open on the first Monday afternoon of each term from 2.30pm - 3.15pm. The stall is located outside the Parentlink near the entrance to the school. If you would like to visit any other time, please leave a message for the convenor at the front office. Donations to the second hand uniform stall will be gratefully accepted at the front office.

Suggestion Box

If you have any ideas to support or improve our school please drop a note in the parent suggestion box at the front office.

Notification of Emergency Procedures

**eg fire drill, lockdown, OHS checks**

During the school year, each campus conducts practice fire drills, lockdowns, workplace safety checks etc, in accordance with departmental requirements. Please note the first of these will be held early this term.

Car Parking

For any parents new to the school and to all existing car travellers, our car parking arrangements are as follows. There is a set down/pick up section which is for very short term use only. Please don’t leave your car unattended while parked here. Buses regularly require this space and if parents have parked there it becomes a major safety issue and logistical nightmare. In the afternoon, please DO NOT park at the end of the pathway entrance, where there is yellow paint marking on the kerb, as this is designated for After School Care to collect children. Parking is available on Sternberg Crescent on the kerb closest to the school but not on the opposite side. This is noted with parking signs. An overflow carpark is also available located adjacent to the school near the ovals. We ask that you maintain a very slow speed when driving through the car park please.

School Banking

School Banking is held in the library every Friday morning from 8.45am. Any student with a Commonwealth Bank account is welcome to come and deposit money. You can open a new account, forms are available either from the library on Friday mornings or from the front office. Our school P & C receives a commission based on deposits received.

School Uniforms

Thank you for your assistance in our quest to have ALL STUDENTS wearing school uniform including the correct colour code. It is great to see a sea of blue at lines each morning. Keep it up!! Each ACT Public School in conjunction with their school board develops and implements a school **Dress Standard and Colour Code** policy. Schools expect students to abide by a dress standard while attending school or official school activities. This dress standard includes colour code or school uniform. School colour codes are chosen by a school board to represent the school on uniforms or dress standards and other items of identification. Wanniassa School’s colour code on the Junior Campus is sky blue and navy blue. Please consider this when purchasing clothing eg. coats, jackets, beanies that may be worn at school as well as at home.
Library News

Welcome back everybody. I hope you all had a good holiday and read some great books! A few reminders for the beginning of the year…

Family borrowing – families are eligible for their own barcodes which allow you to borrow up to 30 resources at a time. If you don’t have one already, please visit or phone the library to organise one.

Library Bags – every child from Kinder to Year 6 must have a library bag to be able to borrow books. Not only do they protect our books but also usually prevent books from going missing!

Borrowing Limits – All resources may be borrowed for a period of up to 2 weeks. Students in Kinder can borrow one book at a time, years 1 and 2 can borrow 2 books, year 3 may borrow 3 books and years 4, 5 and 6 may borrow 4 books.

Book Club - The Scholastic Book Club happens twice a term and gives families a chance to purchase popular book titles, and other items, at very reasonable prices. Teachers and the school earn bonus coupons depending on the number of orders placed by students in each class. The school bonus coupons can be used to purchase books for our library. The more student orders, the more bonus points we earn. There are 6 regular book clubs: Busy Bee (suitable for 0 -4yrs) Wombat (suitable for Preschool - K) Lucky (suitable for lower primary) Arrow (suitable for middle primary) Star (suitable for upper primary) Special themed offers (suitable for all ages)

Payment can be made by sending to school the order form and cash (in a sealed envelope with child’s name & class clearly marked), cheques (payable to Scholastic Australia), or by filling out a credit card receipt on the bottom of the order form.

With your support, we can make 2014 another bumper year for Book Club and our students’ reading. Please contact me if you have any questions about Book Club.

Library Days
Red Unit - Tuesdays Blue Unit – Mondays
Green Unit – Wednesdays Orange Unit – Mondays
Yellow Unit - Tuesdays Happy reading!

Elaine Hine Teacher-Librarian

Canteen News

Parents, grandparents or friends from the community are always needed to assist in the canteen. The canteen is open from 9am, with over the counter sales during recess 11 - 11.30am and lunch 1.10pm - 1.30pm. Kids love seeing their parents or grandparents helping at the canteen. If you have time to spare once a week, a fortnight or even once a month, please drop into the canteen to talk to Annie, or call her on 6231 2717.

Student Injury, Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

Action Tae Kwon Do

Wanniassa School Junior Campus Hall
Every Thursday 3.15pm – 4.00pm
Children Only Classes

For more information call Ben on 0498 638274 or visit www.actiontaekwondo.com.au

Tuggeranong Hyperdome

Please remember to mention Wanniassa School when purchasing school wear from Lowes. We receive vouchers from accumulated points each year which allows us to replenish our emergency clothing pool.

Back to Dance

Canberra Physical Culture Club for girls and ladies of all ages.

Exercises and dance routines are all choreographed to music and are designed to enhance flexibility, strength, agility, poise and deportment. Children especially benefit by improving their stamina, concentration, co-ordination and balance.

We are an incorporated club and we try to keep costs low and offer 2 free lessons.

New members are always welcome to come along and see if they would like to join our club.

Classes are held here at Wanniassa School Junior Campus. Please call Maree 0411600658 or visit www.canberraphysicalculture.com
Wanniassa School Parent & Citizen Association - Annual General Meeting (AGM)
The Wanniassa School P&C committee is to hold its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 March 2014 in the staff room on the Senior Campus. All positions on the P&C committee will be vacated and the following positions are available for filling in 2014:

**President** - chairs all meetings, provides leadership and acts as a spokesperson;
**Vice President Junior Campus** - assists President and Secretary as well as representative for Junior campus;
**Vice President Senior Campus** - assists President and Secretary as well as representative for Senior campus;
**Secretary** - Records minutes of meetings, sets meeting agendas and attends to correspondence;
**P&C Treasurer** - Responsible for all funds received and expended on behalf of the P&C Committee, reports regularly to P&C meetings. **Software package and training available. This is a vital role which the P&C can’t function without.**
**Canteen Treasurer (Junior Campus)** - Responsible for managing junior campus canteen accounts and payment of salaries to canteen staff as well as report regularly to P&C meetings. **Software package and training available. This is a vital role which the P&C can’t function without.**
**Canteen Treasurer (Senior Campus)** - Responsible for managing senior campus canteen accounts and payment of salaries to canteen staff as well as report regularly to P&C meetings. **Software package and training available. This is a vital role which the P&C can’t function without.**

**P&C Council Delegate/s** - Represent P&C at Council meetings and report back to P&C meetings;
**Public Officer** - point of contact between Association and ACT Registrar General's Office (must be over 18 years and an ACT resident).

**Fundraising Coordinator** - As little or as much as you can or have time. The whole of the P&C committee has been taking responsibility over the last few years to assist with all fundraising as a team effort eg BBQ fundraisers, cake stall.

If you would like to know more about any of these positions, please contact Lynette Sanchez, P&C Secretary on 0409044251 or email lynettesanchez@grapevine.net.au


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New to Canberra?
**Update Your Address with Medicare for a Chance to Win $10,000!**
If you’ve recently moved to Canberra, welcome to the neighbourhood! Now that you’ve settled in and the school term has begun, you should update your address with Medicare for a chance to win $10,000, thanks to SERVICE ONE Members Banking.

Not only could you win the $10,000 cash, but by updating your address you will be supporting the local community you live in.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) uses Medicare data to calculate population figures, and this information is then used by the Commonwealth Government to allocate GST funding to each state and territory.

For every year that an ACT resident is not counted in the data, the ACT Government forgoes over $2,500 in GST funding.

So updating your address with Medicare will ensure we receive our fair share of funding to enable the ACT Government to provide new and improved services for the local community.

From 25 January to 2 March 2014, anyone who updates their address after moving to Canberra from interstate will be eligible to enter the competition to win $10,000!


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The school, its staff and the Territory are not aware of, and make no representation as to, the truth or accuracy of the information provided in advertisements appearing in the publication.
Readers should make their own enquiries in relation to the information.
Working With Vulnerable People
From Friday 8th November 2013, volunteers and other visitors to schools, unless they meet exemption criteria, are required to hold an appropriate Working With Vulnerable People registration with the Office of Regulatory Service to engage in activities involving contact with children.

Volunteers who regularly work with children in classrooms and other school activities will need to be registered.

Parents and members of the community make a valuable contribution in a diversity of roles. Wanniassa School looks forward to your continued support in whatever capacity you choose. For more information and to download application/registration forms please visit www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people

What the Working With Vulnerable People Act means for parents who volunteer at school
Since the introduction of the Working With Vulnerable People Act, some parents and members of the Wanniassa School community have been expressing uncertainty about the need for volunteers to register with the Office of Regulatory Services to provide volunteer services to the school.

Volunteers who regularly work with children in classrooms or regularly make contact with children during other school activities will need to be registered. If you are unsure whether you need to be registered, please contact Karin Nagorcka.

Some volunteers may choose not to register but to continue supporting the school by reducing the number of days on which they work so as to avoid exceeding statutory limits. There may also be opportunities for volunteers to participate in forms of work which are not considered education activities or involve contact with children and do not require volunteers to be registered. Where this is not possible, it may be necessary to apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card.

There is no cost for volunteers.

The new Working With Vulnerable People scheme has meant that all volunteers, new and continuing, will need to complete a new School Volunteer Nomination Form and to sign in each day they work at Wanniassa School. We are strengthening protection for children, but we depend on our volunteers in a variety of ways and look forward to your continued support in whatever capacity you choose.
Welcome Back to School Banking 2014

This year we are all deep sea divers!!
Keep an eye out for the bright blue parent packs that will be coming home with your children, inside is a fantastic token tracking chart that your children can use to let them know when they have saved for a reward! Also a perforated rewards chart to let the children know what reward is available throughout the year.
School banking has been teaching children smart savings habits and life-long money skills for over 80 years by simply bringing their money in each week, as little as 5 cents!
As we are an underwater theme this year there are fantastic rewards which includes, penguin or shark plush toy keyrings, whale pencil case, swimming bag, sea streamers to name a few.
Don’t forget that your school earns commission thru the School Banking program with $5.00 for every new child that joins thru the school and 5% commission on all the children’s deposits throughout the term.

Why not join in the fun at your school!!

Homework at Wanniassa School Junior Campus for Years 1-6

The Wanniassa School Junior Campus Homework Policy was developed in consultation with parents (through an online survey in 2010)
Homework is a part of school life of which everyone seems to have a strong opinion. Education, when it is done well is a partnership between home and school where parents and teachers can support one another in a child’s learning.
In our efforts to keep improving practice and to enhance your child’s educational outcomes, we gave each family the opportunity to share their thoughts on homework. Our online survey gave parents and carers the opportunity to comment on what works well at Wanniassa, what could be improved and suggestions for improvement.

Some important findings

- 71% of parents believed that homework should be compulsory
- Respondents listed times in minutes from kindergarten to year 6. As a summary, most parents thought that a small amount of time eg. 10mins per day for kindergarten students was ok, gradually increasing to around 45 minutes to 60 minutes for year 5 and 6 students.
- Important areas to be included in Homework
  - Reading: 100%
  - Spelling: 92%
  - Writing: 74%
  - Mathematics: 87%
  - Other: 16% (answers included: History, language learning, health and physical education, life skills, geography etc)
- Other comments
  - Literacy and Numeracy (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as math’s) activities should be the focus
  - Homework needs to relate to what is being done in class
  - Having homework marked is important
  - It is helpful to have the weekend to complete homework tasks
  - Homework should not be onerous, it should be able to be completed by the child without too much support from parents/carers

Teachers at Wanniassa agree with parents and carers on the above points. Homework will be specifically focused on Literacy and Numeracy activities or other topics relating to what has been covered in class and the Australian Curriculum. It will go out on Fridays and be expected to be returned on Thursdays/Fridays depending on the year level.
Getting a high percentage of students returning homework to school is one aspect of homework that teachers find challenging. It is important to note here that homework is not compulsory; however, 71% of our survey respondents believe it should be. We also find generally students who complete homework and read at home achieve at a higher level.
Home Readers, M100Words, tables and Mental Computations should be part of everyday activities not only homework.

If you do not wish your child to take part in homework tasks, (Please note we still expect Home Readers to be part of the home program) please fill out the slip below and return it to the class teacher.
Students in Kindergarten will have a different format aligned with number, sounds and reading which is not part of the homework schedule.

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Wanniassa Junior Campus 2014 Years 1-6

I do/do not wish my child __________________________ of class ____________ to receive homework from their class teacher in 2014. I understand that students who do not receive homework will be completing class work independently while the rest of the class take part in homework instruction and marking tasks.

Name: ___________________________ Signed: _____________________________
Date: ___________________________
What is in the Parent Link?

The Parent Link is a space for parents and the community to use. It is your space and you are welcome to drop in and use the room between the hours of 9.00 and 3.00. If you would like to have regular coffee mornings with friends or maybe start an interest group (eg craft) please see Jenny Tatham on the JC. We always welcome your input into how to best use the room. It is located to the left of the front office.

Free tea and coffee

Great free resources

Information about services available in our community

Information on parenting and working with children

Information on physical health and mental health

Books you can borrow on a variety of issues

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Books you can borrow on a variety of issues
Parent Survey
Information for Parents and Carers

What is KidsMatter Primary?
KidsMatter Primary is an Australian initiative that aims to improve children’s mental health and wellbeing. It recognises the important role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children and encourages effective working relationships between school staff, parents and carers as well as the broader community. For further information, including information sheets especially written for parents and carers, visit www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary

What is the survey about and how long will it take?
The survey asks for your perspective about your child’s school and what you think is important for the school to consider in supporting children’s mental health and wellbeing. We expect that it will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Why are you being asked to complete this survey?
KidsMatter Primary encourages schools to reflect on how they are doing things - what they are doing well already, and what they can improve to promote children’s mental health and wellbeing. School staff are surveyed and it has been recognised that including the voice of parents and carers also adds valuable information that will assist school planning.

What choice do you have?
Completing this anonymous survey is entirely your choice. Whether or not you decide to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you or your child. However, we hope that you will contribute to helping us improve our school community. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about completing this survey with any of the staff.

How is your privacy protected and what happens to the answers?
The answers provided by parents and carers are completely anonymous and it will not be possible to identify you or your child from your answers. Data is stored electronically by KidsMatter Primary in a password-secured database. Only summarised results that align to the four components are used by the school to assist with school planning. KidsMatter Primary may also use data summarised at a state level to inform the national development of KidsMatter.

What do you need to do to participate?
Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or if you have questions, please talk to a school staff member.

If you consent to participate, please complete the online survey at www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey

Thank you for your support,
The KidsMatter Action Team – Margaret Taylor, Jenny Tatham, Sonya Maybury & Rob Walls