



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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27 August 2020 NEWSLETTER NO. 13

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 28 August	Year 5/6 Birrigai Day Camp
Monday 7 September	Year 6 Combined Band Excursion
Wednesday 4 November	School Photos

Our Vision

Insieme creiamo studenti per tutta la vita. - Together we create lifelong learners

Dear Parents and Carers

It's that time of year when we start planning for 2021 as we continue to receive enrolment applications for new students and our new preschool and Montessori groups. We use student numbers to make decisions about our classes and spaces so we encourage families to keep us updated with their intentions for next year. We appreciate some families have a change of circumstances often at the last minute however we want to ensure we make the best possible decisions for our school and resourcing for next year. Please feel free to email us if there is a change of your situation or return the slip which has been in the recent newsletters.

Just a reminder that our satisfaction survey closes on 31 August 2020. So far we have had 69 families participate and are keen for everyone to have their say. It takes approximately 10 minutes and it helps to identify what we're doing well and where we need to improve. Surveys are also completed anonymously. For additional information please visit [2020 school satisfaction and climate survey](#).

We were all a little disappointed this week when we got news that the Questacon Science Circus had to reschedule their visit, however we have received confirmation that they will be back in term 4 (22/23 October). The Science Circus consists of science graduates who create engaging science performances for schools. We can't wait!

Just a reminder that the Canberra Health Services is offering targeted kindergarten health checks which are concentrating on vision and hearing. They are performed at the City Health Centre on Mondays and Fridays and appointments will also be available during the school holidays. Appointments can be made by phoning the intake line on 512 49977.

You may have seen on the school Facebook page that to celebrate Father's Day and our stay and play session, a coffee cart will be visiting the school from 8:15am on Tuesday 1 September. It's a good opportunity to come down to the school and have a morning coffee and a chat around drop off time. As we are still observing social distancing requirements we remind everyone to be aware of this when gathering at the school.

Buon weekend,
Emma

P&C News

Welcome YPS community to this edition of the school newsletter.

I would like to bring your attention to a **Notice of Spending Proposal**

The P&C would like to notify the parent and carer community of two spending proposals to be considered at the next General Meeting on the 7th of September.

(1) The P&C approve expenditure of \$1700 to purchase Italian learning resources to support the Italian Program delivered at Yarralumla Primary School.

(2) The P&C approve expenditure of up to \$2000 per term, commencing Term 3 2020, for purchase of Italian learning resources to support the Italian Program delivered at Yarralumla Primary School with specific resources to be agreed on a term by term basis between the Principal and the Executive Committee.

I wish to express my thanks to Board Chair Katrina Sanders who chose to organise and chair an extraordinary meeting with the school Board, Principal Emma and P&C members.

I deeply appreciate everyone's attendance at the meeting and ongoing commitment to our current situation at the school and that some really good outcomes were made during this meeting.

At the meeting we discovered that while things are improving with some rooms either reopened or about to be, unfortunately there is still some that require a little more patience from everyone concerned. I have met personally with Principal Emma and her staff on many occasions over the last few weeks and they have always shown me that they are as deeply upset about this situation as everyone is and are doing their best to resolve this situation as soon as is possible. I would hope that everyone can extend to them our continued support and caring during this challenging time for everyone.

I was saddened by the news at the meeting that some people were of the belief that Dr Chan-Feng Lin-Wu (Dr. Chan) was there to speak on behalf of and or for the school. Let me make this absolutely clear to everyone that Dr. Chan was present at the meeting wholly and solely at my request and mine alone, with email evidence available to prove this.

Dr Chan is a parent at the school and worthy of a fair and equal say as was everyone else within the school, if not more than most as he is a qualified medical practitioner. I for one am and was profoundly grateful for Dr. Chan's appearance at the meeting. I had never met him before that evening and found him to be a very giving and caring person. He, as stated at the meeting, has 2 of his own children at the school directly affected by the current situation and he and his family would be feeling the same disturbances that we all are currently.

I feel truly blessed to lead an incredibly talented P&C team and then to have the privilege to be able to call on people like Dr. Chan who offer their personal time for OUR wellbeing.

Warm Regards,

Vincenzo Fotia
P&C President

CAMP BIRRIGAI 2020

On Tuesday of week 5, years 3/4 enjoyed a day at Birrigai. We were very sad when camp was cancelled due to Covid-19, but were so excited to hear that we could go for a day trip. Continue reading to learn more about our experiences.

I Was Flying

By Vienna McKay, Year 3

At 9:00 am we got on the loud, noisy bus. Everyone was so excited! Ahead we saw big, long, twisty roads and high bridges. Finally we arrived at the amazing Camp Birrigai.

Firstly we got off the bus and lined up in our groups. Then our group leader Rob gave us Birrigai cookies and they were delicious!

Secondly we went to the crates where we did the crate climbing. It was amazing! When the crates fell down you were literally flying! It was so fun!

After that we ate our lunch.

Next we went on a big bushwalk. We climbed under a big boulder, climbed on rocks and rubbed leaves on our hands. Then we went back and ate our recess.

Then finally we hopped on the bus and went on the twisty, twisty road home.



The Mysterious Camp Birrigai

By Finn Hartley, Year 4

On Tuesday morning once the bell had rung the Year 3/4 classes hopped on the buses. Once everyone was on the buses we began the long, loud and hot trip to Birrigai.

After the buses had parked in the car park, everyone hopped out and lined up. The teachers led us to where we were put into groups for the activities and we were each given a Birrigai cookie.

Next was raincoats on for the bushwalk. During the bush walk we all saw lots of wombat poo and went rock scrambling. On the way back to camp we played a game called Kangaroo Stalking where you had to find a kangaroo and get as close as possible.

Finally it was time for lunch. We went and got our lunch boxes from the hall and took them outside to eat and play.

Soon after lunch we started down the path towards the Crate Climb. Once we arrived at the shelter near where the crates were. We geared up with helmets and harnesses. Next we walked over to the crates and ropes. First it was the girls' turn to climb. The two starting girls stepped forward and the instructor clipped the ropes to their harnesses and all the other girls started building up the crates until they fell. When it was the boys' turn they did the exact same thing, except every time the boy or girls team came on they always improved and had different tactics to get higher.

It was time to go, so we headed back to the hall where we got our bags and walked to the buses. We met up with all the other groups and hopped on the bus and then all over again it was a long, loud trip home. But this time I actually got a little nap!



Camp Birrigai, by Celeste and Turchese

In the morning I got dropped off at school by my mum. I told her I was very excited and she told me I was going to have a great time. (Eve S)

I felt nervous at drop off because I didn't want to mess up on the activities. "I feel nervous", I said to my mum. "Relax," said my mum. We both sat down on the yellow wood near the school entrance and my mum reassured me. It's extremely nice to be with somebody like my mum. (Henry B)

When I arrived all of 3/4 were not wearing school uniform. Lots of people were waiting at the front for the bus to arrive. 10 minutes later and finally the bus was in view. I ran to the line up area, grabbed my bag and ran to the front. (Alex L)

As soon as the bus was loaded up with people everybody started talking and screaming and that's when I realized how on earth was I going to survive a 45 minute bus ride with a bunch of crazy children! Believe it or not, by the end I was still in one piece! (Julia Mc)

Soon we pulled up next to a small grass round-a-bout. When we got out I could see that this camp was extraordinary and different. (Vizma M)

I went to the hall to put my bag away. Once I put my bag away the year 4s were divided into groups. I was lucky I had most of my friends in my group. We had cookies when the year 4s formed into groups. (Ciaran R)

The year 4s went over to the benches and got into groups. I was in group 2 with my friends Ella and Nethara. First they had to look at our jackets to see if they are good for the rain. My jacket was fine though. Then we went on a hike in the bush. (Kamila M)

After escaping the animal zoo that was the hall, we were given a Birrigai biscuit! It was delumpcious! (delicious and scrumptious)... We began our walk and two minutes after our guide spotted a cave... "Come on! I think it's a cave!" Mish said. "No," we all moaned. "It's a wombat hole!" (Nethara G)

My first activity was the crate climb. In crate climbing you have two people in harnesses climbing the crates that the ground crew stack on a platform. Luke and I were the first people to do it... our record was 7 crates first try! (Angus M)

The ground crew had to wear helmets because if the crates fall they might get hurt. And the two people who were on the crates had to wear helmets and harnesses. (Sabina M)

On our second activity we went on a walk. It was a one hour walk. We walked up a big hill and saw lots of kangaroos and I found one with a joey. Also on the walk I saw wallaby footprints! I never knew sundew looked so cool. You should see one some day. (Max W)

Did you know that wombats poo on top of something? It's not because they are dumb. It's because that's how they mark their territory. Also, wombat poo is square because of their butt muscles! We also learnt that ants in the summertime place white rocks around their hill to reflect the sun and not get burnt by the boiling sun. (Aronin R)

We lined up back in our classes and marked the roll and went back on the bus. We sang some songs and played some games like Chinese chopsticks, spotto and eye spy with my little eye. It was the funnest day ever. (Lucas T)



Around the School

A note from the school psychologist:

The ANU has published a video of their recent free webinar on *Navigating the challenges of parenting in 2020*. The webinar presents content and reflections from three key speakers (two psychologists and a social worker).

As a parent, I found the webinar to be a validating reflection on the challenges that I have faced this year. It also provided me with some food for thought on how I can live in line with the kind of parent that I strive to be.

I really believe that all parents, at their core, wish the best for their children. We all find different ways to navigate the inevitable difficulties of life, in the best way that we know how.

We can all benefit from the support, expertise, and guidance of others, in order to find the most workable ways for our families to thrive.

You can access the video via the following link, and I would invite you all to do so:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBEoiBV5-E&feature=youtu.be>

Alternately, you can look up the video by searching for the title in YouTube.

This year has certainly provided ample 'opportunities to test my resilience', as I'm sure it has for you all. I hope that you can all continue to find ways to adapt and care for yourselves through this time.

Rosalie Poesiat | School Psychologist
BPsych(Hons), MPsych(Clin) – Clinical Psychologist

STRANGER SAFETY MESSAGE

This is reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident, or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the AFP website section on Child Safety for tips. In addition, the Safety4Kids is a non-government website that has useful information and links. The Constable Kenny website also has a number of tips for parents.

The school and the Education Directorate will continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue.
Contact: schooloperations@act.gov.au Ph: 620 53313

2020 SCHOOL SATISFACTION & CLIMATE SURVEY

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their satisfaction with public education. The 2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey will be available online from 10 to 31 August.

The survey results will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our school. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college.

For each child who attends an ACT public school, parents will receive:

- An email about the parent survey, including a unique link to access the survey; parents who do not receive the email by the 8 August may contact EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a survey invitation.

A shortened paper-version of the parent survey is also available in the following 12 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Korean, Mon, Urdu and Vietnamese; email EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a copy.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. Your feedback is important, and we hope you will take part.

For more information, visit: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/school-satisfactionandclimate-survey>

REMINDER KINDERGARTEN HEALTH CHECK



Reminder to the parents of Kindergarten students that Canberra Health Services is offering a **targeted kindergarten health check concentrating on vision and hearing.**

These health checks are performed in clinics at the City Health Centre Mondays and Fridays and there will be appointments most days in the school holidays.

An appointment can be made by phoning the Central Intake Line on 51249977

UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS As we move into Semester 2, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to ensure that the school has your correct and up to date contact details, this ensures that the school has the correct information should we need to contact you.

If you have changed your contact details, phone number or email address, please contact the school via email to info@yarralumlaps.act.edu.au. Thank you for your assistance.



School Banking

School Banking day – Tuesday

Leave banking at Front Office by 9.00am on Tuesday morning collect in the afternoon.

Open a Dollarmite account at any Commonwealth Bank branch and start banking today every \$ you bank raises money for the school.

Getting involved in School Banking is easy! All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

1. Online Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.
2. In branch Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account, they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. Completing your deposit slip for School Banking day.

Please ensure your child's deposit slip is filled out before banking with School Banking. All 7 fields below need to be completed:

1. Child's name
2. Child's School Banking student number
3. Child's Youthsaver account number
4. Date
5. Amount in coins, notes and/or cheques
6. Total amount of deposit
7. Total amount of deposit (input into the "Add this deposit" field)

The image shows a Commonwealth Bank Deposit slip form. The form is yellow and white with a red diamond logo. It has the following fields and callouts:

- 1. Name
- 2. Student number
- 3. Account number
- 4. Date
- 5. Amount in coins, notes and/or cheques (Notes, Coin, Cheques)
- 6. Total amount of deposit
- 7. Add this deposit

Other fields on the form include: Teller, Previous balance, Current balance, Subtotal, and Withdrawal. The form also has the Commonwealth Bank logo and the slogan "Save regularly and reach your goals".

Community News

Support for Canberrans to Connect During COVID-19

In a year that has tested all aspects of Canberra's wellbeing, we have been reminded of our responsibilities to each other and the power of community. The Community Services Directorate has developed the Wellbeing Calls Service and Connect in Canberra website to keep the community informed and connected through COVID-19.

The Wellbeing Calls Service is provided by the Australian Red Cross and is available to all ACT residents who would like to register for a free phone call to feel more connected and less isolated.

You can call the service on 02 6234 7630 between 8am and 4pm weekdays or register for a call by completing the CSD SmartForm found on the Community Services website. On the Connect in Canberra website, you can access a range of support services including emergency food relief and visit sections on Supporting Our Neighbours (including a Know Your Neighbour card), Online Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Activities Hub, Kids Corner, What's On and a Community Activities Pack.



Are you looking for the best activity for your children? **Boys and Girls can be Scouts!**

For friendship, confidence, life skills, fun and much more...

Scouts opens the door to a world of adventure, excitement, challenge and achievement. With challenging outdoor activities such as bushwalking, canoeing, sailing, caving, rock-climbing, camping and much more! Scouting gives you community involvement, personal growth & leadership development

WESTON SCOUT GROUP – groupleader.weston@scoutsact.com.au and 0419 986

029 Joeys (age 5 to 8 as long as they have started school) on Wed 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Cubs (age 8 to 11) on Wed 6.30pm to 8pm

Scouts (age 11 to 15) on Thurs 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Venturers (age 15 to 17) on Mon 7 to 9pm

Visit www.act.scouts.asn.au to find your nearest group or call 1800 726 887 to start your free 3-week trial