

Week 4, Term 2 | 20 May 2020

UPCOMING DATES

20 May

P&C virtual online meeting,
7pm

27 May – 3 June

National Reconciliation Week



Introducing Tiana Huho...

Congratulations to Kathi, Tobi and big sister Malia on the safe arrival of Tiana on Tuesday 12 May. The Huho's are enjoying settling into their new routines as a family of four!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Well, what a difference 24 hours can make! When we distributed the previous newsletter, little did we know we would be back together sooner than we thought. The very next day the ACT Government announced a gradual return to face-to-face learning. So, yet again, our school community came together to prepare for our return. This week has been wonderful! Our students from preschool to year 2 have successfully and safely returned to face-to-face learning with renewed vigour and excitement. Excellent hygiene practice is "just what we do" now. I am so proud of students for their resilience and optimistic approach to our 'new normal'. I extend an enormous thank you to parents for working with us to adhere to social distancing measures for adults and for 'kissing and dropping' outside of the school building. We truly appreciate your assistance. Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming years 3 and 4 back to face-to-face learning. Years 5 and 6 will return on Tuesday 2 June.

The week is National Volunteer Week with the theme 'Changing Communities, Changing Lives.' At Giralang Primary School, we are very fortunate to have a strong P&C who, as volunteers, run our Uniform Shop and Canteen. Not only that, they coordinate fundraisers, support our teachers, support whole school events, maintain garden beds and much, much more! We also have many parent volunteers who help in classrooms very regularly. This week and every week, we celebrate you and thank you for the generous donation of your time and energy to make our school the wonderful place it is to learn, grow and thrive. Please see our wave of appreciation later in this edition of the Giralanger!

Don't forget that enrolments for 2021 are now open. Please visit <https://www.education.act.gov.au/> to complete your online enrolment for Preschool, Year 7 or Year 11.

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TWITTER: @GiralangPrimary

School Office Hours: 08:30-15:30

P&C Association

Brooke Pearson	President
Nikki Keane	Vice President
Janelle Kennard	Secretary
Sean Macintyre	Treasurer

Board Representatives

Paul Calvert (Chair)	0408 633 462
Nathan Kruger	0409 956 667
Eve Wisowaty	0431 655 865



MOMENTS IN TIME JOURNAL

Our very own Lauren Boden was asked to contribute as a featured teacher to the 'Moment in Time' journal initiative started by the ACT education Directorate's Director-General Katy Hair. Here is her response to the prompt 'Kindness':

Dear Canberra,



If we are to genuinely believe this anecdote, that 'humans will show their true colours during adversity' then the people of Canberra are shiny and golden! At least from what I have seen, heard about and experienced. In an 'unprecedented' time of social distancing and isolation, it would be easy to assume people could become dark and withdrawn, unsure of how to navigate this new, digital world we are being forced to live in. But from what I have seen, it is very clear that people have chosen to instead embrace this new 'norm' and shine some light on those who need it.

There are many other words, synonyms, of kindness. Like altruism - devoting oneself to the welfare of others. Many people, like my amazing parents, have continuously given up their time to pay bills and buy groceries for elderly loved ones. Not only does this keep the vulnerable community members safe, but it brings a personal sense of joy, knowing they have done something helpful and kind.

Courtesy - displaying an act of generosity, is something I have personally experienced. Whilst continuing to work on-site during the lockdown period, numerous families within our Giralang Primary school community have taken the time to drop in easter gifts, baked goods and caffeine pick-me-ups as a thank you. It is us who should be thanking them for the kindness that they have shown. One of my students personally baked and delivered his very own cupcake to me and, whilst the gesture might seem insignificant to them, it is one that I appreciate immensely during this strange time.

To be kind is to be understanding and my students have blown my mind. They have inquired, adapted and excelled during this period of 'learning from home' and I couldn't be prouder. Their capacity for change is astounding and their ability to be resilient during uncertain times is exciting. Their patience and understanding has allowed me, as their teacher, to find a new groove, through daily Google Meets and the utilisation of Google Classroom for educational activities.

Students - you are the ones who have displayed the most kindness during this time and you have outshone all of us. It is an honour to be teaching children of the future, because the future sure does look bright!

Love, Lauren



KINDERGARTEN HEALTH CHECK 2020 - UPDATE

Due to the redeployment of Registered Nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic response and the closure of schools, the 2020 physical component of the Kindergarten Health Check has been cancelled. The Academic Unit of General Practice questionnaire data, completed by parents at the beginning of the 2020 school year, has been collected as usual. The results of the questionnaire will be sent to the GP if consent has been given to do so. If parents have concerns regarding the physical check, we recommend they see their GP for assessment. For more information please contact the School Health Team on 5124 1585.

SUPPORTING KIDS TO RETURN TO FACE TO FACE LEARNING



Tips from our school psychologist Melissa Collie

Families are preparing to send their children back to face to face learning, after a period of being away from the familiarity of school, attending classes and spending time with friends. Some families will have become very used to the routine of being at home. Returning to school will require children to readjust to school routines and expectations, along with new hygiene and distancing routines.

Here are some recommendations to help children transition back to school:

- When and where possible try not to introduce any new routines at home during the time of readjustment.
- Keep explanations age appropriate. Communicate openly about feelings associated with the move back to school, both positive and negative.
- Keep children informed about the timeline for returning to school, as it will be staggered the junior years will be returning to a school that may seem empty.
- Talk to them about before and after school care arrangements, clearly explaining any changes that may have occurred. Where, when and how you drop off and pick up your children may have changed to maintain physical distancing rules.
- Start a conversation with your child about what they are looking forward to on their return. Who are they looking forward to seeing and what activities are they looking forward to engaging in?
- Allow children to talk about any concerns they may have about returning to school. Allowing and listening for concerns to come up in play or general conversation rather than a direct question can be beneficial. Validate all their concerns and provide reassurance.

- If children are feeling unsettled or anxious about returning to school, it may be helpful for them to take a familiar item, perhaps something of yours, with them to school (making sure that it is not valuable or would cause concern if misplaced - and check in with the teacher regarding the suitability in the classroom).
- Discuss any concerns children may have in relation to COVID-19, such as their health; worry about other people's health. Use the resources available from government websites or provided by the school and directorate to help these discussions in needed.
- Remember some anxiety is a normal part of life. Change and uncertainty are often triggering for feeling anxious and it takes time to learn the skills that help us to manage. When adults around children stay calm, think clearly and model confident coping, children tend to feel less anxious and are more likely to cope and adjust to change.

As your child or young person transitions back to school, remember you can seek assistance by contacting school staff with any concerns or questions you have about the return. We are all looking forward to seeing your children back at school over the coming weeks.

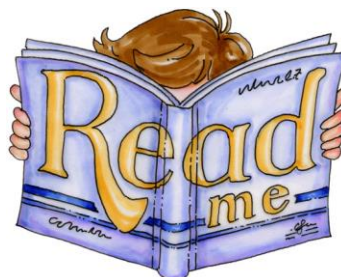
NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Wow! What times we live in. It's been very interesting engaging with library issues electronically and, while Sora has been a great tool to use to fill the gap, there's nothing like the sensations associated with reading a real book. We were grateful that students got to borrow heavily in the week before the lockdown – an incredible number of books went out at that time. We now ask that students return those books as they return to school and advise that normal borrowing limits have resumed. Please rest assured that we are following guidelines for the quarantining and handling of books to minimize the risk of virus transmission.

On another note, the first Scholastic Book Fair was due to be held this month, but we had to cancel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We do have another booking for later in the year which, fingers crossed, looks like it should be able to go ahead. In the meantime, students can purchase books through the Scholastic Book Club, the latest edition of which is available online. Many of the items that would have been available at the Book Fair will be available, instead, through Book Club. When families purchase items through Book Club the school receives credits from Scholastic, and this is similar to the way that Book Fairs work. So, if you're looking to top up your home libraries and support the school, purchasing through Book Club is a great way to do both.

Yours Bookishly,

Julian Wark



NEWS FROM THE P&C PRESIDENT

Just a quick reminder that we will be holding our first virtual P&C Meeting tonight at 7pm. We will be using the Google Meet platform which our students have been using for their work and class catch ups during the period of home learning. You don't have to download anything, it can be accessed on a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone, all you will need is the link and a google log in (if you don't have one, you should be able to use your child's school account). The link can be found below and will be active from 6:50pm on the night to allow everyone the chance to log in and make sure it's working before we kick off.

<http://meet.google.com/znn-etar-aap>

This will be a new and learning experience for all of us so please be patient as we sort through any technological issues. Google Meet also has a chat function, which we encourage participants to utilise throughout the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you in your comfiest trackies!

The canteen will be reopening for online orders from next Wednesday 27 May. Unfortunately, with current restrictions, we will be unable to accept cash or over the counter orders at this time.

Brooke Pearson
P&C President



PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS – DIANE LONDON - PIANO

Diane London has played piano since childhood and instantly developed a love for music, it is this enjoyment and appreciation that she has been passing on to others as a piano teacher for over 15 years in Canberra. Diane's training has included university study (BMUS) at the Canberra School of Music (Australian National University) as well as a Bachelor of Actuarial Studies from the Australian National University. Diane teaches from ages 4 years and upwards and teaches many adult students at her Lyneham studio.

As part of her studies at the Canberra School of Music, Diane has been taught by some of Australia's most talented musicians, including Professor Larry Sitsky who is a prolific Australian composer, pianist, researcher and who is one of the founding members of the Canberra School of Music (ANU) and John Luxton (former head director of the Canberra School of Music (ANU)). Diane has also been taught by Wendy Lorenz, making her a 6th generation descendant student of Ludwig Van Beethoven, the lineage is - Diane London - Wendy Lorenz - Maria Curcio - Artur Schnabel - Theodor Leschetizky - Carl Czerny - Ludwig van Beethoven.

As a pianist, Diane has performed many times at the Canberra School of Music as well as performances across Canberra including the Australian Parliament House and Wesley Music Centre. Diane has also adjudicated piano competitions such as the Miles Franklin Music Festival Piano Competition.

One of Diane's key approaches to her teaching is recognising and responding to unique student needs. Instead of following just one inflexible teaching style, she prioritises developing goals with the student and then creates a plan for the student to achieve their goals.

Student goals can vary widely and can include just wanting to learn to play the piano for fun, preparing for AMEB piano practical exams, learning piano to 'keep the brain active', or even learning music theory, history and composition. Diane has helped hundreds of students successfully achieve their musical goals.

\$37 per 1/2 hour lesson.

Lessons can be held at the school during school hours, or at Canberra Music Education School in Lyneham. Lessons are also offered on Saturdays.

Please contact Diane on 0414 788 380 for more information.



Giving our volunteers a WAVE OF APPRECIATION!

