



UPCOMING DATES

13 March

7pm - P&C Annual General Meeting

15 March

Assembly hosted by 3/4G

21 March

Harmony Day

25 March

Christian Education in Schools

**If you read to a child
15 minutes a day,
by age 5 that will add up
to 27,375 minutes or
456 hours or
19 days!**



EXECUTIVE TEACHER'S MESSAGE

The beginning of a school year brings the commencement of our Action Plan for 2019. The Action Plan flows on from our five-year School Improvement Plan. The Action Plan articulates:

1. A commitment to the Education Directorate's three Strategic Indicators for 2018-2021.
2. Our priorities, as informed by the Directorate's Strategic Indicators, School Review findings and analysis of multiple sources of evidence.

The Action Plan translates the actions to be taken in the current year of our five-year school improvement cycle. The following priorities are outlined in our Action Plan for 2019:

Priority 1: Improve student outcomes in writing

Our actions for 2019 will be:

- Evaluate our progress with the Ten Essential Practices for Literacy, including training for new staff.
- Embed common school-based writing moderation each semester ensuring teachers provide the opportunity for students to write for authentic purposes.

Priority 2: Improve student outcomes in Mathematics

Our actions for 2019 will be:

- Embed Paul Swan number strategies across the school
- Explore the use of reSolve across the school

Priority 3: Enhance a positive school culture and promote community connectedness

Our actions for 2019 will be:

- Evolve the UC Affiliated Schools Program
- Develop a school Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Giralang Primary School is committed to improved outcomes for all students, through the implementation of the Action Plan for 2019.

Alex Breen – Executive Teacher

TELEPHONE:	(02) 6142 2630	P&C Association	Board Representatives
		Vacant	President Glen Howard 0448 628 192
		Vacant	Vice President Kathryn Couter 0414 410 672
		Vacant	Secretary Nathan Kruger 0409 956 667
		Vacant	Treasurer
www.giralangps.act.edu.au			
info@giralangps.act.edu.au			
TWITTER: @GiralangPrimary			
School Office Hours:	08:30-15:30		



YEAR 5/6 CAMP

Last week the 5/6 cohort had an amazing three days of outdoor learning and play at the Birrigai Outdoor School and Campsite. Birrigai is located right on Tidbinbilla and Namadgi National Park's doorstep and the complex is surrounded by native Australian bushland, with an abundance of wildlife freely roaming the grounds. On arrival we were greeted by an emu at the gate and a few kangaroos as we got close to the cabins!

During our time at camp, students participated in abseiling, bush walks, making campfires, cooking damper, team initiatives and a crate climb challenge. On the first night we had a choice of 'Minute to Win it' Challenges and a Trivia Competition and then fell asleep with lots of thunder and lightning from the big storm. On the second night we had a movie in the theatre in our pjs which worked well as everyone was tired. Day 3 we woke up to more rain but this didn't dampen our spirits and we went ahead with our Gold rush simulations, fully embracing what life would have been like for the early settlers in Australia trying to strike it rich.

We would like to give a big shout out to Mr Grandi for organising this camp for us and to Ms Ireland, Mrs Duke, Mr Wylie and Mrs Ison for giving their time to attend.

Lisa Ison – Acting Executive Teacher

CLOSURE OF GOOGLE COMMUNITIES

As you may already be aware, Google Communities will close at the end of this term. In fact, it may happen as early as 2 April 2019. We have been working closely with the ACT Education Directorate to find a replacement communication vehicle. We have a couple of options that we are exploring now and will communicate the outcome with families as soon as possible.

Belinda Love - Principal

SCHOOL PHOTO TIME!

The School Photographer will be taking our photos in Week 10.

On Tuesday 9 April 2019 the whole school, Preschool Monday to Wednesday, Year 6 whole group, and siblings will have their photo taken. Specialist photos for our bands, SRC, choir, school captains will also be taken on this day. These photos can be ordered separately at the Front Office at a cost of \$15.

On Thursday 11 April, Preschool Wednesday to Friday, siblings, and students who were absent on Tuesday, will have their photo taken.

Each student received an order envelope yesterday, Tuesday 12 March 2019. These can be returned to the Front Office by the day photos are taken.

Sibling photo envelopes can be collected from the Front Office.

The preferred method of payment is online via credit card. If paying by cash, the Front Office is unable to provide change, so correct money is appreciated.

VOTING FOR SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS HAS CLOSED

The results of the election process for the two positions of Parent and Citizens members on our school board have been submitted to the Returning Officer, who will make a determination on approximately 25 March 2019. The announcement of the winning candidates will be made approximately 7 days later.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Klose on 6142 2631.

WEARING HELMETS

It is great to see so many students enjoying a fit and active lifestyle by riding a bike or scooter to school. Can we please give a friendly reminder about wearing an appropriate helmet and ensuring that it is fastened under the chin? We want to protect those great minds!

LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL

Our whole class programs and targeted intervention programs **start at 9.00am sharp** so being only a few minutes late can impact your student's learning significantly. Parents are encouraged to ensure their children arrive at school on time.

The table below is a summary of the time lost when punctuality becomes a daily problem.

My child is only missing...		
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year
20 mins per day	1 hour and 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year
60 mins per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year

P&C NEWS

P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C will hold its AGM on Wednesday 13 March at 7pm. We'll hear reports from the P&C's 2018 activities, elect a new executive committee, take any nominations for other roles, and deal with related matters.

Please come along to hear about your P&C, and get involved if you can spare the time!

Further details will be emailed - if you would like to be added to the P&C's email list please contact:

giralangpandc@gmail.com.

CANTEEN NEWS

Did you know that our wonderful Cindy has been working in the canteen for over 10 years? She originally started as a volunteer when her son attended GPS, and after many years (and many hours) dedicated to the canteen, the P&C made her an employee.

Over the years, Cindy has worked in conjunction with Nutrition Australia to design our 'green canteen' food menu. The home cooked meals are Cindy's creations, and for the first time in 2013, GPS was named ACT's overall winner of the 'Canteen Fresh & Healthy Food' award. Every year Nutrition Australia reviews our canteen menu and every year, we have continued to be awarded for our green choices.



Kirsti Kuzmanoski is another dedicated worker at our GPS canteen. Kirsti has a child attending GPS, and another who graduated last year. She has helped Cindy for 7 years, often being the only volunteer available to help Cindy every week.

Well done ladies, and thanks for being part of the small team who have helped keep our canteen open in these busy times.

Did you know that the right amount of salt is actually essential to our health? But not all salts are equal and certainly not the salts found in processed foods. Pink himalayan salt contains over 84 minerals and trace elements, including calcium, magnesium, potassium, copper and iron. It is also lower in sodium chloride than regular table salt which has been bleached and highly refined using chemicals. Please google the health benefits of pink salt if you'd like to know more.

FLEXI SCHOOLS CANTEEN ORDERING

As you may be aware, the Flexischools mobile app hasn't been working and there has been much confusion as to whether orders have gone through or not.

Please be advised the issue is occurring within the mobile app only, and Flexischools is working round the clock to fix the problem. We apologise for the inconvenience and will advise when the app is working again.

In the meantime, please submit your orders via the desktop site on your laptop/PC, or access the desktop site via your mobile device's browser. Alternatively, the canteen still accepts orders in brown paper bags.

CHANGES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Please be aware that the ACT government is introducing a new integrated public transport network, effective Term 2, 2019. This network will include bus and light rail services operating together. Some students will use different routes, make connections between services or use light rail for the first time. Every student who will use public transport needs to be aware of the changes.

Bus services will change for the beginning of Term 2.

- The change to services will include dedicated school services for the commencement of Term 2 on 29 April 2019.
- The new timetable information will be available on line from early March, including an improved online journey planner.

- Information about services for each school is available online at www.transport.act.gov.au/gettingaround/new-network/schools.
- Light rail services are being tested now, and you can find out more about safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers around light rail online at www.canberra-metro.com.au/safety.

For more information about the changes or assistance in explaining the changes to your community, please contact Kylie Smith, Transport Canberra School and Community Liaison Manager, at kyliea.smith@act.gov.au.

NEWS FROM YEAR 6

Camp

What an incredibly busy start to the term for Year 6! The early highlight of the Term thus far would be the Week 5 camp experience to Birrigai. Students took part in a range of fun and engaging activities such as abseiling, building campfires, bush walking, crate climbing, team initiatives and finally, the Gold Rush Simulation.



NEWS FROM YEAR 6 CONT'D

SEL and Survive and Thrive

In our Health and Physical Education unit, students have been focusing on how we can Survive and Thrive in Year 6. To do this, we take part in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions every Monday afternoon, Mindfulness every day after recess and Rock and Water sessions each week. Alongside our SEL sessions, students are inquiring into the benefits of exercise and healthy food choices.



Buddies - A leadership opportunity

We recently teamed up with our Kindergarten buddies, teaching them how to login and use their Reading Eggs accounts on the Chromebooks! We are very excited to continue building relationships with our buddies as we learn as much from them as they do from us.



Science

Year 6 is investigating the ways substances can change, especially when mixed with each other. Some changes are easily reversible, but others are not. Already some students are making connections to cooking at home. The kitchen is a great place for parents to observe science at work.



Photos: Students are role-playing molecules in different states of matter. Starting in a tightly-packed solid state, they gradually become more energised and fluid, finally filling the entire space as a gas.

ACTIVE STREETS PROGRAM

Late last year our school was selected to benefit from the Active Streets for Schools program over the next four years. Active Streets is an infrastructure program – supported by educational resources – to make it safer and easier to walk or ride to school.



More children walking or riding to school has numerous benefits, including increased health and wellbeing, less congestion and safer school communities. Some of the elements delivered through the program include:

- Infrastructure improvements around schools, for example new or improved footpaths, crossings, better signage or traffic calming measures (e.g. speed humps)
- Educational resources (including a map for each school)
- Wayfinding pavement stencils
- Promotion of part way drop off and collection points
- Communication materials
-

A key aspect of the program is engagement with school communities to tailor the program to suit our needs. In the coming weeks the school community will be invited to provide feedback about the school's map and invited to participate in a survey, which will allow you to highlight potential infrastructure improvements around the school to support walking or riding to school. We encourage the school community to embrace this opportunity and engage in the program.

More information is available on the [Transport Canberra](#) website.

MINDFULNESS

MINDFULNESS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A wonderful opportunity is being offered for parents and carers.

Jennifer Sexton, Giralang Primary School parent and trained meditation facilitator, will be offering mindfulness sessions in weeks 8, 9 and 10 of Term 1. These sessions are free of charge.

Each session commences at 9.00am and will run for 1 hour on Friday mornings on 29 March and 5 & 12 April in our Giralang Cloud.

Jennifer will lead you through the benefits of mindfulness as a daily practice. No need to sign up, just show up and relax.



PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

KELLY STURGISS – PIANO, SINGING, FLUTE AND TRUMPET TEACHER

Kelly Sturgiss has been teaching music privately for the past ten years. She has a diploma in music and has studied classical piano, flute and a variety of instruments since the age of five. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Art, in which she has included music and sound into her work. Kelly's strengths lie in teaching students to read and understand music from a beginner level. Her method of teaching includes different ways of understanding, and blending techniques to best suit the student. She also includes an improvisation session in every lesson, to have the student *feel* the music and exercise their knowledge and natural expression. She adores the beauty and structure of classical pieces, but her repertoire extends to contemporary and composition. Kelly strives to be a dynamic and inspiring teacher.

JAMES STEINBECK – GUITAR AND ELECTRIC BASS GUITAR

James began his musical journey by playing guitar in bands in high school and has continued to be a performer in bands ever since, he subsequently has completed an Advanced Diploma in Music Performance. James currently plays in several bands in Canberra, his style ranges from contemporary, rock and jazz. James teaches the following instruments from beginner to intermediate level - acoustic guitar, electric guitar and bass guitar. James wants to share his love for the guitar and passion for performance with all his students!

\$35 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.

COMMUNITY MESSAGES

ActewAGL Llewellyn One

Be transported to the wilderness of Tasmania and the rugged landscapes of Scotland with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra's ActewAGL Llewellyn One on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 April at Llewellyn Hall ANU.

The evening concert will feature Diana Doherty on oboe, the CSO's 2019 Artist in Focus, and guest conductor Jessica Cottis. Diana is regarded as one of the most talented Australian instrumentalists working today and has been Principal Oboe of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra since 1997.

Diana will be leading Nigel Westlake's piece Spirit of the Wild, a challenging piece written specifically for her by the composer known for his scores in the film Babe. Beethoven, Ross Edwards and Mendelssohn will also share the program.

A free pre-concert talk will be held at 6:45pm, followed by the concert at 7:30pm.

Details:

7:30pm Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 April 2019
Llewellyn Hall ANU
Building 100, William Herbert Place
Canberra ACT 2601

The Canberra Symphony is pleased to offer **group and student discounts**. It's easy to book by contacting the friendly team at CSO Direct on **6262 6772**. General entry tickets are available on the website, cso.org.au.



6287 3833

Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT. Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm. Phone: 6287 3833

GET SET TENNIS - HOT SHOTS COMP IS BACK!

Get Set Tennis will be running the hot shots league again this term on Friday afternoons.

This is a great opportunity for red, orange and green ballers to practice their match play in a round robin format.

You must book in each week by Thursday 9:00pm prior to match day (no walk-ins)

All Bookings are made via text to Coach Busta - 0422 037 141

Booking text should include: Full name and Level of play (red, orange or green)

Spaces are limited so get in early.

WHEN: Friday afternoons 3:45pm-5:45pm

DATES: Weeks 6- 9 (March 15th - April 5th)

WHERE: Kaleen tennis courts, Birie place, Kaleen, 2617

COST: \$15 per session

There will be a sausage sizzle and prizes each week with the overall winner of the league taking home a brand new racquet.

Nelson Parker

Owner & Director - Get Set Tennis

Mb: 0422 809 160

www.getsettennis.com.au



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If you have any questions please email admin@belnorth.org



Belnorth

Football Club

Registration Open

ENROL NOW

belnorth.com



TUESDAYS WEDNESDAYS SATURDAYS

Junior Circ
 6 - 10yrs
 4:30 - 6:00pm

Youth Circ
 11 - 14yrs
 6:00 - 7:30pm

Open Session
 15yrs and above
 4:00 - 5:30pm

Open Session
 15yrs and above
 5:30 - 7:00pm

Open Session
 15yrs and above
 9:00 - 10:30am

Youth Circ
 11 - 14yrs
 10:30 - 12:00am

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 BELCONNEN ACT 2615



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everyone's family

* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

Email

CanberraSP@
thesmithfamily.com.au

Online

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