

The Gang Gang Gazette

Week 5, Term 1 (2nd March, 2017)

Principal: Tania Collis **Deputy Principals: Rikkie Klootwijk and Daniel Breen**
Executive Teachers: Deborah Lowrey and Kate Stear
P & C President: Nicola Gibson
Board Parent Representatives: Emma McMahon, Allison Foster and Naomi Lee
Board Email: napsboardreps@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Kindergarten and Junior IEC Water Fun Day @ School	Monday 6 th March
Swimming Carnival (Year 1-Year 6) @ Dickson Pool	Monday 6 th March
Assembly hosted by 1/2KG & 3/4KM (Group 2)	Friday 10 th March @ 12 noon
Canberra Day Holiday	Monday 13 th March
Assembly hosted by 1/2A & Senior IEC (Group 1)	Friday 17 th March @ 12 noon
Year 5/6 Australian War Memorial Excursion	Thursday 16 th March – 5/6D & 5/6V Friday 17 th March – 5/6A, 5/6M and 5/6W

Notes Home

- 5/6 Camp Kianinny permission note
- 5/6 Kianinny Outdoor Water Activity Permission note
- Kindergarten Water Fun Day Reminder

Board

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 21 Mar, 6.00pm

P & C

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 21 Mar, 7.30pm

Dear Families and Friends,

Today we had the Magic Words incursion for our students in years 1 to 4 as part of our Social and Emotional Learning program here at North Ainslie. Students really engaged in the performance and took on the ideals and values on display. This builds upon the Essential Agreements created by each class in the first weeks of school which are part of the PYP. These agreements are co-created and explicitly teach students about the routines and expectations of the class and school building and are based upon the Attitudes and Attributes such as respect, caring, co-operation and risk-taking. As a KidsMatter school, we have a Wellbeing Committee who are working together to review and build upon the programs already in place. We have some new programs we will be bringing in this year which we are very excited about and will be sharing them with you throughout the year.

Teaching and Learning at NAPS

Last week I shared some information about Collaborative Teaching so this week I am writing about multi-age and single year classes. Historically North Ainslie trialled both models until 2013. At that time teachers were consulted and based on student needs the decision was to continue with the multi-age model (sometimes known as composite).

At North Ainslie we strive to be

What do we know about these different models? "Single-age groups seem to create enormous normative pressures on the children and the teacher to expect all the children to possess the same knowledge and skills. There is no evidence to show that a group of children who are all within a twelve-month age range can be expected to learn the same things, in the same way, on the same day, at the same time. The wide range of knowledge and skills that exists among children within a single-age group suggests that whole-group instruction, if overused, may not best serve children's learning." Katz, Lillian G. *The Benefits of Mixed Age Grouping (1995)* In the past composite classes often used a model where students were delivered the curriculum for their year but over time have transformed into what we now call the multi-age model where teachers differentiate the curriculum after formatively assessing each student on what they know and what they need to learn. For example, an assessment may show that a student needs to learn something from the curriculum from the year level they are currently in and this will be delivered and explicitly taught to them and then practised by the student. Other students may need some additional learning from the previous year's curriculum, whilst others require extension into the next year's content. All of this learning is explicitly taught by teachers who have the expertise to do so through guided and independent group work and whole class teaching. At North Ainslie this is all linked to the Australian Curriculum and the PYP.

International and Australian evidence all show there is no difference in academic outcomes for students in multi-age classes. Researchers such as John Hattie have conducted major research on what does have an effect on student achievement and their research demonstrates there is no or negligible effect on achievement through the use of multi-age classes. The student themselves, the teacher and the home have far greater influence on outcomes.

This same research has shown there are social and emotional benefits for students in multi-age classes. These include having a wider choice of friends from mixed age groups, earlier opportunities for leadership roles, mentoring of younger students, and a less competitive environment. We have found that younger students settle more easily, catching on to class expectations quickly because of the older role models within the class. On the flip side we have found that older children take on leadership roles they take with them into the next year. Every child gets the chance to use and build upon their strengths and the chance to have support when required.

For further information on multi-age classes you could read:

Katz, Lillian: *The Benefits of Mixed Age Groupings* (1995)

Hollins, T: *Composite Classes-Good or Bad?* (2008)

Smith, B: *Getting the Mix Right* (Sydney Morning Herald, 2003)

Wilson, V: *All in Together? An Overview of the Literature on Composite Classes* (2008)

If you have any further questions about multi-age classes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Parking

We are once again reminding all families to be careful around the school during school drop off and pick up times. It is also important that we follow all road and parking rules to ensure the safety of our students. I have attached a fact sheet for you to read with this week's newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Tania Collis

Principal

Magic Words

Students in years 1/2 and 3/4 watched the performance *The Magic Words* today by Brainstorm Productions as part of our Social and Emotional Learning curriculum. Everyone had a lot of fun learning about showing respect and using good manners. Eva K from Kirsty's class even got to join in the show.



Year 3/4 News



It has been an exciting time in 3/4 recently. We have had two guest speakers present to us in relation to our *Who We Are* Unit of Inquiry on Health and Wellbeing. Elite athlete Michael Milton (Angus' dad) spoke to us about looking after our bodies and the importance of being healthy. We were also lucky enough to have neuroscientist Marnie Shaw (Evie's mum) speak to us about maintaining a healthy brain and having lots of new experiences to encourage new connections in the brain. All students engaged in classroom experiments determining the quantity of sugar in drinks and learning how to read food labels. Watching *That Sugar Film* helped students understand the effects of a high sugar diet on their bodies. All 3/4 students have also been participating in Environmental Science with Rachael and Amy. They have been visiting the HEHub and enjoying the garden. What a great start to the year it has been!

Hunter, Matteo and Ru from Emily's class looking at the effects of sugar on eggshells, which have the same properties as human teeth!

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Sports Leaders

2017 Sports Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as Sports Leaders for 2017:

Cockatoos Captains: Alicia P. and Yannick S. Vice-Captains: Lily H. and Arland S-C.	Kingfishers Captains: Yasemin K. and Vincent L. Vice-Captains: Samson N, Felix S. and Maya S-B.
Parrots Captains: Meika S. and Jackson M. Vice-Captains: Aeysha W. and Petros K.	Rosellas Captains: Rose M. and Seamus G. Vice-Captains: Cora M. and Will A.

Upcoming Community Event

Icon Water proudly presents 'A Day at the Lake'
On the shores of Lake Burley Griffin at Black Mountain Peninsula
Sunday March 5th, 2017
10am to 2pm

As part of the national Respect the River campaign, an initiative by Royal Life Saving Society –Australia and the Australian Government, 'A Day At The Lake' will reconnect Canberra families with our local Inland Waterways! The emphasis is on safe recreation in our local rivers, lakes, ponds and pools.

Belinda Fitzgerald (Royal Life Saving ACT Events Coordinator)

ACT Gifted Families Support Group

Gifted Awareness Week : Professional Appreciation Awards Presentation and Seminar

Guest Speaker: Dr Natalie Rimlinger

Presenting: *Dwelling on the right side of the curve: An exploration of the wellbeing of parents of gifted children.*

When: Tuesday 14th March 2016 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Where: Clements Hall, Junior Campus, Canberra Girls Grammar School, Grey Street, Deakin ACT

Cost: Non-members \$20; Members free*

Tickets available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gifted-awareness-week-seminar-and-professional-appreciation-awards-tickets-32104644857>

*Membership forms and enquiries: email Elizabeth at actgifted@gmail.com

West's Magpies Basketball Club, Belconnen

Winter Season Registration Open Now.

Age: All Players 6-18 Year welcome

If you are interested in joining our fantastic club, email us at west.basketball@gmail.com or check out our website for more information at www.westsbasketball.com.au

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P & C News



NAPS P&C AGM - Save the Date Tuesday 21st March @7.30pm

The NAPS P&C will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st March. We are seeking to elect new committee members. So please join us and become involved in making NAPS such a fabulous community. A general P&C meeting will be held after the meeting. If you would like to join the P&C email list please email napscommunity@gmail.com

BIG GREEN GARAGE SALE - Save the Date Saturday 6th May 9am-1pm

Just a reminder that the highly anticipated BGGs will be held on Saturday 6th May from 9am-1pm, We need donations of book, toys, used furniture, clothes and other treasure. So start decluttering and find those hidden treasures. More information to come. If you would like to be part of the organising team please email napsvolunteers@gmail.com

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop currently has second-hand polar fleeces in a range of sizes, selling for \$5 each. Please visit the uniform shop on Thursday morning (8:45-9:15am) or Thursday afternoon (2:45-3:15pm) if you are interested.

TERM 1 HEHUB CANTEEN MENU (Open Wednesday, Thursday Friday)



All week - Recess

A selection from the following:

Fruit and yogurt Cup	\$1.00	Peas "n" corn cup	\$1.00
Fruit of the day / Apple slinky	\$0.50 / \$1.00	Pikelets	\$0.50
Toasties	\$1.00	Apple & cinnamon muffin	\$0.50

All week - Lunch

Vegie sticks	Free	Fruit of the day	\$0.50
Vegemite sandwich(VG)	\$2.00	Rainbow wrap(with egg free mayo)	\$3.00
Tex Mex toasted wrap(V)	\$2.00	Milk bottle (150ml)	\$1.50
Soy milk (VG)	\$2.50	Tuna & cheese toasted sandwich	\$3:00

Daily lunch Special- \$3.00

Wednesday:

Pizza(V)
Smoothies \$2.00

Thursday:

Italian Chicken toasted sandwich(DF,GF)
Smoothies \$2.00

Friday:

Veg Sushi(VG) or Chicken Sushi(GF)
Smoothies \$2.00

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