Dear Families

It has been very exciting to step into the administration area during this week and hear the buzz of voices that let me know that the “Get to know you” meetings are taking place. Sharing the stories about your children enables the staff to really understand your children; their interests, their likes and dislikes, their skills and abilities and your hopes and dreams and goals for 2016 for your children’s learning. I hope if you haven’t made a time for a meeting that you will be able to do so. The teachers have commented that the family meetings are a really positive way to begin the year and they value the time that it takes to speak with each of our families.

This year we are also trying something new. On Monday night, 29 February beginning at 6pm the Kindergarten to Year 2 teachers are conducting information evenings to talk about how they manage the learning in their classes and across each of the respective year levels. Please read the invitation that is within this newsletter.

Next week there is also the Parents and Citizens (P&C) first meeting of the year, generally referred to as the Annual General Meeting, AGM. Last year the P&C was an active group of parents who provided events and raised funds for the school. If you can be involved, regularly, or only every so often, please come along on Thursday 2 March at 6pm, in the Library to meet with the P&C and participate in the planning for our school. I would love to see as many of you as possible, have a cup of tea, a chat, and meet other parents. I know that many of our families have made new friends and connected with other parents. Do come along!

Next week the regular inserts from classes will begin. I always enjoy reading about the adventures in learning that are taking place across the school. This week I have been fortunate enough to visit almost every classroom. From my observations I can see that the students are beginning to settle into routines and practices that are enabling them to be self-motivated learners; completing tasks, asking for assistance and having a go at the challenges that are being presented to them.

Have an excellent weekend

Regards

Julie
Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT

Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT is an innovative government and non-government school project providing strong evidence about ‘what works’, ‘why it matters’ and ‘how best to foster’ parental engagement in ACT schools.

A second series of resources was recently launched and copies have been distributed to all ACT primary schools. The resources include four parent fact sheets which provide practical strategies to enhance parental engagement and promote student learning and well being. The fact sheets for parents include:

- Family-led learning- engaging the whole family
- What you can do at home - Parental Engagement in early childhood
- What you can do at home - Parental Engagement in primary school
- Communicating with your child’s school


**Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT** is an ACT Government initiative led by the ACT Education Directorate in conjunction with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools.

**Canberra Chinese School**

Canberra Chinese School (CCS) Gungahlin Campus has opened the 2016 enrolment process for Kindy and Year 1. The school offers Ma Liping Chinese, an effective textbook for heritage Chinese students. Students can learn 1000 characters after 3 years’ study.

Lesson time is 10am-12pm on Sundays at Gold Creek High School in Nicholls.

CCS also runs Saturday school in Bruce and Sunday school in Woden. Contact person: Suzie Cong (cchangxin@yahoo.com or 0411106353).

School/ enrolment details are available at www.canberrachineseschool.net
Invitation to parent forum

As you may be aware, in 2015, the Minister for Education established an Expert Panel to review how ACT schools respond to students with complex needs and challenging behaviour. In November 2015, the Expert Panel released their report *Schools for All Children and Young People – Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour*, outlining 50 recommendations. All 50 recommendations were accepted by the ACT Government.

In response to the report, the Education Directorate has begun a three year program of system reform, the *Schools for All Program*. The program not only aims to implement the 50 recommendations, but most importantly to continue our ambitious, evidence based, and single-minded, ‘whatever it takes’ student-centred vision for ACT public schools.

Throughout the year, the Program Implementation Team will undertake quarterly parent forums to keep families updated about progress. The Education Directorate invites parents of students in ACT public schools to participate in the forums and to provide feedback regarding implementation.

Please see below for dates and times of parent forums. There is no need to book, just come along.

**Forum 1 Wednesday 16 March 2016**
- 9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)
- 5:50pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Multipurpose room)

**Forum 2 Wednesday 15 June 2016**
- 9:30-10:30 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)
- 5:50pm-6:30pm UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

**Forum 3 Thursday 15 September 2016**
- 9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)
- 5:50pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)

**Forum 4 Thursday 10 November 2016**
- 9:30-10:30 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)
- 5:50pm-6:30pm UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)


If you are unable to attend any of these dates and you would like to provide feedback or enquire about progress to date, please contact the Schools for All Program Implementation team on 02 6207 6606 or by email *SchoolsForAll@act.gov.au*. 
Information Sessions

to be held in
K–2 classroom units

Monday, 29th February

Kindergarten—6.00pm
Year 1—6.20pm
Year 2—6.40pm

Twenty minute sessions will be run by the teachers on each year level.

Information about the learning and classroom organisation will be provided. This session is aimed at parents.
English Conversation for Everyday Life

English Speaker wanted

Welcome our families from overseas by sharing our language and culture and learning about other cultures

Wednesday from 1:30pm - 3pm @ the Community Room
Franklin Early Childhood School 135 Oodgeroo Ave, Franklin
Stay and enjoy a snack and some refreshments after the group.

We practice speaking & listening to Australian English in a friendly and fun group at the school community room.

For more information
Telephone Annette Evans:
61421110 or 0481 004 372
anette.evans@ed.act.edu.au

Please be aware this is a group to practice among friends and is not a class run by teachers.
I ❤️ Mandarin Play & Learn

Learn Mandarin through play

Songs, Rhymes, Stories, Art, Music, Movement, Science and more

玩游戏 学中文

儿歌，童谣，故事，美术，音乐，律动操，科学实验等等

Put Your name on the list for Term 2

Find out more about this great opportunity for you and your child to learn more about Chinese language and culture.

Contact Community Co-ordinator: annette.evans@ed.act.edu.au

Tel: Annette 0481 0043 72

Or talk with Annie: annie.yuxuan.xu@gmail.com

For children aged 3+ years with their families
For families where Chinese is the home language
and for families who are just beginning to learn about Chinese language.