Dear Parents and Carers

With NAPLAN about to happen again next week the following quote seemed quite timely.
“Tests are not fun – but they’re necessary. Stepping on the bathroom scale can be nerve-racking, but it tells us if that exercise routine is working. Going to the dentist for a checkup every six months might be unpleasant, but it lets us know if there are cavities to address. In education, tests provide an objective measurement of how students are progressing – information that’s critical to improving public schools.”


I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all our students to do their very best during NAPLAN. The teachers have provided our students with all the learning experiences and preparations they need and it will be terrific to celebrate the achievements of our students when the results are released later this year.

As parents you can assist your children in a number of ways. Make sure they have plenty of sleep during the testing week, a good healthy breakfast and plenty of nutritious snacks also help. It is important that children have all the equipment they require for their tests and wear warm clothing now that Autumn has arrived. Please help your child to be well prepared and as relaxed as possible so that they can maximise their results.

Congratulations to all the junior students who participated in the primary Cross Country events. At last the weather was good and the students had excellent conditions in which to demonstrate their abilities. Many students completed personal best results and everyone did their best. Special thanks to Ms Bryant who organised and ran this very important sporting carnival.

MAKING PARENTS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPING THEIR CHILDREN’S WRITING

The following comes from a recent educational research article that nicely encapsulates a key message we want to share with our parent community: Mary Ehrenworth (Columbia University Teachers College) says parents want to help their children become good writers, but many overdo it, flounder around, or do nothing. She suggests schools share with their parents the theory behind the writing practice at school and how parents can assist their children to be better writers.

At Amaroo School we believe that that writing is a craft and with the right support your children can learn to write well. –To improve at writing, it’s important that we write a lot. The more children write, the more fluent they become. An easy thing parents can do to help this process is to be their child’s motivator by encouraging them to develop the stamina it takes to become a fast and fluent writer.

We will teach your children to be writers of narratives, persuasive and informational texts as well as poetry. We believe that narratives are a powerful way of telling your story. Your child will use this genre throughout their lives. At every job interview, every scholarship application, every essay will be an opportunity for your children to craft their own stories. We believe in persuasive texts
as it provides students with an opportunity to generate debate through arguments. We want your children to be able to advocate for themselves and others, to defend positions with logic and evidence. It is important that they become persuasive, compelling, and ethical and writing inspires this when done well. We believe in informational writing because your children will learn a lot that they can teach others, now and in the future. We believe that is poetry resonates in your children’s emotions and we want to be able to inspire them to hear it.

We believe that writers of all ages benefit from having a writing partner who will help them rehearse their writing and give them knowledgeable feedback along the way. Therefore, you can make an immense difference by being the “first reader” for your child.

We hope lots of our Amaroo School parents find this information of use and give these ideas a try.

**Student Achievements**

Natalia from Ms Bryant’s Year 3 class has written an explanation about her experiences at school. She has described how she loves learning and enjoys coming to school every day. It is great to have motivated young learners like Natalia.

Laasya, Amelie, Sophia, Tiarne and Sarah from Mr Chapman’s Year 5 class have completed some excellent writing practice. They were given an enormous task of practicing their running writing and they produced their personal best efforts. It is great to see these young learners developing these very important skills.

Dion, Lochlan and Mitchell from Mr Groot Obbink’s Year 9 maths class have completed an excellent assignment on data analysis. As part of their statistics studies they have researched some crucial data around concerns about our School Network and presented their findings in an excellent presentation. It is great to see these learned young gents taking a highly academic approach and producing quality work.

**Class Visits**
The Year 10 History students had a fabulous learning experience by taking part in a hands-on experience reenacting Operation Market Garden from World War II. Following a brief discussion the students were divided into three groups to play out three scenarios under guidance using miniature war gaming system. The activity was overseen by war-gaming enthusiasts from the Canberra Flames of War Group. The students really enjoyed this powerful learning experience and were some of the most motivated learners I have had the pleasure to observe. They thought carefully about their plans of action and showed good spirits and team work when results favoured or did not favour them. Congratulations to the students on a powerful learning experience and thanks to the teachers of History for bringing their learning to life for our students.

We would like to acknowledge Ken Snell for his contributions in organising and staging this excursion. Ken presented our school with a book, ‘The Words of War’ which is personal letters and diaries from the Imperial War Museum put together by Marcus Cowper.

As always, please contact the Deputy Principals; Ben Hall, Gail Taylor, Sam Beattie, Tiffany Mahon or myself, to clarify any issue of concern to you. The whole school team at Amaroo School is committed to working with our community to ensure our students have the very best opportunities to learn.

Richard Powell
Principal
Amaroo School
A Message from the Minister

Getting Involved in Your Child’s School is a Key to Education Success

The ACT’s national leadership in education is founded on the quality of our schools, our teachers, and our focus on putting parents and children at the centre of everything we do.

I recently announced the Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT project, an Australia-first to help parents and families get more involved with their children’s schools and education.

Simply by reading this newsletter, you are showing your interest in being involved with the education of your children. We know children do better at school when parents and families are actively engaged. After all, you are your child’s first teachers and I encourage you to maintain connected throughout their schooling.

There are many ways of doing this and, as part of the project, your school will be invited to develop innovative ideas to help you to be an active part of your school community. We will keep you updated on how the project will support you in doing this.

With your help we can ensure that your child will get the very best education, tailored for them – and that the ACT will continue to lead the nation in educating our children.

Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training

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Early Childhood

Preschool

Welcome back to Term 2 to all our Preschool children and families. The children have been busy this week settling back into preschool routines and socialising with their peers.

The preschoolers have been investigating the current season; Autumn, with lots of comments about the changes in their environment, particularly the autumn leaves falling off our beautiful deciduous trees. This has been a popular experience with the children raking the leaves, collecting them and having lots of fun playing with them outside. Along with the autumn days comes cooler weather and the ‘Amaroo wind’.

To ensure your child is prepared for this weather please pack a coat, jacket or jumper especially as Outside Investigations is an integral part of our program.

General reminders:

The Amaroo Preschool and Parents Association AGM will be held on Wednesday 7 May 6pm in the main preschool building. All welcome.

If you have a box of chocolates or outstanding money from the P&C fundraiser please return to your child’s teacher ASAP.

Keep an eye out for Book Club catalogues that will be sent home soon. These are a good way to foster regular reading at home to your child.

Kindergarten

What a wonderful start to Term 2 we’ve had! All students have returned re-energised and ready to learn. In saying so, week 1 was an appropriate time to hold our Cross Country Carnival. Our students thoroughly enjoyed racing their peers and even some of their teachers.

Our home reading program will start this week with children bringing home their home reading packs on Monday afternoon. Each pack will contain a reader, a home reading journal, a pamphlet and a book mark. A video highlighting some strategies which you can use when reading with your child can be viewed on your child’s class blog. Should you have any questions regarding this process please see your child’s teacher.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have put their name down to listen to children read and help them change their books. If you are able to do this too, please write your name on the list outside your child’s classroom and ensure you have your ‘Working with Vulnerable People’ card.

As the weather is cooling off, it’s vitally important to check that your child’s clothing is labelled. If your child has misplaced an item, feel free to check lost property which is located in the Ruby/Topaz wet area and the library.

Kindergarten Learning Legends
Noah J, Amber B, Alex K, Tyler A, & Flynn B
Great work!
Year 1

Year One has settled beautifully into the routine of school for Term Two. This term we are studying all about Living Things. The children are categorising animals and learning about different habitats. Fractions are a feature of the Maths program, so please have discussions about fractions as you are enjoying your pizzas, cakes and other yummy food that needs to be cut into portions. Homework is sent home on Thursdays and needs to be returned the following Wednesday.

Year 2

We have started the term off with a bang and have commenced learning with lots of enthusiasm and excitement. In Literacy we are beginning to learn how to write an Explanation. This also will tie in with our Science Unit where we are learning about lifecycles and living things. In Maths the children are very excited to be learning about money where they will learn how to order in value and count collections of Australian coins and notes. We are beginning our Music program in week 2 where the children will create and perform their own piece of music.

Congratulations to the Year 2 students on their fantastic achievements in their Narrative writing last term – Well Done!

Student banking

Please remember that no tokens can be used from last year. All tokens have been reset and only once you have made ten deposits this year can you order prizes.

Welcome to our SPOTLIGHT on Primary. As you know learning is the main purpose of Amaroo School. The teachers from Years 3, 4 and 5 would like to take this opportunity to share some of the fantastic learning that is happening in their classrooms.

Year 3

In Science last week 3JRO and 3EPO have been working together to learn about the three states of matter. Students performed a drama scenario acting out the movement of particles within solids, liquids and gases. Do you know the difference between how these particles behave? Ask your child to demonstrate this for you, or perhaps draw a diagram. All students were very excited to discover a matter that is both a solid and a liquid. This is called a polymer which the students took home in the form of slime. If there are any parents who would be interested in sharing their knowledge about chemistry please contact your child’s teacher.

Year 4

In Visual Arts students in Year 4 have been creating realistic artworks using a variety of 3D objects they collected on a nature walk. These are some of the excellent examples that 4FBU have created. The artworks will be on display in Unakite and the classrooms please feel free to come by and see their fantastic work.

In Mathematics students in Year 4 have been learning about 2D shapes. Students created their own design following instructions. Students had to ensure their design was symmetrical on both sides. 4SDU had a great time creating these mathematical artworks. These fabulous artworks are also currently on display in Unakite.
Year 5

Welcome to our first spotlight on Year 5! This fortnight STWA and SACA have been working creatively on our Sidney Nolan artworks. We have been asked to develop an Artistic Showcase to present to the Amaroo Art Gallery Curator. We need to sketch a Sidney Nolan artwork and then show four different artistic techniques, water colour, oil pastel, collage and line art. We are really enjoying learning about different art techniques and are excited to show our peers and parents the fantastic work we have been doing!

Year 6

We are all looking forward to camp this week. If your student is attending camp, they should already have an information sheet that outlines everything they need to bring. Student need to be at school by 7.45am tomorrow and bring their morning tea and lunch for that day. If your student is not going to camp it is expected that they still attend school where an alternate program will run.

As the weather gets colder we are seeing a lot of students shivering because they are not dressing for the weather conditions. We are monitoring the wearing of full school uniform so if your student is unable to wear the correct clothing on any particular day please write them a quick note. If jumpers etc. that are not clearly labelled with your child’s name have disappeared, lost property is located in the library. Labelled clothing is reunited with its owner.

Year 7

In Maths the students completed their Fractions Test and started our new unit - Algebra. They are learning about constants and variables and how to solve problems using them.

In Science/geography the students started a new topic on Water. They are learning about water as a renewable source of energy and in what forms it exist on earth.

In History the students have started their Ancient aboriginal research assignment. As part of it they will be reading sources of information, taking notes and recording bibliographical details of each source.

In English the students received their advertisement assessment where they need to create an advertisement on building positive relationships. This assignment is due Friday 9 May 2014.

Year 8

Welcome back Year 8,

We hope you had a fun filled break. In Mathematics news, the Fractions, Decimals and Percentages Assignments were due in last week. Could students ensure they have handed it in if they have not already done so. We have begun a unit on Algebra which will continue through to Week 5.

There are also some Science assignments that are overdue. We have begun exploring Cells and why they are so small.

In History, classes are studying Medieval Europe, Feudal Japan or Angkor Wat and the Khmer Empire. The History assignment was due last week and some students have not submitted them yet.

In English, Students will begin studying Shakespeare with the G and T class continuing poetry. There are still some assignments that are overdue from Term 1.

We also want to remind student to wear appropriate school uniform as winter gets colder. Jumpers should be navy blue.
The Amaroo Primary Rostrum Public Speaking competition final will be held on Wednesday 21 May at 6:30pm in the Unakite building.

Students in Year 4, 5 and 6 have been writing and presenting their speeches in class whilst teachers have been scoring each speech in order to find the class winner.

Each class winner will present their speech at the school final and the school finalist will then proceed to the Semi Final round.

We have also been invited to participate in the Lion’s Club of Gungahlin Primary Public Speaking Competition to be held in the Forde Community Centre on Wednesday 25 June, 2014. Last year Amaroo students won both the Year 5 and under and the Year 6 categories!

Belinda Robertson
Rostrum Coordinator

For students needing help in Japanese, there is Language Study Support on at B2 on Wednesdays in the Middle School Computer Lab.

Japanese

Year 4 Japanese: Welcome back Year 4! This week we have learnt about Kodomo no hi, Children’s Day in Japan, and we made Origami Carp. We have also finished reviewing days of the week, and are moving on to months and daily routines in Japanese. Please ask them about what they are learning about in class and encourage them to use the words at home, too.

Year 5 Japanese: It’s great to see year five students remembering a lot of the Japanese we learnt in first term. This week students have been learning the names of colours and animals and are getting ready to start making posters telling about themselves.

Year 6 Japanese: Year 6 are continuing to develop their writing and reading skills. Students have also been learning about Kodomo no Hi (a national holiday celebrating children) and are doing some reading about earthquakes and the Namazu fish in Japan.

Year 7 Japanese: Year 7 continue to develop their skills in using numbers for a variety of purposes including talking about their age and telephone numbers. Ask your child to tell you their phone number in Japanese!

Year 8 Japanese: Year 8 have been learning how to use Japanese time expressions, including days of the week, months of the year and how to say the 31 days of the month. They will be using these to talk about what they are doing in the future. See if your child can tell you their birthday in Japanese!

Year 9 Japanese: Year 9 students have been preparing for their speaking tasks and Middleton Sensei is looking forward to hearing some great speeches when she returns from Japan!

French

France/Belgium Trip Update:
We have completed the Chocolate fundraiser – thank you to everyone who sold the chocolates and lollies and who have returned their money. The Jellybean Guessing competition is still ongoing. A reminder to provide 2 coloured photocopies of your child’s passport as soon as possible. Also a reminder that the next instalment was due on Wednesday 30 April. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 3 French: Bonjour et bienvenue! It’s great to see our lovely students back! This week, students start with the topic of colours. Students are really enjoying the classroom learning activities.

Year 5 French: In Year 5 we have begun the semester with enthusiasm! This week we are continuing designing our Monster piece by using all we learned from the topics about numbers, body parts and colours. Students are very engaged and really having fun!

Year 6 French: Welcome back to the school! This week we start exploring countries and nationalities. Students are enjoying their hands-on classroom work. Students are also completed assessment tasks in reading and listening.
**Year 7 French:** Welcome back to the school! Year 7 have started the topic on schools, school subjects and timetables. Students have been comparing the school system between Australia and France.

**Year 8 French:** Students are finalising their learning on daily routines. They are currently completing assessment tasks in class. Students also completed a 4 day summary of their daily routines as their writing assessment last term. There are a few students who still need to hand these in.

**Years 9/10 French:** Students have completed their unit on the environment and have begun a new unit where they are watching a French sitcom called ‘Extr@’ and completing activities to complement their understanding and comprehension.

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**Sport**

We welcome back our Amaroo athletes to Term 2, with many sporting events on our agenda for the next few weeks.

Our Primary Cross Country Carnival on Friday was an outstanding success with excellent participation from all students. We were lucky with the weather, although quite chilly, the rain held off, and the sun stayed out! Mr Powell almost kept up with our primary students - he may benefit from some further training at our Senior Cross Country Carnival next week!

Congratulations to our swimmers who have made the ACT carnival: Grace R, Darcy W, Kirstin B, Isabella C, Katelyn M, Zoe N, Cody L. The carnival will be this Friday. Good luck to all of our competitors.

Touch Football will be happening at Deakin oval this week on Thursday 8 May. Ms Watt and Mr French will be taking five teams out who are representing our school, which is a fantastic effort! Good luck to all of our players on the day!

Ms McAlester and Ms Beattie took the Volleyball teams out last week. The girls’ team went on Thursday and the boys’ team on Friday. Congratulations to all of our students who attended the day and participated with their best effort!

The Gungahlin Bulls Rugby League Club need players for the 2014 season at u16 and u18 level. For more information on this or any of the above items, see Mrs Percival.

**Primary School Sport**
The ACT Swimming Championships will be held on 8 May. We would like to congratulate Hayley M, Keiran S and Adam T who will be competing.

**Sports trials.**
12 years and under Soccer trials - girls 7 May at Merci College - boys on 1 and 8 May at Ngunnawal Primary School.
OzTag trials on 24 May 2014.
Hockey trials for girls and boys 6 and 8 May 2014.
Junior Development Program time trials for Triathlon will be held on Saturday 11 May 2014.

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**Go Blue for Autism Day - Thank you**

Rugby League Championships are on 6 June. Interested students should see Mrs Bryant. This is for girls and boys.

Remember – everyone should play at least one sport a term, so join a club !!!

Without all of the wonderful LSA and Admin staff here at Amaroo School, Wednesday 2 April wouldn’t have been as successful as it was!!! We raised over $1000.00 by holding a blue themed cake stall. On the Thursday others brought in some yummy international dishes for lunch, followed by a raffle on the Friday.

What a week. The community spirit was astounding, and I am so pleased to be a part of a team which cares so much about our kids with ASD.

**Thank you to all who contributed to the awareness of Autism on Go Blue for Autism Day.**

Many thanks
Sam Skrtic
Dear Parents and Carers,

The Gungahlin Cluster of schools is dedicated to providing the best in public education. As part of this commitment, we have listened to those of you who have asked for more information on the programs and pathways available to Gifted and Talented students in Gungahlin. To meet this request we have produced a brochure which provides an overview of the programs and opportunities existing at:

- Amaroo School
- Gold Creek School
- Gungahlin College
- Franklin Early Childhood School
- Harrison School
- Ngunnawal Primary
- Palmerston District Primary School

We would like to invite all interested families to attend the launch of the brochure at the Gungahlin College Theatre on Wednesday, 21 May at 5.30pm. It will be followed by an opportunity to meet with representatives from the schools involved where you will be able to ask questions and speak to teachers and students about their experiences.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Caitlan.prentice@ed.act.edu.au by 9am on Friday 16 May. Please include “RSVP - G and T” in the subject line of your email and indicate the number of people attending.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Chess

This term students are continuing to focus on positive Habits of Mind and on developing their thinking skills. Each lesson comprises of chess problems to solve, learning new skills and strategies and on practising their ideas and solutions in chess matches. Students are taught how to focus and concentrate and are encouraged to think flexibly when faced with new challenges.

Competition

This term several ACT Junior Chess League chess competitions will be held.
The North/Gungahlin Primary Open Chess Competition will be held on Wednesday 4 June at Lyneham Primary.
The North Canberra Secondary Chess Competition will be held on Thursday 12 June at Harrison School.
Students who are interested in participating in these events are encouraged to come to chess club and get plenty of practice at home!
Checkmate!
Belinda Robertson

Library

The Tenth Anniversary Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge has started. All students from Preschool to Year 5 are registered and Middle School students are encouraged to participate. P-4 Students will do the reading challenge in their library time each week during Term 2 and 3 and the reading log will be kept in the library. Year 5-8 students are also encouraged to read their books during class quiet reading time and at home and will be given their own reading log to complete by the end of Term 3.
Students are required to read eight (8) from the reading list and four (4) of their own choice, twelve books in total. Books are available from Amaroo School Library or any public library. There is a copy of the reading list at our library front counter or you can check the list online and the read about the challenge details at: www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and.../chief_ministers_reading_challenge
The Amaroo School Book Fair will now be held in Week 4 so students will not be borrowing books from the library that week. Instead students from K-4 will view the Book Fair and come home with a wish list. Parents/carers can choose whether or not they would like to purchase an item. A portion of monies raised goes towards the purchase of books to support the preschool and our main library and also the charities the school supports with books.

Book purchases can be made online or via credit card or cash. Buying will start on Wednesday 21 May 3:00-3:45 and Thursday and Friday morning 8:30-9:30 and 3:00-3:45.

Happy Reading!

BOOK CLUB
Issue 3 Book Club pamphlets have been sent home. Orders and payment are due back at school by Monday 12 MAY 2014.

PAYMENT DETAILS: Orders can be paid by cash, credit card or cheque. All cheques should be made payable to Scholastic Australia; Credit Card orders can be made by phone (1800 557 908) or online (www.scholastic.com.au/payment). Please keep a copy of your receipt number. Orders should be placed in an envelope marked with your child’s name, class and the amount enclosed.

If you have any questions please ring Michele in the library on 6205 2172.

Cancer Council High Tea at Amaroo School

Tickets are selling quickly, only 20 left. Tickets are $25 each and the morning tea is on Saturday 10 May at 10am. For enquiries please see Therese in the canteen.

Canteen Special-FRIDAY ONLY
Iced donuts-Choc and strawberry-$2 each.
All proceeds go to ACT Cancer Council.

New menu
The canteen menu has been updated for Term 2. Copies can be downloaded from the school’s website (www.amaroos.act.edu.au/our_school/canteen) or from the Canteen.

Please note that the Daily Meal Deals will now come with a warm jam donut and a juice cup.

Vegetarian, Gluten-free and Halal options are now identified on the menu. New Gluten-free options include gluten-free chicken nuggets ($3.00) and cold chicken salad made with oven roasted chicken, lettuce, cucumber, carrot, tomato and dressing sachet ($4.50).

Other new items on the menu include:
- Egg and Bacon Burger (lean bacon, egg and tomato sauce) $3.00
- Chicken Schnitzel Burger (oven baked chicken schnitzel, lettuce and mayonaise) $4.00
- Beef Nachos (corn chips, bolognaise sauce, cheese, sour cream optional) $4.00
- Vegie Burger (vegetable pattie, lettuce, tomato and mayonaise) $4.00

Available to all students and staff this week.

Card making -Tuesday B1 and B2 in the Community Room
$1 per card. Free for Defence students.

Cooking - Wednesday and Thursday at B1 in Kitchen 2,
$5 includes beautiful packaging.

Sign up sheets available on the doors at the Library. Limited spaces available
Friday Market Day. Outside the library. Bring your cash and bag a bargain for Mum for Mothers’ Day.
On the weekend I gave a short talk entitled Father & Son – Side by Side at an event ran by Kids Giving Back. In short, the day involved 30+ fathers with their teenage sons cooking meals and delivering them to people who needed them; women’s shelters, youth refuges, services for homeless people etc.

To start the day, I gave my talk.

It’s one thing to speak as I do to a room full of teachers or school leaders, as I’ve been involved in education, pretty much all my life.

But to talk with fathers and their sons is a real honour, challenge and poignant occasion all wrapped up in one.

I’m certainly no expert on parenting but I have a five-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter, and I’ve worked with other people’s kids all my professional life, so I just tried to offer some differing perspectives.

We touched on issues ranging from respect for women to alcohol-fuelled violence, and from why even though you may argue a fair bit, chances are you’ll end up fairly similar.

I spoke about the need for fathers to just show up and try not to be an expert but an example. Sons learn more about how to treat women, drinking, attitudes to violence and life in general from watching their fathers than they ever do from speaking to them.

Rather than having the talk with their son – because that’s too easy to keep putting that off – I encouraged them to just start talking, and while we know blokes aren’t too keen to talk about their feelings, they do make great storytellers. By sharing their experience through stories rather than lectures they invite their son into the conversation.

My other points broadly covered these themes:

- Tell them you’re proud of them.
- They don’t need to earn your love and respect.
- But pull them up when they need it. They’ll respect you for that.
- And just when you think you should probably speak... listen some more.
- And I think these ideas can work both ways in the father/son relationship.

To finish I read a poem, that I love, that is often attributed to Ann Landers, but I’ve also seen others suggest otherwise:

- When I was: Four years old: My daddy could do anything.
- When I was: Five years old: My daddy knows a whole lot.
- When I was: Six years old: My dad is smarter than your dad.
- When I was: Eight years old: My dad doesn’t know exactly everything.
- When I was: 10 years old: In the olden days, when my dad grew up, things were sure different.
- When I was: 12 years old: Oh, well, naturally, Dad doesn’t know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.
- When I was: 14 years old: Don’t pay any attention to my dad. He is so old-fashioned.
- When I was: 21 years old: Him? My Lord, he’s hopelessly out of date.
- When I was: 25 years old: Dad knows about it, but then he should, because he has been around so long.
- When I was: 30 years old: Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he’s had a lot of experience.
- When I was: 35 years old: I’m not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.
- When I was: 40 years old: I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise.

When I was: 50 years old: I’d give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn’t appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him.
Author: Dan Haesler is a teacher, consultant and speaker at the Mental Health & Wellbeing of Young People seminars. His website is: http://danhaesler.com/ and he tweets at @danhaesler

Find out more about Generation Next events here.

Meg (meg.lewis@ed.act.edu.au 62053328) and Fiona (fiona.mckinnon@ed.act.edu.au 62058916) School Psychologists

Research on diet and behaviour in children with and without ASD [posted 22 April 2014; closes 31 October 2014]
Research has shown that diet, behaviour, gastrointestinal and sleep problems can impact children's quality of life. We are conducting a research study investigating how diet, behavior, gastrointestinal and sleep problems in children with and without ASD might be related across cultures. Parents or carers of children aged 4 to 11 years from Australia, the United States and Bangladesh are invited to complete a series of online questionnaires and a 3-day diet diary. Participation is anonymous and may take up to an hour of your time. Responses can be saved and continued later if the same computer is used.

To participate, go to: http://tinyurl.com/n3u6soa

For more information, please contact Miss Stephanie Mertins at smertins@students.latrobe.edu.au.
This study is being conducted by Stephanie Mertins under the supervision of Associate Professor Amanda Richdale as a part of the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre at La Trobe University. This research will contribute to Stephanie's thesis as part of a Master of Clinical Psychology degree. It has received La Trobe HEC approval (13/R72).
Death Cap Mushroom

Amanita Phalloides

The Death Cap Mushroom is a deadly, poisonous introduced fungus that is responsible for 90% of all deaths related to mushroom consumption. There have been 4 fatalities and 12 reported incidents of poisoning associated with Death Cap Mushroom in the ACT.(1)

Description

Cap: 40-160mm wide, may be white, but usually pale green to yellow in colour, or fawn if the mushroom is older, or located in full sun. The cap can be slippery or sticky to touch, and shiny when dry.

Gills: White, crowded and not attached to stalk.

Stalk: Normally white in colour, but may be pale green. Up to 15cm long with a papery cup shaped volva at the base (often buried in the ground). Normally a skirt-like ring is present high on the stem.

Distinctive Features: The white gills, cup-like volva and high skirt like ring help to distinguish the Death Cap Mushroom.

Occurrence: South Eastern Australia.

Habitat: Commonly found near established oak trees and possibly others, usually during later summer to early winter, after good rain or heavy irrigation.

Toxicity: Extremely poisonous. One Mushroom contains enough poison to kill an adult. Cooking or peeling does not make the mushroom safe to eat, and all parts are poisonous.

Symptoms

Onset of symptoms occurs 6-24 hours or more after ingestion of mushrooms. Symptoms include violent stomach pains, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms may subside for 1 to 2 days giving a false impression of recovery. However, by this stage the toxin will have already caused serious liver damage. Death from liver failure can occur many days after ingestion.

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(1) From 1999-2014

Health Protection Service
Population Health Division
Howard Fossey Centenary House, 25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611
Locked Bag 5025 Weston Creek ACT 2611
Phone: (02) 6201 1700  Fax: (02) 6201 1705
Email: hps@act.gov.au
Web site: www.health.act.gov.au
Defence Community Organisation
Canberra celebrates

National Families Week

Come and celebrate National Families Week at our toe-tappin’ sheep-shearin’ Aussie country-themed gathering at Gold Creek Station!

Watch working kelpies muster sheep, watch shearers at work, and learn a few facts about wool, shearing and general farm life.

Dress up in your best ‘country gear’ and be ready to tap your feet to Canberra’s own Bush Capital Band’s unique blend of country-folk music.

Defence Housing Australia will launch their second children’s book Sticking Together, featuring Rex D. Dog. Special guest Dr Katrina Warren, from hit TV shows Harry’s Practice and Totally Wild, will lead story time with a reading of the book.

You can buy a sausage sizzle lunch and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake, baked in recognition of the contribution our Defence families make to the Australian community. Soft drinks and hot drinks will be available to buy.

WHERE Gold Creek Station, Victoria Street, Hall ACT 2618

WHEN Sunday 18 May 2014, 11 am to 2 pm

RSVP by Friday 9 May 2014 to dco.canberra@defence.gov.au

Provide name, contact details and number of family members attending
Did you have asthma or care for someone with asthma?

Did you know?
Asthma affects 1 in 10 school-aged children.
Asthma is a leading cause of absenteeism for school students which can cause them to fall behind in their work in severe cases.
Asthma is one of the most common causes of visits to the doctor and hospital admissions.

How can you help?
The Asthma Support Network is currently conducting a survey to gain detailed information regarding peoples’ experiences of asthma and linked conditions in the ACT. Results of the survey will help the ASN in developing strategies to best support people with asthma and their carers.
If you have asthma or care for someone with asthma and live or work in the ACT, please can you help by participating in the survey:
http://www.asthmasupportnetwork.org/consumer-survey.html

For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation ACT on 1800 278 462 or email training@asthmaact.org.au

Open night for prospective students in YR 10 & 11 2015
Thursday 22 May, 6pm
6.00 pm Principal’s address in the College Gymnasium
6.40 pm Year 11 displays and presentations, main building
6.45 pm Year 10 SMART Program in the Theatre
7.15 pm Year 11 & 12 Gifted, Talented & Enrichment Programs in the Theatre
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<th><strong>Community News</strong></th>
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<td>Amaroo School does not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised</td>
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| **Antoinette Karsten Art**, Art classes and holiday workshops | Email or call Antoinette for more info. antoinettekarsten@hotmail.com Mob: 0422693546 |
| Drawing, painting, sculpture, and lots of other fun projects to develop skills and confidence in our young creatives. Ages 10-16. |  |

| Swimming ACT provides individual swimming lessons at various public pools and some school pools for children and adults with special needs during the school terms. Enrolments for Term 2 are now being accepted. | Please phone 62584520 or 62574837 for available times and the cost. |

| LCF Fun Languages offer FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, MANDARIN, SPANISH for Kids Clubs | For enquiries, free trial and registration, Contact Sarah Mak Ph:0431252768 E:sarah.mak@lcflclubs.com.au www.lcfclubs.com.au |

| Nurturing Within Yoga | Wednesday evening class classical Hatha Yoga general TERM 2 Wed 30th April – Wed 2nd July Amaroo School, 7pm -8.30pm Amaroo School Please contact Michelle on (m) 0417288460 email michjono@bigpond.com or connect via the Nurturing Within Yoga FB page and PM. |
| Adults Yoga (existing program) |  |

| Nurturing Within Yoga | Kids Yoga Program- 4yrs-10yrs TERM 2 Tue 13th May – Tue 24th June 4-5pm Tuesday Amaroo school Please contact Michelle on (m) 0417288460 email michjono@bigpond.com or connect via the Nurturing Within Yoga FB page and PM. |
| Kids Yoga Program (existing program) |  |

| Nurturing Within Yoga offers Private class's in your home to provide 1:1 INDIVIDUAL & PERSONALISED program Special offer for Autumn & Winter | Please contact Michelle on (m) 0417288460 email michjono@bigpond.com or connect via the Nurturing Within Yoga FB page and PM. |

| St Patrick’s Hockey Club Minkey (Under 7s and Under 9s 2014 Season | If you would like further information, please contact Luke at stpats.minkey@gmail.com |

| Do you want confidence, adventure and leadership skills? Scouting is education for life and helps builds confidence, friendships, responsibility and leadership. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests. | Limited offer – 3 week FREE trial Call 1800 SCOUTS or visit our website, www.scoutsact.com.au |

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Gungahlin Dance Academy
Exceptional dance training for all ages
Fully equipped studios in Amaroo

Classical Ballet (RAD)
Contemporary
Jazz
Tap
Private Tuition

Performance Team
Ballet examinations
Annual Performances
2014 USA tour
Ages 3 and up For further information and enrolment Details-
Web: www.gdance.com.au
Email: gdance@bigpond.net.au
Phone: 6255 5204

National Tae Kwon-do
Our Children’s program offers a professionally designed age-specific curriculum that has been especially developed to teach children in a fun and enriching way.

Classes at Amaroo School.
All enquiries
Phone 0414 898 888
www.nationaltaekwondo.com.au

Calisthenics is a dance sport, combining exercises with flexibility, dancing, marching, hand apparatus manipulation while dancing, and artistic/aesthetic dance, suitable for girls and boys. Classes are designed for specific age groups, 13 years and under, 10 years and under, 7 years and under.

As a performance dance sport, calisthenics use costumes for stage work, which are extensively supplied through the club wardrobe. An invitation is extended to new participants to attend two obligation free classes. Additional information can be found on www.academycalisthenics.com.au, with enquiries to info@academycalisthenics.com.au or 62882858

Enrolling in an ACT public school

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014 AND 2015

The ACT Education and Training Directorate has updated the enrolment and transfer arrangements for all ACT public schools.

All new student enrolment applications for 2015 open from 28 April 2014 (day 1 term 2).
If you are enrolling your child to start school in 2014 or if your child is transferring to an ACT public school at any stage you will need to use the same online form.

To make this process easier for those wishing to enrol or transfer, please use the online enrolment/transfer form and Parent/carer guide to enrolment/transfer for ACT public schools located on the ‘Enrolling in an ACT Public School’ section of the Education and Training Directorate website www.det.act.gov.au

If you have difficulty accessing a computer to complete the online enrolment form please come to the school for assistance. A translator can be arranged should you require one. Please make an appointment on ph 62052808.

To make the process more equitable, there is no longer any need to queue at the school on 28 April to enrol your child. All enrolment requests are stored electronically and sent to the first choice school after 30 May. Decisions regarding offers of enrolment/transfer are made after the closing date.

Applications for 2015 close on 30 May 2014.