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## From the Principal

### CONGRATULATIONS SARAH ON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

This year our 2006 School Captain Sarah was awarded the NT Administrator's Award for the Palmerston and Rural Cluster Schools. One award is presented to a student from each NT Schools Cluster who demonstrate excellence in both academic and community contributions. It was a great honour for her parents, Mr Taylor and I to witness her receiving this award from the Administrator Mr Ted Egan at Parliament House.

### ENROLMENTS INCREASE

"Gong Hee Fatt Chow" to our school community and welcome to the year of the Golden Pig. It has been a wonderful start for the Driver school community with an extra 50 student enrolments across our Preschool and Primary areas. I have forwarded a request to our new General Manager Schools Mr Kevin Gillan and we have approval for the return of our ET4 Assistant Principal position and an extra teacher. An area of particular focus will be to reduce class sizes in the Transition area. Parents will be notified prior to any class changes being made.

### JOHN JOSEPH

This week 11 of our aspiring students leaders who nominated for our school captain positions were fortunate to attend a stimulating workshop on our Amazing Brain presented by Mr John Joseph. They found out some amazing information about our brain, how it changes as we grow, they dissected a sheep's brain to identify the different parts and created their own model of their brain to better understand how it works particularly in relation to the changing balance between our emotional and intellectual responses, and also that our brains rewire in the Middle Years of schooling resulting in significant changes in our emotional rooms.

*Between 1997 and 2006, John Joseph presented keynote addresses, conferences and workshops sessions to more than a quarter of a million people representing more than 3,000 schools across 14 countries. Week after week, he facilitates full-day workshops for student groups where he challenges young people to learn about learning, behaviour and emotions. John uses stunning computer-generated graphics and actual brain dissections to engage kids. He has facilitated the dissections of more than 100, 000 sheep brains!*

If you would like to know more visit John Joseph's website [www.focusededucation.com.au](http://www.focusededucation.com.au)

### WORKING BEE THIS FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2.45 TO 4.30

This Friday we are having a working bee to finish off the Maths Outdoor Play area outside rooms 5 to 13. Any parents or staff who can help out with raking, shovelling and planting grass runners please contact Wendy Woods. If possible please bring along a metal rake and your preferred tool for planting grass runners!

### THANKYOU PARENT HELPERS!

I would particularly like to thank our extremely active and supportive parents for their contributions to our school community:

- Karen Johnson for her huge contributions to our landscape master plan implementation, water-wise project submission and plantings, and design of key projects like the Early Learning Environment with the most recent being the Maths Outdoor Play Area
- Matt and Kylie Lucas, Mike Matthews and Glenn Schipp for your expert paving achievements on our giant chess/checkers board

Mike Matthews for your huge commitment as School Council Treasurer in chairing our Finance and Facilities Committee, involvement in developing the 2007 budget, and input during the 2006 Financial Audit process. We will miss you and your family as you head off back to New Zealand!



### © Merit Awards

Mason, Daniel , Wayne, Callan, Japhet,  
Jonathon, Rebecca, Baylea, Emily, Riley,  
Aidan, Jack, Elsie.

### Principals Award

© Riley



## Dates for your Diary

### School Council Meetings 7pm—Staff room

- 21 Feb
- **28 FEB AGM**
- 21 Mar
- 18 Apr
- 16 May
- 20 June
- 15 Aug
- 19 Sept
- 17 Oct
- 21 Nov
- Finance and Facilities

### Term Dates 2007

#### Semester 1 Term 1

Mon 29 Jan—Thurs 5 Apr

#### Easter Break

Fri 6 Apr—Mon 9 Apr

#### Mid semester break

Tues 10 Apr—Fri 13 Apr

#### Semester 1 Term 2

Mon 16 Apr—Fri 22 Jun

#### Semester break

Mon 25 Jun—Fri 20 Jul

#### Semester 2 Term 3

Mon 23 Jul—Fri 28 Sept

(students resume Tues 24 Jul)

#### Mid semester break

Mon 1 Oct—Fri 5 Oct

#### Semester 2 Term 4

Mon 8 Oct—Fri 14 Dec

Students resume Wed 30 Jan 2008

Wed 28 Feb- Sunset Sharing (Parent Info Evening)

### Wanted

Donations of Second Hand uniforms.

### Homework Centre Begins Mon 26 Feb

Wanted—Person to teach children Japanese privately. Willing to travel if necessary. Please phone Michael 89327525 or 0448866561.

## DRIVER PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

- 7.00 PM tonight is the last meeting of the 2006 School Council in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Next week we have our “Sunset Sharing” parent information night followed by our Annual General Meeting at 7.00 PM in the Innovative Learning Centre (library area). Nomination forms for parents interested in becoming a parent member on Council will be available at the front office from Thursday 22 February.

### SAFETY UPDATE

1. New “Kiss and Go” signs and linemarking in the carpark. Could I ask all parents to use the new lanes in the “Kiss and Go” (or Collect and Kiss) area of our carpark as you would in a taxi rank. Always proceed through to the front of the lane, which has better wet weather access for students, to allow others to fill up behind you. There is definitely no parking in this area!

2. Dismissing students during severe electrical storms or heavy storms after school. With severe electrical storms around at this time of year we will hold students in classrooms at the end of school if it is unsafe for them to move outside. As soon as the threat moves on we will ensure their safe exit from the school grounds. We are in the process of updating our Emergency Plan which will also be displayed around the school next week.

A reminder to all parents to ensure your children wear bike helmets if riding or scootering to school!

Rob Presswell  
Principal

## Outdoor Maths Play Area

The new ‘Outdoor Maths Play Area’ (located between rooms 5 and 13) which will consist of a handball court and a giant chess/checkers board is nearing completion. The paving for the giant chess/checkers board was laid before Christmas by a team of fathers led by experienced paver Matt Lucas and assisted by Mike Mathews and Glenn Schipp. From the School Council and teachers, thanks to the fathers who did a great job under very steamy conditions. The giant chess and checkers pieces are already at the school ready for play to begin. The project will be finished shortly with the installation of three large bench seats and the planting of grassing. We anticipate the opening of the new maths play area in April.

Karen Johnson  
Driver School Council

## News from the Dental Clinic

I would like to take this opportunity to inform all parents and guardians that Debbie Beldham (Dental Therapist) and Martine Tullcoh (Dental Assistant) are now the new dental team servicing Driver, Palmerston Christian, Bakewell and Woodroffe schools. We will be moving around these schools on a monthly basis. If for whatever dental reason you wish to contact us please feel free to contact me on 89322277 (Driver Dental Clinic) and the phone will be diverted to me whatever clinic I am at. However, if you are having trouble contacting me the school office staff has a roster of my whereabouts. We also service some Aboriginal communities so in the event that we are out of town please contact Darwin Dental Clinic for an emergency appointment only on 89226475.

## Canteen News

Pancake day was a great success. We raised \$200 for Uniting Care. All pancake mix was donated. Many thanks to our helpers Tia Clohesy, Grace McGinn, Pat Bridge, Claire Elliston and Sandra Pidsley. We cooked over 200 pancakes.

### Next Tuesday February 27 is Hotdog Day.

Please order so you don't miss out. The hotdogs are \$2.20 with sauce. \$2.50 with cheese and sauce.

Judith Schneider  
Canteen Manager



## Sports News

Welcome to a new year of school sporting fixtures. Coming up in term one we have Tri-days for AFL, Rugby League and Basketball. Tri-days for several other sports will follow during the year. These days involve teams from Driver competing against other Palmerston schools. The Tri-days are always a lot of fun - you don't have to be a gifted athlete. Several students have been lucky enough to go on to play in Palmerston and Rural Cluster (PARCS) representative teams. Some have progressed even further to represent the NT in their chosen sport. I would encourage students to actively participate in the Tri-days.

Neil Stephenson

Sports Teacher

## Let's Start Program

We all want children to get off to the best start. A new program called Let's Start offers a helping hand for young children, parents and schools to do just that. The program is now available for parents and children in the Darwin and Palmerston regions. Let's Start helps young children build confidence, self control, cooperation and an ability to communicate and get along with others. The program can support you to help your child develop with these lifelong skills. Let's Start is a proven, effective support program designed to get children three to six years of age off to the best possible start and to prevent later social, emotional and behavioural problems. Let's Start is conducted free each term, limited places are available. Ring us or talk to staff at your school about the Let's Start program. Tel: Let's Start Program Manager Bonnie Moss 89 4667001, Yomei Jones or Jakki McLean : 89 466652

## A word from your DSTA

I would like to welcome our new Defence families to Driver Primary and a big welcome back to those students that have returned for 2007. My role here at Driver is to assist new students and their families adjust to moving schools, and give ongoing support to our Defence students. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact me so I can assist you.

We have a number of families affected by the deployment of troops to various parts of the world and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a "Mail Call". I have a mail box for children to post mail to their deployed family member. Please ensure the envelope is correctly addressed or you have sent the address on a separate piece of paper so I can address the envelope correctly. I also have "quick notes" that I am happy to supply to children wanting to send mail, (more of a tick and flick type of letter). Please note that this service only applies to the AFPO free postage service offered by Defence.

We are currently organising to hold a CDU Let's Start Program here at Driver Primary. The program is particularly helpful for young children who have social or emotional issues or problem behaviour. The Let's Start Program is conducted by trained professionals and is free to all parents/carers and children at school. The Let's Start Program works with children aged 3 to 6 years. Children and parents attend a program which consists of 2 hour sessions over a period of 8 to 10 weeks. The content of the program is focused on supporting parents, enhancing parenting practices, strengthening family units, reducing children's problematic behaviour, developing children's social skills and enhancing their self esteem. The program is modelled on a Victorian Program called Exploring Together which has strong positive documented results for children and their families.

If you would like to know more about this program or would like to register your interest please contact me on 0421866420.

I look forward to meeting with all students and families new and returned over the coming weeks.

Kirsten Close

DSTA

## John Joseph workshop

Last Wednesday the students from 6/7 who went for School Captain went to Palmerston High School for a brain workshop. We met John Joseph who talked to us about the brain. We did lots of activities like dissecting a sheep's brain to find the different parts of the brain. John Joseph brought in over 150 sheep brains for us to cut up! We learnt about the Pineal Gland. It tells you when to sleep or stay up, so parents if you or your child can not sleep it's because your Pineal Gland wants to party! The Amygdala controls your anger. If you are angry most of the time you have a big Amygdala. The cerebellum is a slow learner but remembers things for life and the opposite to the cerebellum is the hippocampus. It is a fast learner but only remembers for a short time. The final thing we did was make a model of the brain out of play-dough.

Brain teaser. Can you remember these numbers after looking at them for only 10 seconds? You will need some body to test you. 7381, 594287, 31856694, 055253693, 637218059327590857320

(the highest number a kid has done had 80 numbers in it!)

Written by Cindy Brown and Mia Thompson (Room 17)

## Community Notices

**AFL Palmerston and Southern Districts Juniors Sign On Day** Southern Cross Oval Palmerston Monday the 2nd April 2007 Look out for more info over the following weeks. Runs in conjunction with the final round of the Open Primary School AFL Competition.

**Palmerston La-Faek Soccer Club** Join NOW. WE MUST SIGHT NEW PLAYERS ID. U13's AND OLDER MUST PROVIDE PASSPORT SIZE PHOTO\* Enlisting players for Juniors (5-18yrs), Men's and Women's Teams Sign up at Casuarina Square 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007\* & at Gray School Assembly Hall Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am – 2pm Training/Sign-up every Wed 5:30 to 6:30 at Gray Oval starting 7<sup>th</sup> March U13 & U15 training Tue & Thurs starting 8<sup>th</sup> March All players, coaches and volunteers welcome Round Robin Game 1<sup>st</sup> April. Teams close 4<sup>th</sup> April Contact President Debbie Buettner M. 0400255251 - OR \*for more information go to [www.users.bigpond.net.au/palmerstonsoccerclub](http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/palmerstonsoccerclub)

**Northern Territory Music School**, invites you to a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 7.00 - 8.30pm in The Nightcliff High School Library. This may be the first year your child has registered for music lessons through the Music School, or you may be an 'old hand'. Either way, there are aspects of Music School operation that will be of interest, or new to you, so come and meet our staff, and enjoy some live music find out about the Music School and some of our special programs learn how your child can gain maximum benefit from instrumental music lessons Light refreshments will also be served RSVP by 23/2/07 to Rebecca on 8985 0877 or Jill on 89850872 Limited parking within the school grounds – otherwise park on Nightcliff or Ryland Road.

**Guides NT** are part of an international organisation offering a weekly program for girls of 5-18. Girls have fun together and learn more about themselves, others and their environment. They gain skills and develop confidence and community responsibility; they go camping, and enjoy weekend and holiday adventure days and excursions. With trained volunteers at the helm, Guides is an inexpensive leisure time activity. Palmerston Guide Units are now enrolling girls aged 5-14years for their Monday, Tuesday and Thursday groups. Vacancies also exist in the Lone Guide Unit which functions by mail for girls who are not able to attend regular meetings. For further inquiries about any of these units please contact the office of Guides NT between 8.30am and 2.30pm weekdays on 89813628.

**HOCKEY**—Commerce-PINT Hockey Club is holding **Come and Try Day** on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb at the PINT Club oval 10.00am to 12 noon All equipment provided – skills instruction – modified games – free sausage sizzle – children, teenagers and adults welcome For more information and enquiries contact Rick Collister (President) 8927 0258 Cindy Hope (Senior VP) 8927 0726 Julie Baronio (Junior VP) 8945 0654

COME ALONG, HOOK IN TO HOCKEY AND HAVE FUN A SPORT THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY.

**THE YWCA** of Darwin PARPSS is seeking donations of working computer equipment for our Outreach Education Program, which assists young mothers to complete their High School Education. If you have any items you would like to donate, please call us on 8932 6866 and we can pick it up, or alternatively, you can bring it to the Driver Family Resource Centre, located in front of the Driver Preschool car park..

(**PARPSS**)- Located on the school grounds PARPSS Is a service for any parent or caregiver who is looking for some assistance with parenting or other difficulties they are experiencing. We can offer information and assistance over the phone, or you can come in for an appointment. We also have a range of books and DVD's available for borrowing. PARPSS stocks parent tip sheets, brochures and information packs on various topics and community services. PARPSS also runs SHEIRA, a support group for young mums and their children, held on Friday's at the Centre. If you would like to come, just give us a call. Refreshments and help with transport provided. Also running from the Centre during the week are playgroups and other community activities, call us to find out what's on. Location: Driver Family Resource Centre (the building in front of the Driver Preschool car park) Ph: 8932 6866.

**AFL AUSKICK 2007** Will back soon to Palmerston. This year there will be the **Bakewell** Primary School Centre on Mondays in **2<sup>nd</sup> Term** along with the **Palmerston** (Southern Cross Oval) centre on Saturday mornings during **2<sup>nd</sup> Term** With a new centre being established at **Palmerston** (Southern Cross Oval) on Friday evenings during **3<sup>rd</sup> Term**. Registration day will be Saturday 31st March at Cazaly's. Contact AFLNT on 89 45 2224 for enquiries.

**Satellite City BMX Club**—Sign on Day. Marlow Lagoon March 3 from 1pm—3pm. Racing is Friday nights training is 5.30 to 6.30pm Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Phone Danielle on 0413932456 for more info.