

Diary Dates	
13 March	Whole School Swim Carnival
18 March	Sth Canberra Swim Carnival
20 March	Issue 2 Scholastic Book Club
25—27 March	Birrigai Camp



From the Principal's Desk

Week 06/10, Thursday 12 March 2009

Congratulations to the first 2009 recipients of the Aussie of the Month and Book Effort Awards! For the information of families new to Garran, the awards recognise students who excel in two areas. The Aussie Award is in recognition of students who display outstanding citizenship; while the Book Effort Award recognises students who always strive to do their personal best in school work. Well done and congratulations to the March Aussie of the Month recipients Annaliese and Sarah ; and the March Book Effort recipients Nun and Abilash .

The following girls have been selected to represent South Canberra in the coming Girls' Cricket Carnival on March 25th at Manuka Oval.

I would like to welcome two new members of staff to Garran Primary. Joining our school Business Manager Virginia Crisp in the Front Office area of the school, are Bronwyn Thomson and Sharyn Herold. We are fortunate to have a very hardworking and professional office team and we all appreciate their effort in the effective administration of the school and care of the students.

Tomorrow we hold our 2009 school swimming carnival for students in Years 3 to 6. Special thanks to the organising teachers Chris Wark, Daniel Ruecroft and Sharon Lyons. I am sure it will be an excellent day for both competitors and general participants. It is always great fun to watch the students cheer for their sporting house teams, while showing good team spirit for all race competitors. Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will participate in a water fun carnival on the school site. Our Sport Leaders program has also commenced,

under the guidance of Stuart Rendell. I am sure they will follow on from last years leaders to provide a quality sports experience for fellow students.

Thank you to our wonderful Kindergarten team of teachers Janice Hourigan, Terry Hart and Christine Lomp, and Junior School Executive Teacher Nina McCabe who recently presented two informative workshops to the parents and carers of our Kindergarten students. The team provided sessions on how helpers may assist with the Guided Reading Program in the classrooms, and how families can help children with their Home Reading Program. It was good to see so many parents and carers avail themselves of these opportunities.

Car park and turning circle safety

The practice of safe car **parking** and driving is a major area of concern for our school. It is essential that all drivers take the utmost care when manoeuvring in and around the school grounds.



Please be aware of children who may at times run across the car park without looking. Vehicles are not to mount curbs and drive around the grounds. The

overflow car park is designed to house a small group of vehicles, where the nose of the vehicle should face in to one of the bollards. If your vehicle is not in this position it should not be in this area.

Another important safety understanding is that the **turning circle** should only be used for drop off and pick up, not as a place to park and wait for children. Please do not park in the disabled spot unless you have a permit.

I do understand that we have limited parking opportunities and I will continue to do my best to address this situation. However, we must all take responsibility and work together. Our students are young and vulnerable and rely on all adults to keep their safety as a paramount concern. Thank you.

Playground Access

Due to the construction of the LSU access to the Franklin and Paterson playgrounds has been restricted by fencing so students from K-2 will only have access to the Franklin play area while children from 2L & 2M and Year 3-6 will access only the Paterson playground until further notice.

For safety reasons please advise your children that the area between the Franklin building and Gilmore Crescent is out of bounds. For juniors on the Franklin playground please use the 1/2 corridor in the Franklin building to access the canteen or toilets.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE ACT Chief Minister's Reading Challenge - 2009

In week 7 we will be registering our school's participation in this year's **Reading Challenge**. We hope as many children as possible from Garran Primary will take part in this excellent opportunity to extend their knowledge and enjoyment of literature. This reading experience is open to all students from Kindergarten to year 6.

The Challenge is to read a total of 12 books in one year. Eight of the books must be chosen from the **Reading Challenge Booklist** appropriate for their year level. The remaining 4 must be of a similar standard and checked by their class or library teacher. There is a separate booklist for years K – 2; years 3-4; years 5-6. (NB: Children may read from a booklist **above** their year level with the **permission of their parent or carer.**)

These booklists will be on view in the library. However we are unable to issue individual copies of the reading lists to students entering the challenge. If children wish to have their own copy, they are available from: www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge

Children record the details of each book they read on their individual **Student Reading Record**. After finishing each book they ask a parent, carer, teacher or librarian to sign that entry to say that they have completed the reading.

Reading commences in Term 1 and ends on 31st August, 2009. Completed reading lists are due at school by Wednesday 2nd September.

At the end of the reading period, children who have successfully completed **The Challenge** will receive a signed certificate to acknowledge their achievement. Registered schools are also eligible for book prizes, depending on the number of participating students.

To join "The Challenge" let your class or library teacher know that you are joining the challenge by Friday 20th March:

1. Ask your teacher for a **Student Reading Record** or get one from the library.
2. Look through the **Reading List** for your year level.
3. Start reading your 12 books.
4. Choose at least 8 books from the **Reading List** for your year level.
5. Write the details of the books you read on your **Reading Record**.
6. When you finish each book, ask a parent, carer, teacher or librarian to sign that entry on your **Reading Record**.



When you finish reading all 12 books, hand in your completed Reading Record to your teacher or to the library.

Certificates will be delivered to schools in Term 4 2009.

The reading lists contain excellent suggestions for reading and will introduce children to a wide variety of children's literature, both fiction and non fiction.

Happy reading,
Marcia Kingwell
Teacher Librarian

Swimming Carnival

A note entitled "Things to Remember for the Swimming Carnival" was sent home today to all children in years 2 to 6. Please refer to this page for all relevant instructions on what to bring etc.



The Waterhole Christian Club

This year the Waterhole Club is open to Kinder to Year 3 on Thursday at lunchtime in the Paterson Courtyard.

Years 4 to 6 will have their club on Fridays at lunchtime in the Paterson Courtyard.

We would also love to hear from parents wishing to help with the club or needing further information about the club's programme.

Permission notes are available from the front office.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

This year, the Garran Primary Mother's Day Stall will be held on Friday 8 May. Just 8 weeks away! The stall not only raises funds for the school, it gives the CHILDREN the joy of coming on the day and, for just \$5, selecting their own gift for their mother, nanna or other special care giver.

BUT WE NEED PARENTS' HELP!

Now is the time to start donating items to be sold at the stall. Such as chocolate, gardening gifts, toiletries, stationery and anything else you may think is suitable. (Please no sharp objects, or anything containing nuts.)

Please drop these things off in the box supplied in the front office foyer over the coming weeks. Without your help, the children will miss out on this opportunity.

Parents are also sought to help at the stall on the day. All enquiries, please contact Wendy England on 0415 616 400.


Mother's Day



Big Congratulations go to:

Jazmin who recently competed in the under 12's Junior Cake Decorating section at Canberra Show, and was awarded with "Best in Show". She proudly received a certificate, a ribbon and a \$10.00 prize.



Ewan was named Champion Cookie Baker and received a 2nd prize for his Chocolate Cake also at the Canberra Show.

Ryan was selected for the Modball team to represent the Woden area and played at the ACT Junior Softball Championships held at Calwell last weekend (7-8 March). The team played against representative sides from Central and North Canberra, and South Tuggeranong and won the 1st place trophy.

**NSW Association for Gifted and Talented
Children Inc
Weekend Camp for Gifted Children
aged 7—14**

Theme:

**ADVENTURES WITH HARRY—
HOGWARTS COMES TO CANBERRA**

An action packed camp for first-time students and those returning to expand their wizarding skills, requiring your creative. Imaginative, scientific and problem solving skills, involving indoor and outdoor activities.

Parents are also welcome to attend. The camps provide opportunities for gifted children to participate in a variety of workshops and to spend time socialising with like-minded peers.

When: from 7.30pm Friday 1 May to 7.30 pm
Sunday 3 May



Cost: \$150 (with discount for
2nd and subsequent children),
all inclusive.

For more information please
contact the office, or contact
the Events Co-ordinator at
camps@nswagtc.org.au.

School Badges

**School badges are avail-
able from the front office
for \$5.00 each.**



**Confirmation, First Communion &
Reconciliation Program**

The Catholic Parish of the Transfiguration, North Woden, is running a series of three family-based sacramental programs over 2009 to prepare for the celebration of Confirmation, First Communion and First Reconciliation. The first program, preparing children for Confirmation, will commence shortly.

Children usually celebrate Confirmation in Grade 6 or when parents believe they are ready.

Parents wishing their children to participate in this program need to contact the Parish Office on **6281 3999** before **Wednesday, 18 March 2009**.

Talk about Weight

Talk about Weight is a free 2 week program run by ACT Health dieticians at various locations throughout the year. The program is for parents of 2-12 year old children who may be concerned about their child being or becoming overweight. The program will include:

- Is my child's weight a problem?
- Healthy eating for kids and families
- Coping with 'I'm hungry'!
- Getting kids more active
- Details for continued support options

Venue: Belconnen Health Centre
Belconnen Way

Dates: Thursday 26th March and 2nd April

Time: 12-2pm

Phone: 6207 9977 to register

**'round town—Get into the Groove
for some Kung Fu in Garema**

Come to Garema Place this weekend for an award-winning outdoor movie with Films at Twilight.

**Films at twilight screening of "Kung Fu
Panda"**

Date: Saturday 7 March

Time: 8.15pm

Venue: Big Screen, Garema Place, Civic

Cost: Free

BYO Chair

This event is part of the ACT Government's 'round town program. For more details on this program visit www.tams.act.gov.au or call Canberra Connect 13 22 81.