Hello Families,

It is so hard to believe that this is my final communication with you all. I started my ACT career here at Cranleigh in 1988. I was here for a year as a classroom teacher before moving on to a range of roles across the education directorate. I returned here as deputy 20 years later and have had an amazing nine years with this very special community. It has been a great honour to end my teaching career as Principal after 39 years in education.

Apologies to those who heard this at the Graduation Concert, but I am including my farewell speech here for all to read, as I think it best summarises my thoughts:

I’d like to thank my colleagues for their support, engagement and energy in every area of their work. They make me proud, they inspire me and they cope with my unpredictability beautifully!

Thank you to the parents for the trust you have given to me, your willingness to partner with me and your openness in challenging me to provide the best educational programs for your children.

Thank you to our students for teaching me so much persistence and excitement in learning. Thank you also to them for welcoming me into their world – playing on the floor, swinging in the gym, playing drums – the best parts of my day.

Thank you also to the students for reminding me when my priorities are wrong and for showing me what positive self-image is all about.

Over 39 years I have learnt more from my families and students than could be measured on any test.

Thank you all again for the great joy of being able to finish this part of my life in such a wondrous way.

Thank you to all who attended the celebrations on Friday. Our Graduations are so special, lots of fun and this year was a real highlight! The inclusion of the community singing added an extra
special element that I think was enjoyed by all! My thanks to the staff for all the work preparing the items, the Graduation Lunch and to Amy Fletcher for her outstanding work in coordinating the ceremony. It was a real pleasure to have our Director General, and other special guests join us. Each guest was moved and impressed, all commented that Cranleigh Graduation was a highlight of their end of year festivities. I wish our graduates and other leavers all the best for the future.

Last week our students were awarded certificates and book vouchers for their achievements in the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. We won all three Special School categories and will be able to select nearly $400 work of books from Paperchain for our library.

Thank you to families who were able to join us for our first open night last week. Teachers and families found this informal occasion valuable and interesting, although some of the students were less than impressed at returning to school after hours! I hope that similar evenings will be held next year.

Happy holidays to you all and thank you for the privilege and pleasure of being part of your lives. I will be following your journeys from afar and I will think of you often.

Sue

To Parents & Carers - Are You Interested?

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) has been engaged by the Education Directorate to develop parent engagement resources for teachers, parents and carers of students with complex needs and challenging behaviour. ARACY is inviting parents and carers of ACT primary and secondary students to participate in small group discussions focusing on how families and schools work together to support the learning of students who experience particular learning challenges. Participants will be asked questions to explore their experiences of what works well and what doesn’t work well, and perspectives about the quality of the connection between home and school. The discussion groups will take 60 - 90 minutes. Interviews will also be available for individual participants, where preferred. These will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive a $50 Coles-Myer gift voucher as reimbursement for time and input into the research.

Interested parents and carers can contact Barbara at ARACY via phone 6248 2400 or email barbara.barker@aracy.org.au.

Pegasus 2017

Pegasus is now in the process of organising our programs for 2017 and we are keen to get them up and running as early in the school year as possible. We also want to ensure families have plenty of time to organise their funding for Pegasus’ new 2017 fee schedule, resulting from the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). If you are interested contact Pegasus on 62549190 (9am-2:30pm, Tue-Fri) or email admin@pegasusact.com.au

Expression of Interest forms and NDIS planning guides are also available from the Front Office.
Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards

Have you or someone you know lived in Canberra for fifty years or more? What about an organisation or community group that has been contributing to our city for fifty years or more? Then consider nominating them for the Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards.
Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrgold

Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

Nominate a Canberran who inspires you for the Canberra Citizen of the Year Award. The Award recognises citizens who have made a major contribution to the Canberra community. This award is open to a person or group in any field, including the arts, education, community work and business.
Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrcitizen

2017 School Board Vacancy

We will have 2 parent School Board positions to fill in 2017. The positions commence 1 April 2017 and finish 31 March 2019.
Nominations for these positions are open from 11am Monday 30 January 2017 and close 11am Monday 13 January 2017. Nomination forms may be submitted at any time during this period and are available at the school.
I invite you to take some time to think about contributing to the school community in this way. If you have any queries about the process or what is involved by being on a School Board please do not hesitate to contact wither myself or a current board member.

Robyn McFarlane
Assistant Returning Officer
Yellow Class are Community helpers!
We have had an exciting term learning about all the people in our communities that can help us.

Sarah is a patient at the dentist
Prithvee is practising to brush his teeth

Fire Fighter Talon
Fire Fighter Jordy

Vet Zeinab helping a sick turtle
Vet Lars using his bandages