Dear Parents and Carers,

It has certainly been another very interesting fortnight for us! In our last Newsletter, you may recall that I shared our excitement about the announcement by Minister Burns that our new school would be constructed on the grounds of Alawa School (where the existing but soon to be vacated preschool is located). Since the announcement, we were a little disappointed to learn that some of the local Alawa residents were concerned about the proposal. This resulted in significant media interest, particularly last week. A further meeting of Alawa residents was held on Wednesday evening and everyone is hopeful that an appropriate solution can be negotiated - one that can meet the needs of our students, staff and families as well as respond to some of the needs of the Alawa residents. However, we are very pleased that Minister Burns has assured everyone that he is committed to the plans and we hope that the move to Alawa can still proceed so that we can be ready for school to commence there in 2012.

From what started to be quite a worrying time last week (as some of the local residents recorded their dissatisfaction), it was great to see that, later in the week and into early this week, there were strong letters or comments of support from other residents and members of our own school community. I thank all who have contributed their thoughts and support - it has further strengthened the determination of our school community to continue to strive for a “world-class” school that will further help our students to learn.

Next Friday evening (25th March), we shall be having our second twilight Harmony Day event. Further information is included on page 9 of this Newsletter. Our planning team has secured some wonderful entertainment for you. As well, students will be displaying some of their great work. After the success of last year’s event, we felt that this should be our first family night of 2011. Please bring a plate (or larger bowl) of special food to share with others (we’ll also have a sausage sizzle and some pizza to share), a blanket to sit on and wear something orange if you can. It’s a fairly short time (5.30-7.00pm) that we’ve allocated to the event but it should be long enough for everyone to have fun and relax (we’ll keep fingers crossed that it doesn’t rain again). See you there!

Tomorrow, we shall also be having our annual Working Bee (the last one that we’ll be having at our current school site). We hope that some families may be able to join us to make sure that our grounds are even more attractive and tidy ready for next week’s Harmony Day.

Finally, congratulations to the students who were nominated for the NT swimming titles and good luck in your competition this weekend.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Bert
The students have made a great start to the year, settling in very quickly to the routine at Millner Primary School. They are enjoying accessing the school library, the computer rooms and the playgrounds and basketball courts. They are also very excited about the chickens housed at our backdoor, delightedly counting their eggs each morning. They are learning to interact with other students and participate weekly in the Millner School Assemblies.
In the last few days Stuart Park Senior has had a busy schedule. On Friday it was a very wet, but very fun day at the swimming carnival. Everyone participated in three events each and then enjoyed the fun arranged by Total Rec.

On Monday we joined up with our Ludmilla friends for a trip to the Museum to experience the past world of Dinosaurs. The photos below show that we all are having a great time - Mellisa’s kicking the footy with Gregory & Thomas, Nathan is participating in the 50 meter backstroke, Dawson enjoying the excursion with his mate Ben at the museum and Keely & Keeley pointing out some interesting Prehistoric facts from the past.
Friday 11th March saw many Nemarluk students participate in our annual inter school swimming carnival organised by Total Recreation staff and supported by NT Swimming and The Good Guys. The wild, wet and squally day provided added excitement. It was great to see the students enjoying and trying hard in their events and cheering on others. As usual, students finished off with a sausage sizzle and free play on the Water Wacky, blow up slide.

From this event, some students were chosen to participate in the NT Swimming Championships, to be held this weekend at Casuarina Pool. An article is also to appear in the INTensity magazine. Well done everyone!
**School Council**

On Monday night, we had our 2011 Annual General Meeting of School Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of Council for their high level of support during the last twelve months.

It has been a very busy and productive year. We should be proud of the team effort that has contributed to the announcement by Minister Burns that a new special school would be built at Alawa. The plans are that the school should be ready for the start of the 2012 school year. This has been one of the highlights of the last twelve months and has been the result of advocacy by our school community over the last six years. It’s exciting to think that our next AGM will be held in a new and well-designed school. We certainly shall celebrate more at that time.

The meeting on Monday night also resulted in the appointment of parent and staff representatives to Council for the next twelve months. Our Council is made up of the following people:

- **Parent reps** - Jo Grace (Chairperson), Jenny Dignan (Vice Chairperson), Paula Callaghan (Secretary), Dee-Ann Vahlberg, Michelle Auld, Robyne Jhowry. We still have a vacancy for a parent of a preschool student - I would love to hear from any interested parents.
- **Staff reps** - Helen Tate (teacher) and the Special Education Support staff will rotate at monthly meetings.
- **Leadership team reps** - Bert, Lorraine and Meena.
- **Treasurer** - Joan Curtain

Thanks to everyone for agreeing to be part of Council. I look forward to working with you all during what will be a very exciting year. Please don’t forget that we always welcome other parents and carers to our meetings - they’re held on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Jo Grace

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**OSHC News**

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program has been very successful again this term - unfortunately though, at this stage, we are unable to take any extra students. The students have been enjoying a range of activities both indoors and outdoors (when weather permits) and we are making good use of our new Sports Ability kit.

During our December/January Vacation Care Program, we sent home a Parent Perception Survey. Of the 16 surveys that were sent home, 11 were returned and we thank those people who took the time to complete the survey. The results were extremely pleasing. Some of the positive comments made were - outings such as local libraries, Crocosaurus Cove, The Planet, bowling should be retained; Swimming and bowling should also be an ongoing part of the program; families (and their children) liked the diversity of activities and that they liked the arrangement that children were with consistent adults; The families also felt that staff worked well with children and have good relationships with families.

We have also had a few queries about the upcoming vacation period and would like to confirm that the Vacation Care Program **does not operate** at the end of term 1 (April) and end of term 3 (Sept/October) holiday periods. However, we are taking bookings for the program that will be offered from Monday 27th June through to Friday 15th July.

It is a requirement that our program meets a set standard and is formally accredited. One of the requirements of the accreditation is that we have regular OSHC Management Group meetings. The aim of the meetings is to provide users of the program with the opportunity to give direction and feedback. Notes regarding a meeting that has been scheduled for 5pm next Thursday afternoon (24 March) have been sent home to OSHC families. Unfortunately, we always struggle to have family members attend the meetings. It is crucial though that we meet this requirement as, failure to do so will jeopardise our future funding for the program - and the program would need to cease operation (and we know that this would be a concern to everyone). Please come if you possibly can - hope to see you there.

Karen Cawley (OSHC Coordinator)
Please find photos of some of our students who were involved in the Schools Clean Up Day on Friday March 4.
Whilst some students stayed in the school grounds to pick up any litter and re-pot plants, other groups set up cleaning the local Ludmilla Creek Area and Ludmilla Oval. Students who were in satellite schools encouraged their peers or joined in that school’s Clean Up activities. Everyone had a good morning and were proud of their achievements on this worthwhile venture.

Cleaning up Ludmilla - Landcare area.

Re-potting plants in the shade house.

Cleaning Ludmilla and Nemarluk School grounds by joining forces with other classes.

Students show some of the rubbish collected in half an hour!

Some have time for an icy pole treat.
Nemarluk Gardening Bee.
HELP PLEASE :)

Working Bee Saturday 19 March, 8-10.00 am
We will be completing our annual gardening clean and tidy up - weeding, a little mulching, pruning.
Extra pairs of hands welcome - meet in school car park. Bring own tools.
Followed by a sausage sizzle to thank everyone.
If you are able to help please contact Nemarluk School — Tel: 8985 3100

Nemarluk Gold Award.
Awarded to

Samuel Nillson
Samuel received award nominations in all three categories:
“I am a learner,
I am safe,
I am respectful”

Congratulations Samuel, you are a respected Nemarluk student!
***49 students were nominated for the awards ***

Nemarluk staff welcome you and friends to our Harmony Day. We have organised some activities plus entertainment by Yuliana and Beau, RTP band, Ani and Lacha as well a finish to the evening with the Greek Dancers.

Classes will have art work made in the theme of Harmony Day ‘Everyone Belongs’ on display.

Please bring a plate of food to share, drinks will be available for a gold coin donation.

This is our first whole school event of the year and an excellent opportunity for families to meet their child’s teachers and other staff in an informal environment that everyone can enjoy.

We look forward to your company on the night (next Friday - so not long to wait)!!

RSVP by Wednesday 23 March
KidsMatter - Information note 3

How Parents can help (cont from last newsletter)

- Provide opportunities for developing friendships.

- **Support Siblings** - Be open with siblings about the challenges that affect their brother or sister with a disability. Provide important acknowledgements by showing you appreciate their help. Try to ensure they have regular ‘off duty’ times. Listening to their feelings and experiences lets them know you are there for them too. Setting aside some regular time to spend with your other children helps to maintain positive family relationships.

- **Get support for you** - Parents have needs too. Some people try to be super parents. It’s important to set realistic expectations of what you can and can’t do. Asking friends, family or respite services for help when you really need it is an important coping strategy. Talking with other parents or carers of children with disabilities can also help.

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**REMINDER**

Back to School Vouchers expire at the end of this term—April 1.

This will be the last day for purchasing uniforms or health packs using the vouchers.

If you have lost your unused voucher please contact the office before April 1.

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**Easter Raffle**

Donations welcome now.

The draw will take place on Thursday 21 April (the day before Good Friday).

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**Hand Made Greeting Cards for Sale**

For sale - packets of original cards produced by students at Nemarluk School in the Ludmilla Senior Class.

- 3 cards for every occasion.
- Only $7.50

Ludmilla senior satellite class students have been busy making greeting cards during Term 1. The cards help with our school fund raising.

For the students it is a valuable program that incorporates literacy and numeracy skills, art work and encourages team work through this functional activity.

Please ring 89853100 to place your order or call into our office at Nemarluk School. Thank you for your support.
**HOW TO NOTIFY SCHOOL OF YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE**

Parents/carers are reminded that the school staff must be notified when your child will not be attending school, stating reason and approximate length of absence.

**By Telephone:**
Please ring the school, Tel: 89853100

**Online notifications:**
Absences can now be reported online through the Nemarluk School website:


On the home page you will find ‘Absence Notice’ Please enter the relevant details. This information will be checked early each morning by school office staff.

Please DO NOT send messages via bus and taxi staff.

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**Autism Ball and Auction**

**Date:** Saturday,
April 16th @7pm

**Venue:** Holiday Inn,
Esplanade

**Cost:** $150, includes a 3 course dinner, selected drinks, live music, live and silent auction, MC Wayne Zerbe.

Supporting Territorians living and working with autism spectrum disorders.

**Contact:**
Phone: 89484424
autismnt@autismnt.org.au
www.autismnt.com.au

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**100th Anniversary of the Naming of Darwin Community Event**

**Date:** Saturday 19 March 2011
10.00am-2.00pm
Raintree Park and The Mall, Darwin City

Join us for a performance from the Darwin City Brass band, a re-enactment of the proclamation, speeches, live music and a vintage car parade. Fun in the Parks, Jumping Castles, a rock climbing wall, recycled jewellery workshop and the Territory Wildlife Park will all be there, with a special live broadcast from Territory FM.

**Bring the family along for a fun filled day!**