Dear Families and Friends,

What an honour it was to attend the Excellence in Public Education Awards last Thursday evening, and how proud we were to have nominees from Macquarie Primary School in three categories.

Once again, I congratulate Suze (Early Years Educator of the Year nominee), and Robin (School Volunteer of the Year nominee). We were very excited to be called to the stage as finalists in the Outstanding Partnership of the Year category, with our very special colleagues from Design Managers Australia. Our experience of guiding students in the use of design as a problem solving discipline has certainly captured the interest of people far beyond our school!

Jackie who will be joining the Macquarie Team in 2017, was also a finalist at the awards, in the Early Years Educator of the Year category.

We know that every success we experience at Macquarie is a team effort and I thank our students, staff and families for helping us to provide inspirational teaching and learning every day.

STUDENT WELLBEING AT MACQUARIE

Macquarie’s education team places student wellbeing as the fundamental element of their work. We value the development of the whole child, and our programs accommodate the intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of each learner.

The Bluearth program’s philosophy and practices continue to be an important aspect of each child’s experience at Macquarie. Our work over the past 7 years with Bluearth Coach, Ross has contributed strongly to the way in which physical activity is valued and encouraged. Under Ross’ guidance, our teachers have built capacity to use physical activity to support learning and development and they have grown as role models of active living. Our students demonstrate physical literacy – the confidence, motivation and competence to lead active lives. Further information about this aspect of Macquarie’s curriculum can be found at www.bluearth.org.

The ACT Education Directorate’s Therapy Assistance Program has strengthened our practices even further, as we have explored strategies with therapists. We enjoyed working alongside occupational therapists in Semester 1, and have been intrigued to see the impact of supporting speech acquisition through gross motor movement activities this semester.

The Walk or Ride to School Initiative has been a complementary element of supporting physical activity amongst our community. Our lunchtime Bring Your Own Transport sessions are very popular – amongst students and staff alike. I thank Faith, Jim and Tony for guiding this initiative and assisting our students to grow their confidence and skills on all manner of wheeled transport. Macquarie’s fleet of bikes is available for students to use at this time, if they do not have their own.

PRESERVICE TEACHER UPDATE

Macquarie’s engagement in the initial teacher education program with the University of Canberra continues this term. Our classes are working with:

Wayde (Kindergarten)
Tyler (Kindergarten)
Ryan (1/2B)
Diem (3/4Go)

I thank our community for welcoming these growing professionals into our school. While I know that our educators are wonderful mentors and coaches, we truly value the ideas and perspectives that our preservice teacher team brings to developing contemporary practice in each of our classrooms. It is a pleasure to work alongside them.
REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION
Remembrance Day is a day of special significance to all Australians, commemorating loss in wars, conflicts and peace operations. This year, 11 November marks the 98th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914—1918).

Macquarie’s Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held on the Namadgi Blacktop. We will be led by our School Captains in reflection, and will observe a minute’s silence. Families and neighbours are most welcome to join us.

CANBERRA HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS
Last week, our senior students and a large number of families enjoyed aspects of the Canberra High School Arts Showcase. Macquarie’s Year 5/6 classes attended the performance of Twisted, and spotted a number of familiar faces gracing the stage. Many families also enjoyed the Open Night last Thursday.

Such experiences build familiarity with people and facilities at the school, and it is always such a treat for our education team to run into old (albeit much taller) friends from days gone by.

END OF YEAR REPORTING
As we enter the mid way point of the term, teachers are focusing on summative reporting for 2016. The nationally recognised achievement standards, within the Australian Curriculum, provide the reference point for A—E reporting.

Some students meet the Directorate’s A—E exemption criteria, which may apply where they have an intellectual or functional disability, or if they bring languages other than English, and have been learning English in Australia for less than a year. Parents of these students may, however, request an end of semester A—E report, and are encouraged to do so in writing. Please don’t hesitate to contact our office team if you would like further information about this process.

CELEBRATING TEACHER RESEARCH
This Thursday evening, our teachers will be participating in a special learning journey for grown ups, modelled on the experiences of the celebration of learning we provide for students every year.

This event will see each teacher presenting a snapshot of the research they have undertaken through our Teacher Inquiry Program to a small group of colleagues, family members and friends. The range of lines of inquiry they are pursuing prove that, as with our students, no two adult learners are exactly the same.

I encourage you to ask your child’s teacher about their research some time. Our students are so fortunate to be enriched through the diversity of the educational passions our education team brings.

All the best for the week ahead.

Wendy, Principal

During the past week, we have seen examples of special effort from:
Vonzell Helping a friend by being just the teacher he needed
Tanush Writing prolifically about mathematics
Alex Caring responsibly for vulnerable wildlife
Eilah Caring responsibly for vulnerable wildlife

TEACHER INQUIRY PROGRAM: NANO—CONFERENCE 2016

The best teachers of inquiry are inquirers themselves.

This Thursday evening, staff from Macquarie will be showcasing their own professional inquiry projects with colleagues and partners from the ACT Education Directorate and wider community. Each project engages with research to improve an aspect of our school in areas we are passionate, curious and knowledgeable about.

The 2016 Nano—Conference theme is Letters and Numbers: Teachers as Storytellers and Statisticians. It celebrates the multifaceted role that educators play in applying and influencing educational policy and practice.

If you are interested in learning more or attending the Nano—Conference, please contact me through the school office.

Brendan
Deputy Principal

REMINDERS

Swimming program for Years 1/2/3
Complete enrolment together with payment on line by 9 November.

This week is Water Safety Week. We look forward to supporting our Year 1, 2 and 3 students to build skills and confidence in the pool during next week’s swimming lessons. Please contact the front office team if you would like further information.

Macquarie Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL
Avoiding eggs, all nuts and kiwi fruit
The Year 5/6 students have been working on multiple I-Time projects. We knitted a scarf and donated it to St Vincent's de Paul for our I-Time project. Vinnies then used the scarf as part of their Night Patrol. This is a group who visit 3 places in Canberra and give homeless people Milo or soup, warm blankets and clothing. We worked very hard on this project and are very pleased that we have helped someone in need.

Amulya and Valentina

CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to the Macquarie’s Girls League Tag Team who are heading off to the finals next week.

WANTED

1/2Le are looking for succulents for the school tooth fairy settlement. If you have any unwanted specimens, we would love to take them off your hands. Please see Lynda in the Loft.

BRING YOUR OWN TRANSPORT (BYOT) SESSIONS

We invite Year 1—3 students to a BYOT session on Thursday, 10 November and Years 4—6 on Friday, 11 November from 1.20pm.

RECEIVE THE MACQUARIE MEMO VIA E-MAIL

In working towards environmentally sustainable habits, we would love to be able to email our newsletter to you each week as a pdf document. If you are happy to receive the Macquarie Memo this way, please email leesa.frame@ed.act.edu.au or contact the Front Office.

BIRD WALK ON MOUNT PAINTER

Sunday, 20 November

Join Friends of Mt Painter for a bird walk led by Nicki Taws. Meet at 7.45am at the reserve entrance between 20—22 Booth Crescent.

How many of the 45 species seen on the reserve one morning recently will we see? Bring binoculars if you can.

Please come protected against the sun and possible encounters with prickly weeds. Wear sturdy footwear.

MONTHLY WORK PARTY

The walk will be followed by our regular monthly work party commencing at 9.00am at the reserve entrance between 20—22 Booth Crescent. We will be weeding on the northern slopes and along the summit path.

Please bring drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Other drinks provided.

For more information contact Sarah through the School Office.

RIDE OR WALK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Survey closes on 11 November

The Active Streets team is eagerly awaiting survey returns from families of students in Years 4, 5 and 6. By completing the short survey you can enter the draw to win a Trek mountain bike worth more than $500.

If you would like to complete the survey please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ActiveTravelSurveyTerm42016 or fill in the printed copy of the survey which accompanies this newsletter.

In addition, one of our parents is interested in supporting students to walk to school. If you would like to learn more about a proposed Walking School Bus through Cook, please contact the front office team.

ACT PRIMARY SCHOOL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: Wednesday, 23 November
Venue: Yarralumla Bay, Yarralumla

Open to primary school aged students from Years 3—6 (younger entrants will be considered based on experience). Complete as individuals or in pairs (please note there is a minimum requirement of the student having at least two prior ACT orienteering sessions/lessons).

For information and registration go to: www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=22368 or phone Cathy Hogg for enquiries on 0411 207 770 Alternatively you may contact Kitty through the Front Office.

UNIFORM SHOP CLOSED IN WEEK 10

The Uniform Shop will be closed in Week 10 (12—16 December). Therefore the last day the shop will be open is Friday, 9 December.

Uniform Shop hours
Mon & Fri 8:45—9:15am & Wed 3—3:30pm

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS

Turn the tap off. Do not let your tap run while brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face or hands at the sink.

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<tr>
<th>EVENT DETAILS</th>
<th>YR GROUP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Yr 1/2/3</td>
<td>Perm &amp; medical notes ASAP. Online enrolment by 9/11</td>
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<td>Warrambui Camp</td>
<td>Yr 3/4</td>
<td>Perm, medical notes &amp; payment by 18/11 Order &amp; payment by 25/11</td>
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NOTES HOME