

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 17 December

Year 6 Farewell
Assembly
Year 6 Farewell dinner

Wednesday 18 December

Year 6 Fun day

Thursday 19 December

Last day of school for 2019

2020

Monday 3 February

First day of school for
Preschool and
Kindergarten

Tuesday 4 February

First day of school for
Years 1 - 6

Thursday 5 March

Swimming Carnival

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From our Principal

Dear families and friends,

I can't believe this is the last newsletter of the year. It seems like hardly any time ago that I was welcoming everyone back for the year. However, when I look at how everyone has grown; physically, academically and emotionally I do remember all the things that have happened this year. It has been busy, we have been involved in lots of events and excursions that have connected our learning to the real world and given our students many opportunities to grow as citizens. We have undertaken an enormous consultation process to review what we value and how we operate. Extensive work has happened since the beginning of the year to improve our facilities including painting the classrooms, resurfacing the hall floor and the commitment to building the adventure playground.

This week I want to feedback to the community some of the big information we have received about PIPs (the kindergarten assessment of reading and maths that occurs upon entry to kindergarten and then again at the end of the year to measure learning growth), this year's NAPLAN results for students in years three and five and the School Satisfaction Survey results, which gathers information from staff, parents and students in years four to six.

Our end of year PIPs results are as follows;

54 students participated in the assessment and the vast majority of students made average or greater learning growth from their initial testing to their end.

Area	Percentage who made average or greater growth
Maths	83.3%
Reading	70.3%

Our NAPLAN results have been received and the indicators are that in all tested areas students have made significant gains. In year 5 numeracy school results exceeded both average state scores and average similar school scores for the first time since 2015. In year 5 reading scores, the school average exceeded the state score for the first time since 2015. The year 5 results in the other tested areas (writing, grammar and punctuation and spelling) the results were below the state and similar school averages, however have significantly improved from the previous results and are on the way up.

The year 3 results all show an increase in the average results compared to the prior year, although have not exceeded any of the state or similar school averages.

When looking at the growth information (students who were assessed in year 3 and again in year 5), our scaled growth scores compared to similar schools and state are higher in just about every assessed area and the percentage of students who made expected or more growth is close to the state and similar schools averages.

2019 School Satisfaction Survey Results are below. The school receives feedback from three stakeholder groups; students, parents and staff.

Student results indicate:

An increase in safety perception – 63.5% of respondents strongly agree

An increase in behaviour management being well-managed – 21.7%

An increase in satisfaction that they are getting a good education at this school – 73.9%

No real change in perception that the school is well-maintained – 41.7%

A decrease in the perception that staff take students' concerns seriously – 55.7%

A decrease in the perception that school gives opportunities for interesting things to do – 68.7%

A decrease in the perception that the school celebrates the achievements of its students – 63.5%

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From our Principal continued...

Parent results indicate:

A decrease in the perception that the school is well-maintained - 72.9%
An increase in the perception that behaviour is well managed – 71.9%
An increase in the perception my child is making good progress at this school – 82.3%
An increase in the perception that my child's learning needs are being met at this school – 81.8%
An increase in the perception that the school works with me to support my child's learning – 82.7%
A decrease in overall satisfaction that this school has high expectations in all that it does – 68%
An increase in the perception that there is effective communication amongst staff – 57.1%
A decrease in the perception that the school works with parents to support students' learning – 75%

Staff results indicate:

An increase in perception of staff being supported – 67.9%
An increase in the perception of staff getting quality feedback – 61.1%
An increase in the perception that student behaviour is well managed – 57.1%
An increase in the perception that students feel safe at school – 78.6%
An increase in the perception that this school is well-maintained – 67.9%
A marked increase in the perception that the school looks for ways to improve – 96.4%
An increase in the perception that the school takes staff opinions seriously – 78.6%
An increase in the perception that this school has high expectations in all it does – 75%
An increase in the perception that professional achievements are celebrated – 46.4%
An increase in perception that students are getting a good education at this school – 85.7%

This information was obtained from 231 parent and carer responses, 26 Staff responses and 115 student responses (first time for year 4 students being included in the data catchment).

This information is used to support the development of our goals for next year. This is not the sum of what we collect and monitor over the year, but it does form part of our information set to enable us to identify areas of future focus. It is heartening to see the positive learning results of our students, who work hard at school to make the most of each day and rewarding for our staff to have the gains recorded in standardised assessments which reflects their efforts and commitment to student learning. We have a high performing quality team at Macquarie who go above and beyond for our learners to ensure their needs are being met. I want to take this opportunity to thank the team for all their contributions during the year. They have worked tirelessly across all elements of schooling to build a community of learners who work together exploring, investigating and solving challenges.

I'd like to remind you of couple of changes that will commence next year. Firstly, the newsletter will go out on Thursdays instead of Mondays. We think this will give more time for information about upcoming activities. Notes will still go home on either Mondays or Thursdays – with copies on the website. And secondly, our Portable Device How It Works will apply from the beginning of next year. A copy of that is on the website and in the front office if you would like to review it again.

If I don't see you before the end of the week, have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 3 February for Preschool and Kindergarten families and Tuesday 4 February for years 1-6 families.

I would like to say an extra farewell to those families who are finishing their Macquarie Primary School journey this year. Some of our families have been involved with our school for many years and we have valued and appreciated their contributions. We say a fond farewell to you and wish your babies good luck at high school.

Happy holidays,

Danielle



YEAR 5/6 WEEK 10 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Year 5/6 Week 10 Events and Activities

This week there are some very important events and activities happening as we farewell our year 6 students.

Tuesday 17 December 2019: Morning (from 9.15am)

The families and siblings of our year 6 students are invited to a special farewell assembly which will commence at 9.15am. The year 5 students have also been invited to the assembly to farewell their friends and classmates. The assembly will be followed by a morning tea in the library for year 6 students, their families and special guests.

Tuesday 17 December 2019: Evening (from 5.45pm)

The year 6 students will celebrate their primary school years with a catered Italian-themed dinner which will commence at 6.00pm. There will be the opportunity to take photos from 5.45pm. The dinner will conclude at 7.00pm and will be followed by a farewell disco. The year 5 students are invited to attend the disco from 7.00pm. The disco will conclude at 8.00pm sharp.

Please note that the Year 6 Farewell Parent Committee have organised for refreshments to be available for parents from 5.45pm.

Wednesday 18th December 2019

Year 6 students will be participating in their FUN DAY. They will leave school by bus at 9.15am for Belconnen Mall and watch a movie (Frozen 2) at Hoyts Cinemas. After the movie they will walk to John Knight Park for a pizza lunch and games. The students will return to school at 2.30pm. Students will need to bring a SunSmart hat and water bottle.

Whilst the year 6 are at their FUN DAY the year 5 students will be participating in their own activities. In the morning session, students will be participating in structured activities in the classroom. During the middle session students will have the opportunity to participate in STEM-related activities which may involve some water-based activities. This will be followed by a pizza lunch paid for by the funds collected from the 5/6 Market Day. After lunch, year 5 students will end the afternoon with a relaxing movie.



NEWS FROM THE P&C

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers and families who have:

- Run the Uniform Shop
- Co-ordinated the canteen lunches every Friday
- Distributed toast and weetbix at Breakfast Club every Friday.
- Helped students choose gifts at our Mother's and Father's Days stalls
- Made the school grounds better by helping at the garden working bee
- Helped out at the Disco and Trivia Night.
- Volunteered at the Election Day BBQ & Stalls
- Supported our other fundraising efforts.

The P&C is run by volunteers for the benefit of the school community. It's time to think about how you can contribute in 2020.

See you at the P&C AGM on Wednesday 12th February 2020.

MPS P&C Uniform Shop

Online orders are open on Flexischools for collection from Friday 31st January 2020.

www.flexischools.com.au

MPS P&C Uniform Shop will be open:

Friday 31st January
1pm – 4pm

Monday 3rd February
8:30am – 9:30am
2:30pm – 3:30pm

Tuesday 4th February
8:30am – 9:30am

*Regular shop hours will resume from 5th February
(Mon & Fri 8:45-9:15 and Wed 3-3:30)*

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES

Two members of our school board will reach the end of their appointment in February 2020 creating one vacancy for a parent member and one vacancy for a staff member.

Our school board provides valuable input into strategic planning and monitoring across many aspects of our school. If you are interested in nominating for a position, or would like to know a little more about what is involved with being on the board, please contact our Business Manager, Ann Walker or talk to one of our current board members. Further information can also be found on the Education Directorate website : https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school_boards

The 14 day nomination period for vacant positions on our School Board will open at **11am on Monday, 3 February 2020.**



NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

All notes are available on our school [website](#)

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
Band payments	Members of band	Payment ASAP
Voluntary contributions	All families	Payments always welcomed
2020 Stationery Pack	All year levels	Payment by 7 Feb 2020
Year 6 Fun Day	Year 6	Wednesday 11 December

RECEIVE THE MACQUARIE MEMO VIA E-MAIL

If you would like to receive the Macquarie Memo via email, please email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au or contact the Front Office.

Macquarie Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL

Avoiding all nuts and soft shell crab.

LOST PROPERTY

We have *many* items of unclaimed clothing. Can you please take a moment to check the cupboard in the front foyer for any items that may belong to your family.

Any unclaimed items at the end of the year will be donated to either the uniform shop or to a local charity.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Office hours: Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

Uniform Shop — Opening Hours

Monday: 8.45am—9.15am
Wednesday: 3.00pm—3.30pm
Friday: 8.45am—9.15am

Library

Open for families
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri
8.30am—9.00am

Phone K-6 site:	02 6142 1550	Principal	Danielle Porter	danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au
Phone preschool:	02 6142 1570	Deputy Principal	Jodie Rowell	jodie.rowell@ed.act.edu.au
Email:	admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (P-Yr2)	Stacey Naden	stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au
Website:	www.macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (Yr3-6)	Veronique Canellas	veronique.canellas@ed.act.edu.au
Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary	Business Manager	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
P&C President	Sheree Murray	Board Chair	Janet Hope	janetehope@gmail.com
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

COMMUNITY NOTICES



AUSTRALIA'S LEADING CHILDRENS SOCCER PROGRAM

Minis Program
For boys and girls
aged 2.5 - 3 years

Preschool Program
For boys and girls
aged 3 - 5 years

Junior Program
For boys and girls
aged 6 - 8 years

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Celebrate with a soccer
themed birthday party!

REGISTER NOW

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ROCKOUT

Bandcamp 2020 a jam-packed four-day
holiday rock workshop, that ends with a
rockshow.

Kids get to:

- ☺ Play in a real band
- ☺ Rock out on stage in a gig
- ☺ Learn and rehearse songs
- ☺ Learn songwriting theory
- ☺ Write original songs
- ☺ Develop team-work and collaboration skills

Key Info:

Ages: 8 to 14 year olds

When: Mon 20th Jan - Thurs 23rd Jan,
9.00am-5.00pm

Cost: \$360 per student (incl. lunches)

Where: Bec Taylor School, Dickson, and
a sound masterclass and gig at
Smiths Alternative on Thursday at 4pm

INVITATION

BOOK BEFORE DEC 20TH AND GET 5% OFF: USE THE CODE - ROCKOUT
WWW.BECTAYLORMUSIC.COM/HOLIDAYBANDCAMP

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A THEATRICAL DANCE SPORT COMBINING ELEMENTS OF
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