



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 13: 4 June 2020

## Dates for the Diary

### Friday 5 June

Breakfast club commences

### Monday 8 June

Queens Birthday (public holiday)

### Wednesday 10 June

Birrigai in school activity session Years 5 & 6

### Friday 12 June

Bookclub orders due

### Wednesday 24 June

P&C meeting 6:30pm

### Friday 3 July

End of Term 2

### Monday 20 July

First day of Term 3

## From our Deputy

It has been great to see the vast majority of our students back to face to face learning this week. You would have received Term Overviews on Tuesday - these documents provide a snapshot of the learning your child will be engaging in over the next five weeks and what was started during the online learning period earlier this term. If yours didn't make it home please email your child's teacher for a copy.

Also coming home today is the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) permission notes for years 3-6. This year payment for these competitions will be made directly to ICAS. There is a link on the note to the payment details.

Writing is a strong focus for us as part of our *School Plan*. Writing is a very complex process for children. It requires them to spell a range of words, form letters, organise ideas, convey well sequenced ideas, hold information in their working memory and much more. Parents can support writing development from home by using some or all of the following strategies.

- When you come across interesting and new words make word posters with your child and put them up in their room, on the back of toilet doors, anywhere the children spend time. This builds vocabulary and interest in words.
- Take words from the books you read together and find synonyms (words with similar meaning) or antonyms (words with opposite meaning).
- When you read or write with your child talk about other words that have the same letter pattern or rhyme.
- Play games in the car where you change words from singular to plural, change the tense, play with words.
- Try using <http://www.wordhippo.com/> with your kids or <http://www.wordorigins.org/> to build your own knowledge.
- Share with your children how you go about spelling. How do you identify misspelled words? Do you sound out, chunk into smaller parts, think of other words that sound the same, use a dictionary, use spell check?
- Ask questions such as: Do you know this word? How many syllables can you hear (if students hold their hand under their chin in most cases each syllable makes the jaw drop. The number of jaw drops equals the number of syllables - also the number of vowel sounds). Do I know another word that sounds almost the same? Which letter groups do I need to use? Does the word I wrote look correct? Try again. Does this attempt look better?
- Always give your child TIME TO THINK. Before offering strategies, let them problem solve. If they are unsure model problem solving.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances faced by schools across Australia this year, a national agreement has been reached to modify school reporting for Semester 1. In the ACT we will reduce the level of Semester 1 reporting for students from Kindergarten to year 10.

We recognise that providing families with information about their child's progress and learning is crucial and will be especially valuable after the start to the year we have all experienced.

**continued...**

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### In this issue

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For the latest information regarding COVID-19 in the ACT visit <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/home>



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## FROM OUR DEPUTY CONTINUED...

Semester 1 school reports for 2020 will still include information about each student's level of progress against specific achievement standards in English and Mathematics that were covered in Semester 1 prior to pupil free days. Teachers will still make a judgement about the level of engagement each student has demonstrated with their learning and, where appropriate, work habits. Personal and Social Capability will still be included.

Reports in Semester 1 will not include overall grades for learning areas/subjects or a comparative A-E grade summary. Additionally, reports will not include attendance information for Semester 1.

If you would like further information about your child's progress please consult with their teacher.

For any other queries or concerns, you can contact the Education Directorate via the [Education Directorate Contact Form](#) or call 6205 5429.

Last weekend we had the wicking beds built for Gardening Club. We are very excited about future planting and cooking projects using freshly picked produce. Also part of our garden are the chickens we hatched last year. Thanks to Steve Horsfield, who did a considerable amount of work on the luxurious housing for the hens (they even have their own front door) the chicken run is ready for occupation. We will be moving the chicken coop across this week and bringing back the hens next week. If you are walking past the school on weekends and see any problems with the hens please use the school emergency phone number to notify us so we can come in. We would really appreciate if anyone has the time on a weekend to walk by and check the chickens.

We hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend last week and another this weekend. Take care and stay safe.

Jodie



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Club

We are back up and running with normal book club procedures. Brochures have gone out for Issue 4 and orders are due in by next Friday, June 12. You can pay either online via [www.scholastic.com.au/loop](http://www.scholastic.com.au/loop) or with cash in a labelled envelope to the front office (exact change please).

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILES



### Board Chair—Amy McGuire

I have been an active member of the Macquarie Primary School community since 2017, and currently have two children attending the school. Professionally, I work in skills and training strategic policy, have administered education programs, and recently Chaired a Board in the not-for-profit early childhood sector. I am a strong advocate for inclusive education, and am keen to ensure all children have the support they need to access educational opportunities. As a continuing member of the School Board, I am proud to build on the Board's achievements over the past year, supporting the school to deliver high-quality education aligned with the school's strategic priorities, and enhancing the physical environment. I am pleased to continue representing the community through the School Board, and look forward to being your new Board Chair.

### Deputy Board Chair—Christie Horsfield

I have been fortunate to have been involved in Macquarie Primary Schools P&C for the last eight years, including 3 years as President, assisting with canteen; co-ordinating many fundraising and social events for the school community; updating our constitution; and introducing processes to ensure the P&C was compliant with relevant legislations.

I believe the opportunity to assist the school in a board capacity is certainly a way I can continue to contribute in a meaningful manner. I am a strong supporter of the public education system and the rights of all children to have access to a quality education.



### Parent representative—David Momcilovic

David is a Canberra-born and bred gay married father of one. He is a very proud Macquarie resident and member of the school community. His work in the ACT Government is geared towards supporting and strengthening Canberra's diverse LGBTIQ+ individuals and communities, and closing the opportunity gap for people in our community who experience discrimination and hardship. During his term on the Macquarie Primary School Board David hopes to build on the strong foundations put in place by previous board members and explore more opportunities for collaboration with parents and the school community on strategic projects to support student learning outcomes and eliminate disadvantage. He looks forward to serving all parents and citizens through his role on the board.

### Staff representative—Jodie Rowell

I am a new member of the board this year. I've been a teacher for the past 25 years both in Australia and overseas. I've worked across P-12 within that 25 years. My passion in education has been in literacy and wellbeing. My passion at home (and sometimes at school) is permaculture. I'm doing a lot of learning about permaculture and trying to live a more sustainable life. I have two sons and along with my husband we maintain a large, productive garden and care for ducks, chickens, sheep and dogs. I look forward to the collaboration with the board in setting the strategic direction of the school over the next two years.



### Staff representative—Karen Tozer



Hi, my name is Karen Tozer and this year I have the privilege of being a part of the wonderful kindergarten team. This is my 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and my fourth year at Macquarie. I have had the opportunity to work in many different school settings, both here in Australia and overseas in London. I have always wanted to be a teacher and started my career very early in life by teaching my teddies at age 4. So, it came as no shock to my family when I embarked on the journey to become a teacher at the University of Canberra. I consider myself incredibly lucky to do what I love every day, and even more grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

I have a passion for literacy and numeracy. I am an avid reader and my collection of picture books rivals that of our school library. My favourite pass time is to curl up with a good book and a nice cup of tea. I always endeavour to pass on this love of reading to my students. When I am not at school, I enjoy practising yoga, painting, travelling (not that a lot of this will be happening this year!), gardening and playing with my gorgeous nieces and nephew.

I look forward to collaborating and connecting further with our community in my role as a member of the board.

## NEWS FROM THE P&C

*Did you know ... many P&Cs are registered charities?*

### Next P&C meeting

The next P&C will be held on Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 6.30pm in the school staff room. The P&C will be following the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines until further notice and physical places will be limited to 10 people. So that everyone can participate, the school will also be hosting the meeting by video call. Please email Danielle to RSVP to the meeting at [Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au)

### Friday Canteen Service

The Friday Canteen Service will resume soon. Stay tuned for more information.

### P&C Secretary

The P&C still needs one fabulous person to take on the role of Secretary. The role doesn't take a lot of time—just a little each week to help keep our P&C working well. For more information, contact us at [macquariepandc@gmail.com](mailto:macquariepandc@gmail.com)

### Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is not currently open for walk-in customers.

Families can purchase new uniforms online via [flexischools.com.au](http://flexischools.com.au) or by placing cash and an order form (available at the front office) in the P&C mailbox at the office. Items will be sent home with students.

Second-hand items are available for purchase in the front office for \$2 or \$5.

For any enquiries please contact the uniform shop coordinator [uniforms.mps@gmail.com](mailto:uniforms.mps@gmail.com)

### Class Representatives

During Term 2, the P&C are enthusiastic to get our Class Representatives Program up and running. There are classes that still need a representative. Please consider volunteering if you have children in:

***Rainbow Gums, Waratahs and Winter Cress.***

It will not be much work and will help build a sense of community at Macquarie.

For more information about becoming a MPS Class Representative Program, please email your friendly P&C at [mpspandcvc@gmail.com](mailto:mpspandcvc@gmail.com)

### Community partnerships

Remember that when you dine at the **Canberra Southern Cross Club (Jamison, Tuggeranong, Woden or the Yacht Club)**, 7.5% of your meal and beverage value is donated back to Macquarie Primary. Link your membership card to our school at your local Club or use the link below to sign up online: <https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/z1yqzsjq0orxe0g/>

## NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

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

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
2020 Stationery supplies	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2020 Voluntary contributions	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
ICAS competitions	Years 3—6	Thursday 2 July

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

#### Option 1: Electronic Funds transfer

**Account name:** Macquarie Primary School Management Account

**BSB:** 032 777 **Account number:** 001586

**Use reference** Child's Surname EXCURSION NAME

#### Option 2: Quickweb

Go to <http://www.macquarieps.act.edu.au/payment> and follow the prompts.

**Use reference** Child's Surname EXCURSION NAME

**Option 3:** Cash or cheque paid directly to the Front Office in a sealed envelope labelled with your family name

### MEDICATIONS

In the interests of keeping all students safe, **medication that your child requires during the school day must be stored in the front office.** Macquarie's school office team manages first aid, emergency medical plans and medications for students. Please contact the front office team if you have any changes to your child's medical treatment plan.

## CARBON DIET

### Act on climate change - cut carbon now

Australians buy a lot of fast fashion. New clothes generate high carbon emissions. Buy less new clothing. Swap or borrow outfits for special occasions. Repair clothes. Buy second-hand in op shops or the school uniform shop.

These tips have been sourced from Jo Clay's website The Carbon Diet. Jo is a member of our school community who has been running this ACT Government sponsored project on cutting carbon for the past two years.

For more information on the project go to

<https://www.carbondiet.com.au/> .

**Macquarie Primary is an  
ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL**

*Avoiding all nuts.*

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

**Office hours:** Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

<b>Phone K-6 site:</b>	02 6142 1550	<b>Principal</b>	Danielle Porter	danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Phone preschool:</b>	02 6142 1570	<b>Deputy Principal</b>	Jodie Rowell	jodie.rowell@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Email:</b>	admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au	<b>Executive (P-Yr2)</b>	Stacey Naden	stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Website:</b>	www.macquarieps.act.edu.au	<b>Executive (Yr3-6)</b>	Veronique Canellas	veronique.canellas@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary">http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary</a>	<b>Business Manager</b>	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
<b>P&amp;C President</b>	Brendan Ding	<b>Board Chair</b>	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



**SOFTBALL:**

**IS READY** 

**IS SAFE** 

**RETURN TO SPORT POLICY** 

**DISCOUNTED CLINICS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS IN TERM 3 & 4**

**CONTACT ILA AT**  
**DEVELOPMENT@ACT.SOFTBALL.ORG.AU**  
**FOR FURTHER DETAILS**



**2021 school enrolments now open**



Education

1. Go to [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au) for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before **5 June 2020** to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.



**Enrolling in Preschool in 2021**



Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au)

## CANBERRA WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

**FREE telephone counselling sessions Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

Sessions via Zoom or Skype  
Limited availability for FREE face-to-face counselling sessions

Sadly our groups and training are temporarily suspended

**Contact us for a FREE confidential chat**

 **6287 3833** 

 [parentline@parentlineact.org.au](mailto:parentline@parentlineact.org.au)

