Dear Families and Friends,

COMMUNICATION AT MACQUARIE
Welcome to the first of our Monday newsletters for 2017. We hope that the routine of sending school messages each Monday assists families in planning their week ahead. Newsletters are an important part of our home/school communication, with regular updates around school programs and community events. They provide an authentic text for shared reading which may spark interesting conversations with your child.

We use our newsletter to celebrate the special achievements of our students. Since we know that learning doesn’t only happen between 9am and 3pm, we encourage parents and our students to share learning and achievements that happen beyond the school day. A quick note or email to the Front Office or your child’s teacher helps us to provide this important recognition. We also love to read the information our students share first hand through class Google Communities.

Technology plays an increasingly important role in the communication landscape at Macquarie, and in the wider world. Our Website www.macquarieps.act.edu.au is a helpful starting point for general information, and Google Communities provide an environment for sharing between home and school. The Macquarie Primary Facebook Page promotes school activities, along with updates on programs or events that may affect our community.

Each week we have whole school gatherings. Monday morning lines provide an opportunity for students and parents to hear about school activities planned for the week. Our assemblies take place at 12:15pm on Wednesday afternoons every fortnight. Assemblies are typically hosted by a team of classes and offer a snapshot of their recent learning. Class awards are presented as we celebrate special effort, demonstrations of our school values and examples of Macquarie’s learning assets in action. This week’s assembly will be hosted by our school captains and we hope you are able to come along.

COMMUNITY BARBECUE
Macquarie’s Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) is hosting a Welcome Barbecue this Tuesday evening. This event provides an informal way for our families to meet our staff and one another. Classrooms will be open during the evening for tours led by your children. I know they are looking forward to showing you the learning spaces they are helping to create.

The P&C Annual General Meeting will run concurrently and all positions on this important team are open to nominees residing in the Macquarie enrolment catchment area with an interest in and passion for our school. Nominations can be made to the returning officer through the school office ahead of the meeting.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Partnerships with parents are highly valued at Macquarie. Because of this, each year begins with a scene setting interview. Hearing about your child’s background, family context, interests and aspirations assists us to guide their successful learning at school. Please contact the Front Office team to arrange your 15 minute Parent/Teacher Interviews.

Increasingly we are experiencing the positive impact of the just-in-time communication that email affords. Teachers provide their contact details through term letters and we encourage you to explore the advantages of sharing thoughts and information about your child through this mode.

Macquarie Directory

K-6 Site Ph: 6205 6077 Fax: 6205 6333
Preschool Site 6205 6737 After School Care: 0451 681 604 (Melinda)
Email: admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au
Website: www.macquarieps.act.edu.au
Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary

School Counsellor: Melinda Collett (Wed/Thur)
P&C President: Christie Horsfield
Board Chair: Claire Howell

School Contacts:
Principal Wendy Cave wendy.cave@ed.act.edu.au
Deputy Principal (P—Yr 1) Brendan Briggs brendan.briggs@ed.act.edu.au
Deputy Principal (4—5 Team) Sophie Bissell sophie.mendick@ed.act.edu.au
Deputy Principal (Yr 6 Team) Amanda Hawkins amanda.hawkins@ed.act.edu.au
Executive (2—3 Team) Kate Greeney kate.greeney@ed.act.edu.au

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

Reach out for help

MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
46 Bennelong Crescent, Macquarie ACT 2614
Issue 2: 6 February 2017
From our Principal continued ...

With families from around the world, Macquarie Primary School is proudly multicultural. We happily assist families, for whom English is an additional language, with access to interpreter services to enhance communication between home and school. Families who would like to know more about these services are encouraged to contact our office team, or the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

2017 VOLUNTEERS
Students at Macquarie benefit from a strong tradition of volunteer support. The way in which parents, grandparents, preservice teachers, and community members support our school is varied and wide ranging. Volunteer support can involve a routine commitment, such as supporting our reading programs, or less frequent support, such as sharing a skill or passion you may have with one of our classes from time to time. 2017 will see the introduction of a community languages initiative at Macquarie, and we are currently drawing together parents who are interested in helping us shape this significant innovation in Languages Education.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office team by email (admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au) or phone (6205 6077). Being added to our School Volunteers register will ensure you are able to access programs and information to support you in this important role.

PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (PIPS)
PIPS is a computer based assessment program that assists our Kindergarten teachers to determine what their students know about literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language) when they enter school.

PIPS provides one source of useful baseline data to help teachers as they design personalised learning experiences. We have found that the one-to-one assessment session also provides a positive early bonding experience for our kindergarten students and their teachers.

This week, our teachers are preparing the online systems, ahead of testing in Weeks 3 and 4. Families are encouraged to contact kindergarten teachers or team leader Amanda for further information about PIPS.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE
The new year may bring new after school arrangements for families, and in these early weeks it is timely to revisit routines for travelling to and from school with your child.

We thank families for commencing the year with mindfulness as we access the school car park. Classes have visited this space during the week, and have noticed signage that is often overlooked. We thank drivers for acknowledging the designated ‘no stopping’ and ‘set down and pick up’ areas. Children who are collected by car are encouraged to wait in the Garden of First Impressions, rather than alongside the curb in front of the school office. These places appear on the attached map.

You may like to discuss alternative pick up points with your child, as meeting outside the school gates supports traffic flow. A map of surrounding streets is attached to support this conversation. Active streets build connected communities!

OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES
Students and staff at Macquarie recognise that real contexts lead to real learning, so we make use of environments outside of the school as often as we can. You will find our implementation guidelines for outdoor learning attached in the document How It Works: Outdoor Learning Settings.

The spaces we activate for learning beyond the school gates include the streets and parks of Macquarie, and Mount Painter. We are also excited to be using community facilities including the Belconnen Arts Centre and Lake Ginninderra.

We are enjoying engagement with the ACT Government’s Active Living Plan, as our students integrate physical activity into their learning routines and experiences. You may be interested in contributing to the ACT Government’s community consultation around Active Living Principles in the Territory Plan, and can find out more at https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/activeliving.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE
The ACT Education Directorate’s Instrumental Music Program is an important element of Macquarie’s Performing Arts program. The IMP provides music tuition, along with instruments for members of the Year 5 and Year 6 Bands.

The Year 5 IMP testing process involves screening for pitch, rhythm and musical aptitude to ensure the members of our band are positioned for success. Testing will take place this Friday.

Looking forward to catching up on Tuesday evening.

Wendy Cave, Principal

Last week we saw examples of special effort from:

Talia     For being a steward of the playground and keeping our environment clean
Mahtaya   For being a steward of the playground and keeping our environment clean
Sarah     Great work inquiring into flying foxes

REMINDERS

Tomorrow Tuesday, 7 February
Welcome BBQ & AGM — All welcome

Wednesday, 8 February
Assembly hosted by the Captains

YEAR 5 STUDENTS
MUSIC ASSESSMENTS

Jacinta will be visiting on Friday, 10 February to conduct music assessments with our Year 5 students. The assessment requires no preparation and extends on the Australian Curriculum art concepts such as pitch and rhythm. This will assist with determining offers for Year 5 band placements in 2017.
PINK STUMPS DAY

Pink Stumps Day is an annual event that gives local clubs, communities (including schools) the chance to hold their own "pink stumps day event". This day raises awareness of breast cancer and funds for the McGrath Foundation in their efforts to provide Breast Care Nurses for women and their families affected by breast cancer.

Date: Friday, 10 February

Wear PINK & bring a gold coin donation (McGrath Foundation) or donate online: https://pinkstumpsday2017.gofundraise.com.au/page/macquarieprimarypinkstumpsday

There will be cricket games and activities at recess and lunch. Have fun & enjoy playing for a cause!

For more information go to https://youtu.be/nPV9g5G2xzC

Ms Bentley & Year 6 students

A REMINDER: SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

The nomination period for positions on our School Board has opened. This group 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 the board, please contact our Returning Officer, Shelley Jacobs, or the front office team. Nominations close at 11.00am on Monday, 13 February 2017.

INTRODUCTION

My name is Melinda and I am the School Psychologist at Macquarie Primary. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome! My main role is to support students’ ability to learn in the classroom and to ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, including supporting teachers in their role of teaching. As well as academically, I also help students succeed socially, behaviourally and emotionally. I look forward to meeting families and students and working as part of the Macquarie team!

YEAR 4/5 SPORT SURVEY RESULTS

Last week I conducted a survey: What should be the new lunchtime sporting activity for Year 4/5? The results were exactly what I suspected.

Results:
Basketball - 12 votes
Soccer - 20 votes
Oztag - 12 votes
Cricket - 17 votes

And finally our 2 winners are Dodgeball with 47 votes and Whack-a-ball with 30 votes!

Whack-a-ball will be played in the hall at lunchtime every Monday and Dodgeball will be played every Wednesday.

From your kind friend Daniel

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS

Prevent taps from leaking by turning them off tightly and replacing washers as soon as they begin to leak. You can also install flow restrictors or tap aerators to reduce your tap’s water use.