



The Macquarie Memo

Issue 17: 2 July 2020

Dates for the Diary

Friday 3 July

End of Term 2

Monday 20 July

First day of Term 3

Friday 24 July

Acacias excursion to Botanic Gardens

Wednesday 29 July

Assembly hosted by Red Gums, Snow Gums, Scribbly Gums

Thursday 30 July

Board meeting 4:30pm

Wednesday 5 August

P&C meeting

Wednesday 12 August

Assembly hosted by Grevillea & Lemon Myrtle

Wednesday 26 August

Assembly hosted by Silver dollar gums and Rainbow gums

Thursday 3 September

P&C meeting

Wednesday 9 September

Assembly hosted by Winter cress and Chocolate Lilies

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From our Deputy

Dear families

Reports and PTO - You should have received your child's report earlier this week. Please contact the school if you did not. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with teachers next term to discuss goal setting for learning in semester two and how we can work together to maximise learning for children. Please use PTO to book a time. The note with all the information was sent to families on Monday and is also available on our website.

Relief staff – With the winter weather comes colds, coughs and flu. We encourage children and staff to stay home if they are unwell to reduce the risk of spreading illness. It is becoming increasingly difficult to book relief staff and we are needing to share classes. Where possible students will be shared within their own year group so they can continue the year level program. In instances where students need to be shared beyond their year level the class teacher provides relevant learning for them to do independently. Students participate in the shared class learning for some of the day e.g. movement lessons, reading to self, library visits and so on. We avoid sharing when we can and we make every attempt to book relief to cover teacher absence.

eSafety message - You may be aware that the Gonski Institute for Education has just released its phase 1 results; How screen based technologies are impacting school students. This is the first in a series of Growing Up Digital Australia by the Gonski Institute which notices the changes in learning conditions in schools in this area. "Kids today are online more than ever before, staying connected on their devices for school and to socialise with friends," says Australian eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. "This constant exposure can not only affect their performance in the classroom, but also has real implications for their safety and emotional wellbeing outside of it. We know that when online exposure goes up, so do the risks of abuse, cyber bullying and even unwanted contact from strangers. This unique study gives us another sobering glimpse into how the online world can have real impacts on our children's lives, but at the same time it also provides us with a great opportunity to find new ways to manage these issues now and into the future."

We wanted to share this information with you in advance of the school holidays to help keep parents mindful of the risks of extended periods of online usage, and the need for high levels of supervision. If you would like to read more, please access the report through this link <https://www.gie.unsw.edu.au/growing-digital-australia-phase-1-results-how-screen-based-technologies-are-impacting-school-students>.

Spelling at MPS - Next semester we are moving into a whole school approach to the teaching of spelling, based on Christine Topfer's *Effective Spelling*. Please feel free to watch some videos of Christine explaining how a word conscious classroom works and is effective for spelling learning. These are available through the following link: <https://cengage.com.au/primary/browse-series/effectivespelling>

Reading ideas - As we near school holidays again I thought I would provide parents with some ideas for reading with children over the break. Reading aloud to and with your child is 'the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading' (*Becoming a Nation of Readers report 1985*). The same report also identified that the practice of reading aloud should continue throughout the grades, so we have known for a very long time the value of reading aloud to all ages.

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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

Sometimes kids can be reluctant to read in break times so what can you do to encourage more reading?

- One idea is to make it part of the bedtime routine, so it becomes a natural part of going to sleep at night.
- Another idea is to model reading – how often do your children see you sit down and enjoy a book? This is incredibly powerful as kids model our behaviour.
- Thirdly, read some children's books yourself. These could be short novels or picture books. Think about questions you might ask your children to entice them to read the book. For example, the book *This Side of Paradise* is about cloning. What if you asked your child 'How would you feel if we had to put in an order for a child – choose their personality, skin colour, eye colour and so on. Do you think being able to do this would make people happier? What problems might this cause?'. This is called using a 'book hook' and works really well with older children who may be reluctant readers.
- Come in and see Pamela and she can help you identify some books that have strong messages that may get your child really thinking.

In our journey to encourage our children to be lifelong, passionate readers the skills of reading are very important (phonetics, fluency, comprehension etc) but just as important are the dispositions such as interest, attitude, motivation and engagement. Make reading fun, show your enthusiasm and model your enjoyment.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday and I look forward to seeing students and parents next term.

Jodie

NEWS FROM THE P&C

Did you know ... there are 9,503 public schools in Australia, 87 of which are in Canberra?

From the President

Dear Community,

As we slowly emerge from the grip of COVID-19, the P&C committee is looking forward to organising events.

At our meeting on 24 June, we started planning for:

- a Father's Day sale on 28 August
- a disco on either 11 or 18 September
- an election day sausage sizzle on 17 October
- a colour run on 13 November.

We are excited about all these events and will provide more details in coming weeks.

I am also happy to announce that parents have stepped up to volunteer as Class Representative in all classes. The P&C hopes to co-ordinate with these dedicated volunteers to help spread news of events and activities.

Speaking of volunteers, we are looking for a person to run the Friday lunch order program. There is a full team of volunteers to run the program and they just need a coordinator. If you would like to consider taking this role, please drop me an email.

I am happy to note, thanks to the tireless work of P&C Committees from previous years, we have been able to donate \$20,000 to the school for the new adventure playground recently completed. Thanks to all past members who helped make that happen.

Finally, I invite everyone who is interested with ideas, proposals or who want to volunteer to help on any project. Please do not hesitate to drop me a note at president.mpspandc@gmail.com.

Best wishes for the week.

Brendan Ding

continued...

NEWS FROM THE P&C continued

Friday Canteen Service

Can you spare an hour on a Friday? To keep the canteen going and reduce the load on our regular volunteers, the P&C are seeking volunteers to assist the Friday Canteen Service. Even if you can only volunteer on one occasion during Term 3, it would be a big help. Canteen volunteers give one hour of their time from 12-1pm on a Friday.

If you can assist, please email us at canteen.mpspandc@gmail.com for more information.

P&C Uniform Shop

The Uniform shop will be opening in Term 3.

Card payments can now be accepted via our new Tap'n'Pay system.

Commencing Monday 20 July 2020, the P&C Uniform Shop will be open:

Mondays 8:45 - 9:15

Wednesdays 3:00 - 3:30

Fridays 8:45 - 9:15

Orders placed via flexischools.com.au or with cash and an order form (available at the front office) will continue to be sent home with students.

Winter scarves and beanies are still available in red or green.

Community partnerships

When you dine at the **Canberra Southern Cross Club (Jamison, Tuggeranong, Woden or the Yacht Club)**, 7.5% of your meal and beverage value could be donated to the school. Link your membership card to the school at your local Club or sign up using this link: <https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/z1yqzsiq0orxe0g/>

The **Athlete's Foot (Belconnen)** will donate \$5 to Macquarie Primary for every pair of shoes purchased in store—this includes all children and adult shoes. Please don't forget to mention our school when buying your next pair of shoes.

Class Representatives

If you haven't already, please email your Class Representative and provide them with your email address so that they can add you to their class contact list and begin communicating with you.

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
2020 Band	Year 5 & 6 band members	Payments due now
Botanic Gardens excursion	Acacias	Tuesday 21 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

If you buy something online and it ships express or from overseas, it probably flies on a plane. That releases a lot of carbon emissions. Buy less stuff. Buy it from a regular shop or buy it online in Australia, choosing regular postal delivery.

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/>.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Office hours: Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

**Macquarie Primary is an
ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL**

Avoiding all nuts.

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	Brendan Ding	Board Chair	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Youth & Family Support Program



Hi I'm Rob,

I am a Youth & Family Support Worker with Capital Region Community Services that will be working out of Macquarie Primary School up to two days a week. I have experience working with a variety of young people and families to support them in accessing services and programs in the ACT. If you have an interest or need information about topics such as: cyber safety, parenting, housing, returning to work and many other areas, I am happy to meet with you to discuss them. I will be at school on Friday mornings for a coffee, if you are interested, feel free to drop in for a chat from 9:00am in the staff room.



What supports are available?

The Family Support Program provides:

- Early Childhood Education groups
- Access to Parent Education groups
- Skill development and support groups
- Case management and case coordination

When does the program operate?

The Program operates Monday to Friday from 9am till 5pm 50 weeks in the year from various locations in Belconnen. Rob is available on Fridays from 9am at the Macquarie Primary School Staff Room during school terms.

How much will it cost?

The Family Support Program is a free service.

Family workers can provide information; help families to identify goals; work with other services to achieve the best possible outcomes; and provide supported referrals to groups and programs that promote positive parenting, mentoring and personal development.

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



For more information about our Youth & Family Support Program please call **0458 240 950** or email: robert.mcgregor@crs.com.au

For referrals to Youth & Family Support Case Management and other support services across the ACT, please contact Onelink on 1800 176 468 or visit www.onelink.org.au

The CRCS Youth & Family Support Program is an ACT Government Funded initiative



Capital Region Community Services | Swanson court, Belconnen

02 6264 0200 | contact@crs.com.au | www.crs.com.au | / Belconnen Community Service

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The Holiday Happenings Winter Edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet

Piano Lessons

Piano teacher in the local Belconnen area.

Craig Mewett

All ages and all styles.

Beginners welcome.

Ph. (02) 6278 7382.

Mob.0409 151 887.