Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2016.

With just a few sleeps until the holidays, we are looking forward to learning the outcome of our recent election for School Captains during our Graduation Assembly this Thursday. Irrespective of the outcome, the staff and I are very proud of the calibre of our senior students, and we recognise their commitment to our school values and making Macquarie an extraordinary place for learning.

While we formally recognise four of these students as Captains, each senior student will have the opportunity to assume a leadership role in areas that include Hospitality and Community Liaison, ICT, Literacy, Sports, the Environment and Curriculum during 2017.

We look forward to their contributions and thank our graduating Year 6 students for being exemplary models of citizenship and leadership. The culture of student engagement and voice grows from strength to strength at Macquarie.

2017 STAFFING

The 2017 school year will bring some new faces to Macquarie Primary School, and several who, albeit familiar, will be taking on new roles. We welcome:

- Ross to a teaching role, following 7 years with us as our lead Blueearth Coach;
- Karen formerly of the ACT Education and Training Directorate, and most recently classroom teaching in Victoria;
- Jackie from Lyons Early Childhood School;
- Wayde, University of Canberra Graduate; and
- Monique, University of Canberra Graduate.

We are also looking forward to the return of Amanda, Sami and Suzanne.

Each of our new teachers has been to Macquarie Primary School during the last few weeks, to learn a little more about our school's practices, and to assist in preliminary planning with 2017 teams. We have enjoyed learning about each of them during these visits, and can't wait to work alongside them.

With a quality line up of staff at the ready, it is my pleasure to share the proposed composition of our teaching teams for 2017.

Early Years Team

Amanda  (Executive Teacher, Professional Practice/ Team Leader)

- Justine
- Liane
- Shami
- Wayde
- Jackie
- Karen
- Shirley

Years 1—3 Team

Kate Greeney   (Executive Teacher/Team Leader)

- Maree
- Lynda
- Patrick
- Brooke
- Chantelle
- Ami
- Bec
- Melanie
- Sami
From our Principal
continued ...

Years 4—5 Team
Brendan (Deputy Principal/Team Leader)
• Jess
• Jim
• Angela
• Monique
• Andrea

Senior Primary Team
Sophie (Executive Teacher/Team Leader)
• Faith
• Ross

Learning Support Unit
• Stephanie
• Denise (Learning Support Assistant)

School Support team
• Shelley (Business Manager)
• Jess (Community Liaison)
• Leesa (School Administration Officer)
• Richard (General Services Officer)
• Vic (General Services Officer)
• Heather (Learning Support Assistant)
• Lidiya (Learning Support Assistant)
• Leanne (Learning Support Assistant)

Across School Support Team
• Linda (Literacy, Numeracy and English as an Additional Language)
• Sue (Literacy Support)
• Rebecca (Science)
• Melinda (School Psychologist)

We wish our friends and colleagues Lauren, Janet, Janine, Hugh, Jo and Gabriela all the best in their future placements and pathways, and thank them for their many contributions to Macquarie Primary School. They have each made a mark on our extraordinary school and we look forward to continuing to have them on our broader educational network.

CLASS STRUCTURES FOR 2017
Class configuration will continue to evolve until school resumes, with the continuous enrolment practices for families within Macquarie’s priority enrolment area. Our current configuration will bring some change to the class and team structures that we have had during the past few years. Single year levels are an expected feature in Year 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Consideration of class structures is a delicate work of design for Macquarie’s education team. Each year, we look carefully at the social, emotional, academic and physical needs of individual students, their cohorts, and the fields of expertise of our staff, and weave a plan through which we aim to position every learner for success.

This year, we have been particularly influenced by research that reminds us that learning can plateau or regress during transitions. Typically we think of transitions as a part of the experience of children commencing preschool, kindergarten and Year 7. However, we are well aware that for students entering every new year, there can be a range of changes, including to their:

• peer group;
• teacher; and
• classroom.

Our planning aims to retain some continuity in these areas for our students and the teaching teams they will be working with.

We appreciate your contributions to supporting our children throughout their transition at every point in their primary school education, particularly through the early weeks of term. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at school if you would like to talk through ways of making your child’s start to 2017 a smooth and exciting experience.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS
Our senior students, staff and a team of volunteering parents will celebrate the Year 6 Graduation at a dinner on Thursday evening in the school hall.

This year, our Year 6 students will be joined by their parents for dinner, ahead of a disco with Year 5. While these students dance and play, our P&C will host an informal end of year gathering in the staff room. The entry to high school is a very exciting time for students, and this milestone marks the end to the very special association we have had with a number of families. We hope you are able to join us in saying goodbye and wishing them well from 7:15pm.

VOLUNTEERS
One of the things I value deeply at Macquarie is the way that our families support our school. Each week our volunteer team joins us to engage in activities such as:

• assisting in classrooms;
• changing reading books and supporting the library;
• supporting us with excursions;
• assisting with sporting teams and events;
• managing the uniform shop;
• supporting classroom programs, particularly in the arts;
• upholding roles and responsibilities within the P&C and School Board;
• managing and coordinating fundraising activities;
• leading lunch time activities, for students with a passion for music and, the arts and technologies;
• maintaining the school garden; and
• mentoring through the Meccano program.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday, and sending my deepest gratitude to parents and friends who help us so much with the most important task there is – educating our children.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2017.

All the best for the week ahead.

Wendy
Principal

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CONGRATULATIONS …

… to Macquarie alumni, Zoe who was recognised as Dux of Canberra High School for 2016.

… to Lockie, who was presented with the ADFA Long Tan Award for Youth Leadership and Teamwork.

… to Erin & Roan who were presented with the Best All Rounder Award.

… to Kyah who received the Pierre de Coubertin Award for Sportsmanship and Leadership.

… to Natalie who received the EG Evans Award for Scholarship, Leadership and Sport.

… to Antonique who received the Kylie Souter Award for the Performing Arts.

… to Issy who gained her Taekwondo black belt and a Trophy for best performance from a mighty dragon at Impact Martial Arts-Mastery demonstration day.

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS

Buy less stuff!

LIBRARY BOOKS

Please return all library books ASAP.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property will be on display until 3.00pm on Friday, 16 December in the front foyer.

CHIEF MINISTER’S CANBERRA GOLD AWARDS

Have you or someone you know lived in Canberra for fifty years or more? What about an organisation or community group that has been contributing to our city for fifty years or more? Then consider nominating them for the Chief Minister’s Canberra Gold Awards.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrgold

CANBERRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominate a Canberran who inspires you for the Canberra Citizen of the Year Award. The Award recognises citizens who have made a major contribution to the Canberra community. This award is open to a person or group in any field, including the arts, education, community work and business.

Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrcitizen

ANOTHER CHANCE OP SHOP

End of year sale and offering 50% off the entire store from Monday, 12 – Friday, 16 December 2016. Great selection of clothing, books, toys, shoes and Christmas gift ideas in store.

We are located at the Scullin Shops on Ross Smith Crescent. Happy Christmas to all our customers. We will re-open on Friday, 27 January 2017.