Dear Families and Friends,

Many thanks to our P&C President, Christie and her team for hosting last Tuesday evening’s sausage sizzle, to welcome in the new year. Feedback is always so positive about this informal opportunity for families and staff to meet and learn a little more about one another and our school. I thank the students who took time out from playing with friends to show their families through classrooms and share how learning routines have been established in the early weeks of term.

Many thanks to those of you who stepped into OASIS for the first P&C meeting of the year. We were delighted to see a number of new faces and welcome our 2017 committee. If you were unable to make the meeting and would like to know more about the P&C and its work, please don’t hesitate to make contact with Christie.

I thank Macquarie’s P&C for bringing a strong commitment and support of the education team as we design and deliver innovative education that meets the needs of our community.

LEARNING ABOUT OUR CLASSROOMS

While we know that learning doesn’t only happen between 9am and 3pm, a significant number of your child’s waking hours are spent at Macquarie. You will find a letter from your child’s teacher attached to this newsletter, explaining aspects of Term 1 programs and routines.

A range of opportunities for families to learn more are offered throughout the year, with information published in newsletters. An avenue of increasing importance for sharing between home and school is via email and Google Community forums. Our students are developing expertise in working within these online communication channels, and look forward to helping their families to navigate this environment.

Please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher by email or through our Front Office team if you are ever in need of clarification or assistance around aspects of our programs or the school day. Questions are at the heart of our inquiring school.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

One of the many strengths of Macquarie Primary School is our focus on diversity. We recognise that no two learners are exactly the same, and work committedly to supporting the strengths and needs of every student.

We have welcomed back our highly regarded School Volunteers Program ACT team in the past week. Our SVPACT volunteers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from their personal and professional lives and provide rich opportunities for intergenerational learning. We thank Wendy and our magnificent Meccano team for their many contributions, and for demonstrating what it is to be a caring member of society.

Information about this network is available at http://svpact.org.au, and the attached How It Works document describes the Meccano Program at Macquarie.

We are delighted to see the return of Wynetta to Macquarie this year. As Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Support Officer, Wynetta plays a special role in assisting us to be mindful of different ways of learning, coming to know, and understanding.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Teachers are enjoying learning a little more about their students during 15 minute interviews with families this term. At this time of year, our teachers tend to do more listening during this communication, so they can hear about each learner’s interests, home learning and your aspirations for them.

Please contact the school office team if you’ve yet to schedule this important conversation.
From our Principal continued ...

THERMAL COMFORT
In true Macquarie style, students and staff rose to the challenge of managing thermal comfort last week with a spirit of inquiry, fun and creativity. Our management plan for extreme temperatures involves:

- optimising natural ventilation, air movement and shade;
- the use of additional fans and coolers;
- easy access to water and opportunities for water play; and
- movement of classes to cooler areas of the site.

These adjustments to our learning programs create many incidental opportunities for learning, and demonstrations of collaboration, thoughtfulness, and research were particularly prolific last Friday.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
In 2017 we are looking forward to all of the learning and entertainment that comes with Macquarie’s participation in the ACTETD Instrumental Music Program. The very talented Jacinta returns this year as our IMP specialist. Jacinta will be working with Rosa and the Year 6 Band, and Jim who will conduct the Year 5 group.

Following a process of musical aptitude assessment, offers of places in our Year 5 band will be made soon. An information session for these students and their families will be held in Week 5 (date to be confirmed).

If you would like to know a little more about the band program, please don’t hesitate to contact the Front Office.

All the best for the week ahead.

Wendy
Principal

Last week we have seen examples of special effort from:

Hector     Creating toys from mobilo
Jai         Creating toys from mobilo
Jaydon     Creating toys from mobilo
Jackson     Creating toys from mobilo
Tanush     Initiating plans for extending Mathematics experiences
Emily, Amber,
Lily and Bella   Initiating plans for a showcase of MPS
talent
Finn, Matilda,
Saara and Issy   Initiating plans for supporting our community
Perrine     Creative thinking to assist her self

REMINDERS

Tuesday, 14 February
P&C Meeting

Thursday, 16 February
Volunteers Information & Induction Session
RSVP to the Front Office or email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

BOOK CLUB
Book Club orders are due this Friday, 17 February.

CONGRATULATIONS …
… to our Year 6 Pink Stumps Day coordinators on a successful event last Friday.

A MEMORY FROM 2016
I have never had a better experience of camping than at Warrambui (Warrambui is a wildlife habitat facility centre/camping area). Warrambui gave me a fantastic experience and an amazing holiday from an amazingly superior teaching centre.

The first activity we accomplished was the obstacle challenge. People should actually call it the obstacle challenges, for it is an array of obstacles. Some of the obstacles were created for team-building, the others were for independence. We finished the activity surprisingly quickly and moved onto the next one in no time at all.

The next activity was initiatives which was a group of fun indoor games. There were three games in total.

The third activity was a fine one by trade. The activity was an easy one to guess, so here is a puzzle for you: arrows and archers, people and fighting, war, bow and hero. If you guessed archery, you are right. Getting to do my life long dream made me completely crazy.

So in conclusion — I love Warrambui!

By Viet

MANAGING STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Please remember to communicate with the school when your child is absent. We ask parents to make contact with the Front Office team by phone or email on the day of the absence.

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS
Company on the way to work can knock your travel impact and costs down by 75%.

Macquarie Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL
Avoiding eggs, all nuts and kiwi fruit
LATHAM EARLY LINKS TO LEARNING PLAYGROUP
A supported playgroup for pre pre-schoolers and their parents.

Latham Early Link to Learning creates opportunities for parent and child to socialise with one another as well as other families whilst creating opportunities to participate in early learning literacy activities to build vocabulary and language skills. Latham Early Links to Learning can assist children to transition in to the preschool environment.

When: Thursdays at 1pm, starting back Week 2, Term 1 (9 Feb)
Where: Latham Preschool (behind the school Wanless St, Latham
Cost: Free

For more information contact:
Tina Jackson from Belconnen Community Service (02) 6278 8141 or tina.jackson@bcsact.com.au, or Tania Blak from Latham Primary School (02) 6142 0077 or tania.blak@ed.act.edu.au

This playgroup is delivered in partnership between Latham Primary School and BCS Youth and Family Support.

BCS Youth and Family Support Program is an ACT funded initiative

Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!
All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check

VISION CHECK
HEARING CHECK
HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

If you have not returned your child’s Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire

FIND — Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1
SIGN — Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire
RETURN — To your school by 17th February 2017

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.

BELSOUTH
Online registrations are now open
BelSouth cater for all ages from 5 yrs to adults
- Get Fit
- Have Fun
- Make Friends

Go online and register today at
belsouthfootball.club