Dear Families and Friends,

How nice it was to see our students this morning, refreshed from the change of pace that the term break provides. Canberra certainly turned on some mixed weather for those who spent the break at home.

The holidays once again brought much activity for Macquarie staff and our professional partners within and beyond the school gates. Our delegation to the Australian Council for Educational Leaders conference in Melbourne enjoyed learning from Australian and International leaders, and sharing our thinking with educators from all schooling sectors around the country and New Zealand.

A highlight was hearing from Sugata Mitra, Professor of Educational Technology at Newcastle University in the UK. He shared insights about the power of self organised learning gleaned from his Hole in the Wall Project, which gave children in New Delhi access to a computer. With no prior experience, children learnt to use it on their own, and over time, Mitra observed them:

- developing computer literacy,
- teaching themselves enough English to use email, chat and search engines,
- improving their English pronunciation,
- learning to use the internet for answers to questions, including examination of questions several years ahead of time, and
- engaging in collective problem solving.

Mitra’s presentation reminded us of the importance of balancing explicit and guided instruction with opportunities where we intentionally step back and let learners lead. This is an idea that continues to inspire the education team at Macquarie.

Mitra’s TED Talk, Kids Can Teach Themselves http://www.ted.com/talks/sugata-mitra provides rich fuel for thought!

TERM 4 STAFFING NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Melanie and Bec back to Macquarie this term following their much relished parenting leave. During the next 2 weeks, they will be teaching 5/6BG as Faith’s own parenting leave continues.

We were sad to learn that Fransisca, our Indonesian teacher has moved interstate with her family. Fransisca has been a highly valued member of Macquarie’s education team for many years, in the dual roles of Indonesian and Early Years teacher. We are so grateful for the contributions Fransisca has made to our programs, particularly the way in which she has framed language learning within an inquiry approach. We wish Fransisca and her family all the best.

Janet will continue to teach Indonesian across the school during Term 4. We look forward to engaging with our community as the languages curriculum evolves at Macquarie. Watch this space for updates!

SCHOOL GROUNDS UPDATE

The playground was a setting for much activity during the term break, and I know that our students will enjoy the freshly mown grass and tidy hedges during their play. Ash returned to progress the preschool landscaping, which is well worth a look.

Our poddy lambs joined their siblings at the Arnold’s farm in Murrumbateman last Friday. They looked large and robust next to their brothers and sisters – evidence of the high level of care and nutrition that our early years students and ‘Sheep Over’ families provided.

We look forward to hearing updates about our woolly friends from Eden, Anderson, Tamara and Rohan, and planning next steps towards the vision of sustaining livestock at Macquarie!
From our Principal continued …

CAR PARK
During the break, we received approval of the school’s Traffic Management Plan, and remarking has occurred which meets Australian Safety Standards.

As our co-design team demonstrated, the adjustments required to ensure carpark users have a positive experience were minor. The key is user behaviour. With that in mind, we encourage our families to observe the freshly painted signage. A map outlining the boundaries will be provided during the week, and students will explore the carpark with their classes. I know they will be a wonderful help if drivers are unsure.

You will notice our General Services Officer, Vic about at peak times very soon. His role will be to set the barrier in place to narrow the drive through space, as per our management plan. I thank you for your assistance in maintaining the flow of traffic.

ACTIVE STREETS
It is timely to recall that our Carpark Enhancement Project was born from our engagement in the Active Streets Initiative. Please remember that a walk or ride is a wonderful way to start and end the school day. It helps the environment, our physical wellbeing, and connections in our community.

Term 4 is a great time to make our streets active. Walking part way is OK!

Today, families of children in Years 4—6 will receive a repeat survey to inform the ACT Government’s Ride or Walk to School initiative. I thank you for your participation.

All the best for the term ahead.

Wendy Cave
Principal

During the term break, we noticed examples of special effort from:
Patrick, Sophie, Demonstrating collaboration, ingenuity
Brendan, Kate, and persistence during the excursion
Tony & Leesa with the sheep.

CONGRATULATIONS …
… to Maggie for graduating from her Beginners Level Obedience Class.

ACT PRIMARY CONCERT CHOIR AUDITIONS FOR 2017

The ACT Instrumental Music Program (IMP) is seeking students who will be in Year 4 to 6 in 2017 to audition for the ACT Primary Concert Choir. This group rehearses on Thursday afternoons from 4:30—5:30pm during school terms at the IMP in Kaleen. Further information is available from our Front Office team, and application forms for audition can be accessed through the IMP website at www.imp.act.edu.au (applications close on 28 October).

REMINDERS
Tuesday, 11 October (tomorrow)
Excursion to Floriade

P&C NEWS

ELECTION DAY STALL
The P&C will host a cake stall, book & puzzle stall and a lucky dip for the ACT Election day on Saturday, 15 October. Plates have been sent home with your child today for baked goods and other treats. Items may be frozen beforehand as long as they are clearly marked as such, but items containing custard, ganache or cream cannot be sold. If you require additional plates, please see the Front Office team. Drop off for cakes, together with books and puzzles will be on Friday, 14 October. Please bring contributions to the meeting room between 8.30am—9.15am and 2.45pm—3.15pm, or you may bring them on Saturday morning from 7am. Lucky dip items can be placed in the tub under the foyer television at any time this week.

The P&C thank you for your support.

LOST PROPERTY — ON DISPLAY
Lost property will continue to be on display in the front foyer from Monday, 10 October — Tuesday, 11 October. Items include uniforms, non-uniform articles, hats, lunch boxes and drink bottles.

BRING YOUR OWN TRANSPORT (BYOT) SESSIONS

We invite Year 1—3 students to a BYOT session on Thursday, 13 October with Mr Gray and Year 4—6 on Friday, 14 October with Mr Merritt from 1.20pm.

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS

Insulate, draught-seal and shade windows to reduce your homes’ heating and cooling needs.

Macquarie Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL

Avoiding eggs, all nuts and kiwi fruit

NOTES HOME

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<td>Warrambui Camp</td>
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FRINGE FORUM: PARTNERS ON COUNTRY

As part of the PCS Community and Volunteer Program we would like to invite you to the next ParkCare Fringe Forum entitled ‘Partners on Country’. This will focus on various Aboriginal land management, fire and cultural heritage projects currently being undertaken in the ACT. Speakers will include 2016 ACT Landcare Indigenous Land Management Award Recipient, Wally Bell; ACT Aboriginal NRM Facilitator, Darren Chong and ACT Aboriginal Heritage Liaison Officer, Euroka Gilbert; and the ACT Parks Murumbung Ranger Coordination Team, Dean Freeman, Jackson Taylor-Grant, Krystal Hurst and Deb Melaluca.

Time: 5.00pm—6:00pm
Date: Tuesday, 11 October
Venue: Dame Patti Menzies Building, North Building
16 Challis Street, Dickson (Ground Floor Function Room)
RSVP: ASAP to philip.selmes@act.gov.au or phone 6205 7384

FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER: OCTOBER WORK PARTY

Time: 9am – 12.30pm
Date: Sunday, 16 October
Location: NW corner of the reserve
Meet: At the end of the dirt road off Coulter Drive, half way between William Hovell Drive and the big roundabout where Springvale Drive and Redfern Street meet
Tasks: Weeding
Wear: Sturdy footwear and clothes to protect you from the sun and prickly weeds
Bring: Some drinking water, a mug and some food to share for morning tea. Other drinks provided.
Contact: Sarah Hnatiuk on 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565 or sarahhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

FRIENDS OF MOUNT PAINTER — COMMUNITY WALK

Walk to the Aboriginal scar tree on Mount Painter with the Macquarie Primary School community.

Time: 2 — 4pm
Date: Sunday, 23 October.

Friends of Mount Painter will be your guide. Bring the family and see a part of the nature reserve not often visited. More details in next week’s newsletter.

The Friends of Mount Painter newsletter is available from the Macquarie Front Office.