

## Dates for the Diary

### Friday 19 June

Canteen service resumes

### Wednesday 24 June

P&C meeting 6:30pm

### Wednesday 1 July

Cross Country

### Friday 3 July

End of Term 2

### Monday 20 July

First day of Term 3

### Friday 24 July

Acacias excursion to Botanic Gardens

### Thursday 30 July

Board meeting 4:30pm

## From our Deputy

Reports are currently being written by teachers ready for sending home in the last week of term. It has certainly been a disrupted year for our students, and we are making all efforts to bridge the gap from the long period of remote learning. For mid-year reports we assess how students are tracking towards the end of year level Achievement Standard within the Australian Curriculum. The Achievement Standard states the expected attainment for the end of each year of learning. It is likely, as we report halfway through the year, that many children will be 'working towards' the Achievement Standard on reports. This may be more prevalent with the unprecedented measures that have occurred this year.

Early in term 3 we will be providing opportunity for parents to talk with teachers about their child's progress and learning goals. We would like to provide flexible options for families so we will be sending information home that allows families to book an online meeting, a phone meeting or a face to face meeting.

Last week the year 6 band held a lunch concert for our students on the playground. Many younger students got to stand near the performers and see the music they read, how they move their fingers on the instrument and the sound each instrument makes. It was a great opportunity for our students to get up close to a performing band.

Often parents ask how spelling is taught at Macquarie Primary School. Parents tend to ask about phonics, spelling lists and spellings tests. This may help parents understand our approach:

- Effective spellers do not spell every word correctly, but they do possess more strategies for generating, checking and modifying spelling of words (research by Westwood, 2005). These strategies are an important part of our spelling program.
- Learning to spell is not just about learning a list of words and writing them in sentences. If this was the only way we taught spelling consider the maths...20 words a week, 40 weeks of school a year, 13 years of formal schooling would equate to 10 400 words learnt. The Oxford dictionary suggests there are more than a quarter of a million distinct English words, that number does not include inflections, technical and regional vocabulary yet we only get through 10 400 words using this method. This method is flawed not only because we could never get through all the words but also because the words are out of context; they have no meaning attached to them and students who learn spelling using only this method alone don't understand how to transfer their spelling knowledge to other words.

## In this Issue

### In this issue

- [P&C news](#)
- [Notes home & reminders](#)
- [Community notices](#)

continued...

The school  
**CANTEEN  
SERVICE**  
**IS BACK!**

Starting this **Friday, 19 June 2020**. Submit your order via Flexischools by **no later than 8.30am**.

## FROM OUR DEPUTY CONTINUED...

- English language is predominantly meaning based and as a result our spelling programs focus on morphemes, the meaning parts of words. For example the word 'definite' is commonly misspelt. If students understand that 'definite' comes from the word 'finite' it can remind them to use an 'i' rather than an 'a' (definate).
- Another way we teach spelling is exploration of etymology. Where a word comes from, its derivation, is a powerful teaching method that helps students remember spelling because they suddenly have reasons for the unusual letter combinations or an answer to why the word cannot be phonetically 'sounded out'.
- Phonics is explicitly taught at Macquarie Primary School through the use of rich literature. Students participate in word study, locating sounds in words, looking for various letter combinations that make the same sound, discussing and exploring words and so on. Did you know the /f/ sound can be heard using many letter combinations? **Coffee, fish, phone, laugh.** Your children will be discovering this through word investigation; they will be code breaking to discover how the English language and all its nuances work.

All this learning occurs through the use of rich text, all this learning is taught in context. Teachers support students to make links between what they discover about one word and how that will help them spell other words.

Does this mean that your child will never have to look, cover, write, check again? No, it means that any words your child learns have come from a meaning based experience. This may include their own writing, the literature they are reading with their teacher, the scientific vocabulary they are using as part of their research and so on.

Jodie Rowell

## TRANSPORT CANBERRA UPDATED TIMETABLES

From Saturday 18 July 2020, Transport Canberra will be updating timetables for bus services.

These changes will help make public transport in Canberra easier to use by providing more services and increased frequency, to ensure that people have greater opportunity to spread out their travel across the day as we recover from COVID-19.

Transport Canberra has worked closely with the school community and are providing increased frequency and additional services for school students across Canberra.

As a new timetable is being introduced, there will be minor changes for all students travelling to and from school on public transport across Canberra from the first day of Term 3, 2020 (Monday 20 July 2020). In most cases, this will mean that students will catch the same service from the same stop, but the times that services arrive and leave may change.

All schools, parents and students can find out more about the specific changes by:

- checking the information packs for each school, which are online at [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au)
- checking timetables for each route (including school specials), which are online at [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au)
- calling 13 17 10.

Macquarie Primary information pack is attached to this newsletter.



The poster features a bright yellow background. At the top right, there is a circular icon containing a bus and two people. The main text 'Updated public transport timetables' is written in large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, a dark blue box contains the text 'START 18 JULY 2020' in white. Further down, a white box with a yellow border contains the text 'Commencing Term 3, 2020 minor changes will apply to some dedicated school services, regular route services and timetables for buses.' At the bottom, another white box with a yellow border contains the text 'COVID-19 restrictions may have eased but your responsibility hasn't.' Below this is the website 'transport.act.gov.au' in a dark blue box. At the very bottom, the ACT Government logo and the Transport Canberra logo are displayed.

# Youth & Family Support Program



Capital  
Region  
Community  
Services

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.*

For more information about our Youth & Family Support Program please call **0458 240 950** or email: [robert.mcgregor@crs.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.onelink.org.au)

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



Capital Region Community Services 1 Swanson court, Belconnen

02 6264 0200 | [contact@crs.com.au](mailto:contact@crs.com.au) | [www.crcs.com.au](http://www.crcs.com.au) |  / Belconnen Community Service

# NEWS FROM THE P&C

*Did you know ...* P&C meetings are open to all MPS parents, teachers and citizens. Why not join us at our next meeting?

## Next P&C meeting

The next P&C will be held on Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 6.30pm in the school staff room. The P&C will be following the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines until further notice and physical places will be limited to 10 people. So that everyone can participate, the school will also be hosting the meeting by video call. Please email Danielle to RSVP to the meeting at [Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au)

## P&C Secretary

The P&C still needs one fabulous person to take on the role of Secretary. The role doesn't take a lot of time—just a little each week to help keep our P&C working well. For more information, contact us at [macquariepandc@gmail.com](mailto:macquariepandc@gmail.com)

## Breakfast Club is back

Breakfast Club is available Friday mornings during term between 8:45-9:00am. We hope to see students there.

## Uniform Shop

Scarves and beanies are now available for purchase via *flexischools*.

Until restrictions ease further, the uniform shop will continue to operate on an order only basis. Families can purchase new uniforms online via [flexischools.com.au](http://flexischools.com.au) or by placing cash and an order form (available at the front office) in the P&C mailbox at the office. Items will be sent home with students.

Second-hand items are available for purchase in the front office for \$2 or \$5.

For any enquiries please contact the uniform shop coordinator [uniforms.mps@gmail.com](mailto:uniforms.mps@gmail.com)

## Class Representatives

The P&C are pleased to announce that *all* classes now have Class Representatives. A very big thank you to all that have volunteered their time for this fantastic initiative.

A list of classes, their representatives and email addresses is provided below. 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.

## 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/>

## 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

Heating water for baths and showers uses power. Even if your water system runs on 100% renewable electricity, that power could be used for something else. Stick to 4 minute showers, don't fill the tub right up and install a low-flow showerhead.

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.*

<b>Phone K-6 site:</b>	02 6142 1550	<b>Principal</b>	Danielle Porter	danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Phone preschool:</b>	02 6142 1570	<b>Deputy Principal</b>	Jodie Rowell	jodie.rowell@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Email:</b>	admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au	<b>Executive (P-Yr2)</b>	Stacey Naden	stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Website:</b>	www.macquarieps.act.edu.au	<b>Executive (Yr3-6)</b>	Veronique Canellas	veronique.canellas@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary">http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary</a>	<b>Business Manager</b>	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
<b>P&amp;C President</b>	Brendan Ding	<b>Board Chair</b>	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## 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](mailto:parentline@parentlineact.org.au)



### **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.

## 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](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)

