



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 10: 14 May 2020

## Dates for the Diary

### Friday May 15

Book club orders due

### Monday 18 May

P-2 classes and  
Bottlebrushes return

### Monday 25 May

3-4 classes return  
P&C meeting 6:30pm

### Monday 1 June

Reconciliation Day (public  
holiday)

### Tuesday 2 June

5-6 classes return

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## From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

We are so excited that students are returning to school beginning next week. To support the safe return of staff and students we have had to implement some new protocols at school. Firstly, we have limits to the numbers of adults in all areas of the school, each room is sign posted with the maximum number of adults to be in the space.

Secondly, we have changed the way the front and side doors of the Namadgi building work. The front door is now an EXIT only door, and the side door is an ENTRY only door. This is to support social distancing to occur. Please follow the signs to help our school operate safely.

During the return phase we will have an increased number of adults available to supervise the entry and exit of students. At each gate in the school fence we have put up reminder signs to farewell your child there. This is to minimise the number of adults within the school. We encourage you to say goodbye there. If you drive your child to primary school you can say goodbye in the car and they can walk to either of the blacktops independently. Parents of preschool children will say goodbye to their child on the yellow step each day.

Thirdly, we have developed a Hygiene How It Works document – see attached. We will have a very explicit focus on the teaching and prompting of high levels of hand and respiratory hygiene.

During this period if you need to talk to anyone at school please call or email first. We are really trying to reduce the number of adults at school each day to minimise the risk.

For students who are returning to school on Monday please make sure you bring back all of the following things;

- Workbooks that were sent home at the end of last term
- Stationery items – pencils, coloured pencils, textas, glue sticks, etc
- Any chromebooks or ipads that were provided by school
- Library books

Students will need to bring their hats to wear until the end of May.

Our new adventure playground is ready to be explored, and each class will have an opportunity to investigate it closely upon their return. We want to make sure everyone understands where the plants and paths are so we can keep our environment flourishing.

**continued...**

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Office hours: Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

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	To be confirmed	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 in the ACT visit <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/home>



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL CONTINUED...

The fixed play equipment will be available at recess and lunch each day for students to play on. It will be sanitised after recess and lunch each day. Please don't let your children use it outside of these times to maintain high levels of cleanliness.

Each classroom has a large refillable bottle of sanitiser for student use, we have ready access to tissues in every room. If your child is not well please keep him or her at home to enable everyone else to maintain their health. If your child presents at school as unwell we will call for you to collect your child.

The Education Directorate has employed additional cleaning staff to enable all schools to be more frequently cleaned, each school has a specific plan to enable adequate cleaning.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of the executive team.

Have a great week,

Danielle

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Club

The orders for **Issue 2** book club have been delivered to the school. You can collect your orders from the table in the front foyer between 9.00am – 3.00pm. Orders are labelled with names for contactless collection.

**Issue 3** book club will go ahead with only a slight change to accommodate our unusual circumstances:

No paper brochures will be available. Instead, please click [here](#) to view the online catalogue.

No cash orders will be taken. ALL orders must be completed using the LOOP digital platform.



**SCHOLASTIC**

# Book Club LOOP

for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club  
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:  
[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

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If you have not used LOOP before, you will need to create an account for your family before you place an order. Please email me at [pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au) if you have any issues with creating an account.

Orders are due in by **Friday May 15** for free delivery. After this date Scholastic can deliver directly to your home address but will incur postage costs. I will notify you when orders have arrived at school and are available for collection.

## NEWS FROM THE P&C

The next P&C meeting will be held on **Monday 25 May at 6:30pm** in the school staff room. A maximum of 10 adults will be able to attend in person. Additional members can access the meeting via Microsoft Teams and a link will be shared once numbers are confirmed. To help us adhere to these social distancing rules please RSVP to Danielle via email as soon as possible ([danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au)).

## FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

### Preparing Students for the Move Back to School after COVID-19

We are often amazed at how kids can adjust so quickly to new circumstances. A great example was our move from face to face learning in school to online learning at home with quarantine in a very short space of time (2-days). In the beginning, it was difficult for everybody with both adults (teachers and parents) and children adjusting to the sudden changes of having to move from the knowns of home and classrooms as distinct spaces, to suddenly home and school occupying the same space. Meanwhile many adults have had to adjust to the rapid changes for commitments to family, work, home and assisting children in adjusting to recent changes in school practices. COVID-19 has affected all of us in various ways, and to varying degrees in an unprecedented way with changes occurring constantly, but it worked with the coming together of a community for a common purpose.

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## FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST continued...

Initially, the transition was difficult with both adults and children trying to find their feet. However, we are fortunate enough to have a general plan in moving back to school and a little time on our side to prepare our children. For many children there are mixed feelings of the comfort of home and spending more time with family, as well as looking forward to seeing their friends and teachers again. To other children who have become accustomed to being at home and may have some anxiety about returning to school due to various reasons – e.g., concerns about COVID-19, or other issues that they were dealing with prior to home schooling. Remember anxiety often occurs when there is uncertainty and unpredictability. Reducing the anxiety can be helped by controlling what we can control in terms of routines, familiar people, places and times by informing them ahead of time, and learning to accept that there may be some things out of our control, but normalising that feeling uncertain is fine under the circumstances.

The ACT Government and the Education Directorate have been actively involved in providing information in relation to COVID-19. Other ways we can help children to prepare, is to come together as a community, and raise any concerns with teachers, staff or the school psychologist. The aim of having conversations with children is to make the move back to the class setting as normal as possible and predictable, so that they feel quite prepared about going back to school in the coming weeks.

Here are some recommendations to help children transition back to school:

- Keeping the children informed about the timeline for returning back to school, as it will be staggered with certain year groups returning in different weeks, therefore for some young people school may seem empty on return, whereas for others most student will be back if they are returning later.
- Inform children about the hand hygiene practices that will be implemented at school – e.g., washing hands thoroughly (for at least 20 seconds), upon arrival at school, before and after eating, after toileting, sneezing and coughing, and after recess and lunch breaks.
- Inform children how they will get to school with transport – i.e., will they catch a bus, be driven, ride their bikes, etc.
- If dropping children off at school, inform them about where you will say goodbye to them – e.g., at the school gate, in the car etc.
- Discussing what the children what they will be doing when they get to school, and who they will be with.
- Having them talk about who they will be playing with at school, and know who their friends are, as this becomes their known support group at school.
- Discuss with the children their timetables for classes and breaks, which several the students would be aware of due to online learning.
- Discuss with children all the things they will need to bring with them upon their return to school – e.g., workbooks, stationery items, chrome books, library books, hat etc.
- Letting the children have familiar items to take (based on what is allowed at school).
- Discussing with children what foods they may like on their first day and if possible, perhaps include a comfort or treat food for them in their lunch.
- Keeping explanations simple and communication open about how the children feel about the move back to school (both positive and negative).
- Driving past their schools and having conversations about what they are looking forward to on their return, or any possible concerns they may have. Validating those concerns as causing them worry, and looking at how to resolve those issues, or who to go to, to have those discussions prior to returning.
- Not starting any new routines at home during the change process where practical.
- Discussing any concerns that they may have in relation to COVID-19, such as their health; worry about other people's health, or any other concerns they may have in relation to COVID-19. There are many resources at present around how to speak to children about COVID-19, such as Emerging Minds (<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/supporting-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/>).

I hope this information is helpful in preparing students for the move back to school in the coming weeks. As previously mentioned, student hesitation, anxiety or uncertainty regarding returning to school is expected and normal under these circumstances. Utilising any of the above recommendations may help ease your child's anxiety or uncertainty or other concerns, and hopefully they will resolve once back in the school environment.

If you have any concerns or questions about the move back to school, please do not hesitate to contact any of the executive staffing team.

# CARBON DIET

## Act on climate change - cut carbon now

Growing and making food releases a lot of carbon emissions. But one-third of our food ends up as waste. Buy, cook and serve less. Pack the right amount for school so you don't throw food in the bin.

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/> .

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## Enrolling in Preschool in 2021



Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au)



## 2021 school enrolments now open



Education

1. Go to [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au) for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.



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