



The Macquarie Memo

Issue 32: 21 October 2021

From our Deputy Principal

Hello Families

Danielle is helping with the transfer round for teachers this week and next so I will be available if there is anything you need during this time.

We are busily preparing for the return of students. I hope they are as excited as we are to get back to face to face learning. Remember to read over the drop off and pick up information sent home last Friday and plan this out with your child/ren before they return to school.

You may have already received the link to the 2021 School Satisfaction and Climate Survey. Please take the time to give us some feedback by filling in the survey. It really helps us with continuous improvement of the school.

For those students who have purchased ICAS tests, new dates will be advised in the coming weeks.

Unfortunately we've had to postpone some of the wellbeing programs we planned to run in term four. Cool Kids is now booked in for term one 2022. We were very keen to ensure this program was run face to face so made the difficult decision to postpone. This may mean the UC, who run the program, won't get in touch with families until later this year or possibly January so they have up to date information. For those students doing the Warehouse Circus program, we are also postponing to term one 2022.

I look forward to seeing students in Preschool, Kindergarten, 1/2 and year 6 on Monday and the following week for children in years 3-5.

Take care

Jodie

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 21 October

3.30pm Online maths session for parents

4.30pm Board Meeting

Friday 5 November

Outdoor Classroom Day

Thursday 18 November

6.30pm P&C Meeting

Wednesday 15 December

Year 6 Farewell

Friday 17 December

Last day of term 4

UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS

It is important that we keep up to date records for each student. We request that families let us know as soon as possible during the year about any changes to contact details, medical information and emergency contacts.

- Phone numbers
- Home address
- Email address

If you have any changes or would like to check what your details are currently listed as, please email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

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



ACT
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Education

LIBRARY NEWS

Students will have a day assigned for library use. Please ensure your child remembers to bring their books in a library bag on their day:

- Monday – Les Fruits Tropicaux
- Tuesday – Les Légumes & Les Peches
- Wednesday – Les Petit Légumes
- Thursday – Les Baies
- Friday – Les Agrumes

Oliver



Oliver is the online platform to view our library catalogue – both physical books and digital books. Students have access to Oliver through their student backpack (<http://backpack.ed.act.edu.au>).

It would be helpful for all students to look at Oliver this week as they prepare to return to school, so they can view their current loans from the library. Most students will have borrowed at least 5 books before we went into lockdown, and now is a good time to track down those books ready to be returned to the library. Click on the student name at the top right of the screen, and choose “Loans”.



NEWS FROM THE P&C

From the Acting President: The P&C would like to thank our amazing teachers for their enthusiasm and hard work over the period of home learning. It has been a tumultuous time for us all, and we appreciate your dedication and professionalism throughout, and as we take steps to return to 'normal' life.

The P&C is also looking forward to seeing students starting back at school next week. We hope you have a great week of learning and catching up with friends.



Canteen: Canteen services will resume on Friday, November 5 (Week 5). We are anticipating students will have staggered breaks, so are adjusting our canteen arrangements accordingly.

Uniform Shop: When students return to school, the uniform shop will remain closed for walk-in customers. Families can still order new uniforms online via flexischools.com.au and items will be sent home with students. There are no secondhand uniforms available during COVID, sorry. For any enquiries, please contact the uniform shop coordinator uniforms.mps@gmail.com

ONLINE MATHS SESSION FOR PARENTS

**Are you interested in finding out more about maths in the early years?
If so, then this online session is for you!**

Let's Count is an early mathematics program designed by The Smith Family and the authors, Bob Perry and Ann Gervasoni, to assist parents and other family members help their young children aged 3-5 years play to investigate and learn powerful mathematical ideas. Through this play and investigation, the aim is for the children and adults to develop positive dispositions to learning as well as mathematical knowledge and skills. *Let's Count* relies on the parents and other family members providing the opportunities for the children to engage with the mathematics in their everyday lives, talk about it, document it, and extend it in ways that are relevant to them. This leads to the *Let's Count* mantra: **Notice, Explore and Talk About.**

You are invited to a **Let's Count Online Session** to find out more about how we can be mathematicians for life.

When: Thursday 21 October 2021

What Time: 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

For: Parents/Carers of Preschool Children

Presenters: Mary Pezzella (Built In Relief Teacher) and Maree Sweeting

RSVP: To Maree by email: Maree.Sweeting@ed.act.edu.au by no later than Tuesday 20 October 2021

Google Meet for session: <https://meet.google.com/vvh-snuu-zrk>



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hi everyone,

The past few months with the ACT lockdown due to COVID-19 have been stressful and challenging but there have also been some benefits to it (e.g., increased family time, slower pace, one on one support for learning etc.). Now another period of change is upon us with the transition back to face-to-face learning and school in the coming weeks. This period of transition will come with a mix of feelings for yourself and your children including relief and excitement as well as perhaps anxiety and stress.

Here are some strategies and information that may be helpful in preparing yourself and your child for the translation back to school:

- **Re-establishing normal routines.** For instance, the week before school return children to their usual wake up and bedtime routines, as well as breakfast and morning snack/lunch. The day before, involve your child in packing their bag and preparing their uniform - this leaves you time to notice if anything is forgotten. For the morning of return to school, allow more time than usual to get ready to answer any questions your child might have and provide extra cuddles and kisses.
- **Prepare your child for return to school.** This may include walking past and talking about school, talking about how they are going to get to and from school (car, bike, bus, walking), discussing who they are looking forward to seeing at school and what they are looking forward to doing, discussing what they are worried about with returning to school, asking what will make their return to school easier etc.
- **Preparing your child for changes to usual school processes.** This may include talking to them about adults wearing masks, new hygiene practices (hand sanitiser and/or regular washing of hands), reduced contact with parents/carers at school etc.
- **Reassure your child it is safe to go to school and answer any concerns they may have in relation to COVID-19 and school.** Many parents/carers had conversations with their children about the importance of learning from home to keep them healthy and safe, so some children may now worry about the safety of returning to school. To help your child feel safe, have a conversation with them explaining that the decision to return to school is based on medical advice, everyone at school is working hard to make sure that children are safe and anyone who is unwell will stay at home.
- **Reassure your child it is okay to have mixed feelings about returning to school.** If you notice your child is experiencing anxiety associated with return to school these videos (created by the School Psychology Service) may be helpful to you in talking with your child about their anxiety related to returning to school.

[Understanding Anxiety](#)

[Responding to Your Child's Anxiety](#)

[Return to School Plan](#)

Additional information about helping children transition back to school can be found [here](#)

Take care and I look forward to seeing students at school.

Erin

DEDICATED SCHOOL BUSES AND REVISED INTERIM BUS TIMETABLE FROM MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2021

Transport Canberra's dedicated school bus services will recommence on Monday 25 October 2021. This includes 'S' trips that divert into schools.

Timings have changed for dedicated school services and the regular timetable. We are strongly encouraging families to check their [school pack](#) and plan ahead.

Special Needs Transport continues to run for those families that need this service.

A range of COVID Safe measures are in place to help keep students safe on public transport. Please remind families to familiarise themselves with [these measures](#) and talk to their children about them prior to the return to school.

From Monday 25 October 2021 buses will run to a [revised interim timetable](#). This timetable is a similar frequency to the timetable that has been running over the past two months, but with some changes to timings to allow better connections for school students.

Light rail is continuing to run to its regular frequency but will see an increase in frequency from Monday 1 November 2021. This will assist with physical distancing on board. Customers will benefit from extended afternoon peak frequency on weekdays and increased frequency on Sunday mornings.

Consider walking or riding to school – or using a Part way point

Parents and carers may also consider alternative ways to get their children to school. If they live close by they can take advantage of the warmer spring weather and walk, ride or scoot to school!

Part way points are also a great way to get some exercise into children's days for families that live a little further away and this also helps to ease congestion around schools. Parents or carers can simply drop their child at a point, or park and walk the rest of the way with them.

Park safely and legally

All 40km/h school zones are in place between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Speed limits in school zones are there to ensure the safety of children by allowing motorists extra time to stop in an unexpected situation.

Parking across pedestrian crossings, corners, verges and double parking can block kids seeing the road.

School packs and timetable information

The [revised interim timetables](#) and [school packs](#) are now available online.

For enquiries customers are encouraged to visit www.transport.act.gov.au

or call 13 17 10.

LEAGUESTARS.COM



The League Stars program appeals to the true nature of kids, in all their messy, high energy, love of fun and play. Each week, your child will participate in specially designed games that get them smiling and sweating.

League Stars kids have loads of fun with their friends, old and new, but the program delivers so much more. Each week they'll unlock more of their unique strengths, building physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills that will help them take on challenges big and small, now and in the future.

REGISTER FOR LEAGUE STARS
LEAGUESTARS.COM

WHEN: 2/11/2021 - 7/12/2021	WHERE: NSWRL HQ
TIME: Tuesday 4.00pm - 5.00pm	2 Eade Street
LENGTH: 6 sessions	Bruce
AGE: 5-12	ACT 2617
COST: \$79	

YOUR LEAGUE STARS COACH IS: Shane Read
sread@nrl.com.au
0428 844 177



Pack items may differ from those shown

