



The Macquarie Memo

Issue 26: 26 August 2021

From our Principal

Dear families and friends,

Well, we are into our first full week of remote learning. Thanks to everyone who has worked collaboratively to iron out any kinks and get in touch so we can support you.

Included in this newsletter is a how it works document focused on the school's approach to homework. This document has been being developed over several months with consultation with staff and the board. If you have any feedback about this how it works document please feedback via email in the next two weeks. The timing might seem odd, as we are currently completing all work from home, however there is still lots of 'normal' school going on.

Each day I have managed to sit in on a class meet. I have been so impressed with how independent and focussed on learning the kids have been. They are following the online expectations, participating respectfully and supporting each other with technical issues.

While each class is focusing on different elements there is a common outline to the days while remote learning is going. The day looks like this for students from kindergarten to year 6

Morning from 9am	There are a variety of pre-recorded lessons available covering literacy and numeracy concepts
10am	Whole class daily meeting
Between 10:30-12:00pm	A rotation of small groups that target literacy and numeracy concepts - children are invited to their groups across the week. During this time children can have a break, or work on the earlier released lessons or access other suggested daily tasks like reading, movement, cooking, helping out at home- whatever works for the family.
12:00pm	We are suggesting everyone has a break for an hour to eat and recharge the batteries
1:00-3:00 pm	There are a variety of pre-recorded lessons developed by Shirley – in visual art and art appreciation, Cynan – musically based and Ami- dance focused. During this afternoon time students who participate in our reading intervention program have small group meets for about 20 mins to work through their reading work.

Students who have EALD support from Lynda also have some small group meets across the week.

On Friday afternoons between 2:30 and 3:00pm we are inviting families to drop in to the whole group meet to clarify anything, have a more relaxed connection to school.

We are really open to feedback, and recognise that we can't possibly suit everyone with what is available during this period of online learning. If it is too much, we encourage you to come to the meets, if it is not enough please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Hope to see some of you online soon,

Danielle

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hi everyone,

The past week with the ACT lockdown due to Covid-19 has been a period of quick change, new information, stress, and uncertainty for all of us. If you have concerns for the wellbeing of your child, please contact your child's teacher and discuss your concerns with them. If necessary, your child's teacher will discuss the concerns with their team leader to ensure they are receiving the support they require during this period. The team leader may then make a referral to the School Psychologist if appropriate. The School Psychology Service also has a Central Telehealth service which can be contacted via an [online form](#) or by calling [6205 1559](tel:62051559) between 9:00am and 4:30pm. All referrals to this service will be forwarded to the School Psychologist associated with the school of the student (i.e., me for Macquarie Primary School).

Other services that might be helpful to you include:

Support for Children:

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) North - 6205 1050

Support for Adults:

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467

ACT Access Mental Health Team - 1800 629 354

Support for Families:

Capital Region Community Services – 6264 0200

West Belconnen Child & Family Centre - 6205 2904

Child and Youth Protection Services - 1300 556 729

Emerging Minds – <https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/toolkits/parents-carers-and-families-toolkit/covid-19/>

Please take care and don't hesitate to reach out to the school if needed.

Erin



NEWS FROM THE P&C

From the Acting President: Our next P&C meeting will be held online tonight - Thursday 26 August. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to macquariepandc@gmail.com and you will be sent the link prior to the meeting.

Congratulations everyone on getting to the end of the readathon. Hopefully some good books were discovered - I can recommend *Carpet People* by Terry Pratchett for something just a little bit crazy. So, the readathon ended on Sunday 22 August. The plan was for reading lists to be dropped at school, but since we're still staying at home, if you could now email your child or children's name, their year level and how many books they have read to the following email address instead by 3.30pm on Friday 3 September: president.mpspandc@gmail.com. The prizes include a \$20 book voucher for the child who has read the most books for each grade, as well as a prize for the child who has read the most books overall, and an encouragement prize which will be drawn at random from those students who have submitted their number of books read. The prizes will be distributed after 3 September. Sponsorship money can be given through the flexischools link under the events tab. Sponsorship is to be paid by 26 August. If you haven't been able to pay by then, please email us.

Why not spend some of this lock down time cooking with your children. Here is a yummy choc-chip cookie recipe for you to try:

125g unsalted butter

½ cup caster sugar

½ cup brown sugar

1 egg lightly beaten

1 tsp vanilla

1 ¾ cups self-raising flour

155g choc chips

1. Combine butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Gradually add egg and vanilla and beat until well combined
2. Fold sifted flour into mixture and add choc chips
3. Teaspoon mixture onto tray
4. Cook at 180 degrees for 15 minutes until firm

Cool on wire tray and enjoy.



LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club

The link for the online Issue 6 catalogue is [here](#). Please complete all orders via [LOOP](#) by Friday September 3. You will have the option of either paying extra for home delivery, or having it delivered to school as per normal.

Book Week

We hope you have found a way to celebrate all the amazing books that are available for our children, and that you are enjoying some reading time every single day. It is the most important thing you can do for your child's development, not to mention all the lovely snuggles.

Tomorrow we celebrate with our annual dress up day and children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character. We will miss seeing you all in person at our parade, but would still love to see you online. Your class teacher will be acknowledging dress up day in class meets, and all students are invited to join the library classroom and upload a photo in the classwork Book Week folder. If this proves a bit tricky please email me a photo of your child all dressed up, and let me know who they are and which book they are from. Pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au



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