



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 36: 10 December 2020

## From our Principal

Dear families and friends

Today you will receive your child's semester 2 report via email for students in kindergarten to year 6. Preschool students' reports are sent home with them in a hard copy. These reports outline learning growth against the Australian Curriculum or Early Years Learning Framework (for preschool students) over the past semester. Students who have made expected growth over this period achieve a result at standard, or a C grade. This means that students have demonstrated their skills and understanding where we expect them to in their year cohort and as is outlined in the Achievement Standard section of the Australian Curriculum. Some students demonstrate these learnings at higher or lower levels and receive other grades. If you would like to discuss your child's report with their teacher, please don't hesitate to get in touch before the end of the year.

We have received our School Satisfaction Survey results for this year. Each of our stakeholder groups, students from years 4-6, staff and parents and carers respond to questions about their satisfaction with education provision at our school. Overall, we have made some great gains this year. All of our parents and carers survey results are improved on the preceding year, and some of our strategic plan targets are already met. Staff results are trending upward, with significant improvement in our strategic plan target areas of, *student behaviour is well managed at this school* and *this school is well maintained*. Student results are also mostly on an upward trend, with the trajectory indicating we will achieve our goals by the end of this strategic plan. One area that all three groups indicated as an area of focus is our ability to use digital technologies as an integral part of teaching and learning at this school. The Board discussed this at length, and we are looking at how we can invest in both the skill building and associated hardware to make this possible into the future.

As part of our whole school focus on displaying safe, respectful, learner behaviours staff have been handing out *fast and frequents* when students have been displaying positive behaviours. Each day the school captains count the tokens and share the results with the whole school. As we have increased the number of tokens handed out each week we are well on schedule to have a whole school reward...some water play during the afternoon of next Tuesday 15 December. Children may get wet participating in the activities, so feel free to pop a change of clothes in their bag that day. As we will be outside every child needs a sunsmart hat to participate. There will be no need to bring any water toys for this afternoon, we will provide everything needed.

Last week students met with their 2021 class teacher and group and selected a class name. Next year is the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables – so our class names will reflect that. As our language is French, we are building our French vocabulary by using the French version of our class names, like this year each cohort is grouped as well. Our class names are as follows:

Cohort	Theme	Class Name
Preschool	Les Petit Légumes (The Tiny Vegetables)	Maree Mon, Tues group: Les Kalettes (They are a hybrid of kale and brussel sprouts.) Thurs, Fri group: Les Cucamelons (They look like watermelons but taste like a mixture of limes and cucumbers.)
		LSU
Kindergarten	Les Agrumes (The Citrus Fruits)	Reannon - Les Oranges (The Oranges) Bek - Les Citrons Verts (The Limes)
1/2	Les Fruits Tropicaux (The Tropical Fruits)	Monique - Les Kiwis (The Kiwifruits) MaryAnn - Les Fruits de Dragon (The Dragon Fruits) Lauren - Les Litchis (The Lychees) Nicole - Les Ananas (The Pineapples)
3/4	Les Légumes (The Vegetables)	Meg - Les Aubergines (The Eggplants) Brooke: Les Brocolis (The Broccolis) Chlo - Les Concombres (The Cucumbers) Bec - Les Citrouilles (The Pumpkins)
5/6	Les Baies (The Berries)	Patrick - Les Groseilles (The Gooseberries) Emma - Les Fraises (The Strawberries) Mel - Les Sureaux (The Elderberries)

## In this Issue

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



Have a great week,  
Danielle

# NEWS FROM THE P&C

## **Cherry Drive**

The annual cherry drive was, as usual, a great success. A staggering 829 kg of cherries were sold in co-ordination with Aranda Primary, raising more than \$2,900 for school projects.

A big thank you to Christie Horsfield who organised this project.

I hope everyone enjoys their cherries.

## **2021 Welcome BBQ and P&C AGM**

Next year's school welcome BBQ and P&C Committee Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 9 February**. The BBQ will commence at 5.00pm with the AGM starting at 6.30pm. We hope to see you there.

## **Container recycling winner**

The final recycling day of the year netted more than 350 cans, bottles and other recycling containers. The final total for the year was over 2,600 containers. A mighty effort by everyone involved.

The winners of the competition are the **Golden Wattles** who collected more than 1,000 containers. Their whole class will be having a pizza party next week to celebrate.

Special mention to Rhys from Winter Cress who did everything a student could do to try and win the day for his class with over 600 containers to his credit.

Have a great week.

Brendan Ding

President, Macquarie Primary P&C



## **P&C UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop is closed for 2020, however online orders can be placed on [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) for collection from **Friday 31 January 2021**.

At the start of 2021, the MPS P&C Uniform Shop will be open for order collection and purchases:

**Friday, 29 January** 1pm – 4pm

**Monday, 1 February** 8:30am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm

**Tuesday, 2 February** 8:30am – 9:30am

**Wednesday, 3 February** 2:45 – 3:30pm

**Friday, 5 February** 8:30 – 9:30am

Any orders not collected in this week will be sent home with students.

*Regular shop hours will resume from 8 February (Mon & Fri 8:45-9:15 and Wed 3-3:30).*

## **LUNCH ORDERS**

This **Friday is the last day** of lunch orders for 2020. We hope you've enjoyed the lunch order service this year.

## **CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES PROGRAM 2021**

The P&C are seeing parents/carers to be Class Parent Representatives for 2021. Class Parent Representatives act as a contact point for parents/carers, help with the flow of information from the school, families and the P&C. Express your interest by emailing [mpspandcyp@gmail.com](mailto:mpspandcyp@gmail.com)

## CONTINUED...

### YOUR P&C NEEDS YOU – CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN 2020

The P&C operates with a volunteer committee that includes a president, vice president, treasurer, assistant treasurer and secretary as well as a variety of coordinators and subcommittees. The committee is set up at the start of every year at our annual general meeting (AGM) which will be held on **Tuesday, 9 February 2021**. Below is further information on the roles. To register your interest, or if you have any questions please email: [president.mpspandc@gmail.com](mailto:president.mpspandc@gmail.com)

#### **President (Office bearer)**

Facilitates communication between P&C, Principal, Board and school community

Encourages family and community participation in P&C activities

Acts as first point of contact and spokesperson for the P&C

Chairs general and executive committee meetings

#### **Vice President (Office bearer) – maximum of two**

Supports and assists the President

Oversees and supports P&C subcommittees

#### **Treasurer (Office bearer)**

Manages P&C funds and financial records

Organises P&C insurance and ACT P&C Council Association membership

Organises annual audit, and prepares P&C accounts

Reports on P&C finances to P&C meetings.

#### **Assistant Treasurer (Office bearer)**

Supports and assists the Treasurer, including processing Uniform Shop receipts into the P&C accounting system in consultation with both the Treasurer and the Uniform Shop Co-ordinator.

#### **Secretary (Office bearer)**

Prepares and distributes meeting agendas, in consultation with President

Records and circulates meeting minutes

Deals with incoming and outgoing correspondence

Maintains P&C records.

#### **ACT P&C Council delegate**

Where possible, attends meetings of the ACT Council of P&C Associations, represents P&C views to the Council, and reports back to the P&C on Council items of interest.

#### **Public Officer**

Acts as point of contact between the P&C and the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS)/Access Canberra

Lodges Annual Returns and notifies ORS/Access Canberra of P&C committee and other changes

This position must be held by a resident of the ACT who is over the age of 18 years.

#### **Grants Officer**

Coordinates P&C grant applications, including developing contacts, school liaison, grant sourcing, and developing and submitting applications.

Reports on grant applications to P&C meetings.

#### **Preschool representative**

Represents the views of preschool parents, and reports to P&C meetings on preschool priorities and items of interest.

#### **Canteen Coordinator**

Coordinates canteen with Healthy Kids and the School, and manages volunteer rosters

Reports on canteen activities and priorities to P&C meetings

Breakfast Club Coordinator

Coordinates the Friday Breakfast Club, food purchases and volunteer roster

Reports on Breakfast Club activities and priorities to P&C meetings

#### **Communications Coordinator**

Shares information between the P&C, Principal, Board and school community via the school newsletter, P&C updates, Facebook page, Notes and other communications

Liaises with the P&C and school/Principal to streamline communications

Promotes P&C events and activities via the school newsletter and Facebook page, notes and other communications

Reports on communication activities and priorities to P&C meetings.

#### **Events & Fundraising Coordinator**

Coordinates P&C events and fundraising activities including planning and management, event calendars, risk management, food and drink purchasing, promotion and community awareness and volunteer rosters.

Establishes and maintains partnerships with local businesses to support social and fundraising events and activities.

Reports on events and fundraising activities and priorities to P&C meetings.

#### **Gardens & Grounds Coordinator**

Liaises with the P&C, school/Principal, Board, families and local community regarding gardens and grounds improvements

Coordinates the Playground Enhancement Project

Reports on gardens and grounds activities and priorities to P&C meetings.

#### **Uniform Shop Coordinator**

Manages the Uniform Shop including ordering and pricing stock, school liaison, opening times, volunteer roster, promotions, stock-takes, counting funds and liaising with the Treasurer.

Reports on Uniform Shop activities and priorities to P&C meetings.

We always need new parents and carers to help us continue making a positive and valuable contribution to our school and our kids, especially as families with older children move out of the school. Please consider getting involved in 2020.

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings 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)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

John in Grevillea and Finley in Desert Rose, for winning the ACT basketball U12, Division 6 grand final on Sunday.



## SHOP SMART, AND PLAY SAFE, THIS SUMMER

With Christmas and school holidays just around the corner, make sure to shop smart and think about both safety and sustainability when buying gifts for family and friends.

Parents can play their part in keeping their kids safe this festive and holiday season by:

- checking the age recommendations for toys and buying those which reflect the child's age and do not pose a choking hazard
- reading and following the warning labels and instructions on toys
- ensuring all household items with button batteries can't be opened by children
- keeping toys with lithium button batteries well away from small children · checking information about recent national safety toy recalls at [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au)
- supervising children at all times when they are playing in pools.

Why not consider sustainable gifts this festive season? Sustainable gifts are not only good for the environment, they are often better for the hip pocket too! Smart and sustainable gift ideas include tours and passes to local attractions, organic gifts like worm farms and plants, or second-hand presents.

For more tips on safe and sustainable shopping this summer visit [www.act.gov.au/shopsmart](http://www.act.gov.au/shopsmart)

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

As we approach the end of the year, the Macquarie Primary School Board would like to encourage families and our school staff to take the opportunity to reflect on the challenges and achievements of 2020. It's certainly been a year of change, where children, families, teachers, support staff and the executive have stepped up, demonstrated resilience, and approached learning and how to be a school community in a very different way. As a Board, we extend a heartfelt thanks to all members of our extended school community who have supported Macquarie Primary to continue delivering high quality teaching and learning throughout the challenges of COVID-19 and the summer bushfire season, with a particular mention to those who worked diligently to foster our collective school community spirit during this time.

While this year has undoubtedly been a year of challenge, it has also been a year of significant achievement for our school, and it is important that we acknowledge these successes, and build on them in 2021. We have continued our focus on our strategic priorities: improving student gain in writing and spelling; improving wellbeing and learning through the development of consistent practices and processes; and improving student gain in numeracy. We have delivered significant improvements to our physical school environment, with the completion of the adventure playground and installation of air-conditioning throughout the school. We have also risen to the challenge of remote learning, and continued to contribute to building our school community within the bounds of COVID-19.

The Board has continued to work with the executive to guide the strategic direction of the school; has established a library trust fund (which is now open for tax-deductible donations); and continues its monitoring and consideration of school based procedures outlined in 'how it works' documents, development of the school budget and other regulatory functions, ensuring the school's strategic priorities are reflected and integrated along the way.

We look forward to further enhancing our engagement with parents and the wider school community in 2021, and will be in touch in the early days of the new school year with information on 2021 priorities and opportunities for collaboration.

We wish all families, staff and extended school community members a happy, safe summer holiday season. For those who are physically leaving the school at the end of the year – we thank you for your contribution to the school, and hope you reflect fondly on your time at Macquarie - please remember that you are always welcome to continue participating in our school community. For those families and staff continuing with us in 2021, we look forward to working, learning and growing further with you in 2021.

## SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES

Two members of our school board will reach the end of their appointment in February 2021 creating one vacancy for a parent member and one vacancy for a staff member.

Our school board provides valuable input into strategic planning and monitoring across many aspects of our school. If you are interested in nominating for a position, or would like to know a little more about what is involved with being on the board, please contact our Business Manager, Ann Walker or talk to one of our current board members. Further information can also be found on the Education Directorate website : [https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school\\_boards](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school_boards)

The 14 day nomination period for vacant positions on our School Board will open at **11am on Monday, 1 February 2021**.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS THIS WEEK

**Preschool**— We will continue to focus on our body's Early Warning Signs. 'Jasmine's Butterfly' is a story about a young girl who gets lost at the zoo and her body tells her in all kinds of ways that she is not feeling safe. The children will draw the trusted adults that they can talk to when feeling sad, worried or unsafe.

**Kindergarten**— We will be looking at gender stereotypes and explore misconceptions such as pink is a girls colour and only boys can be firemen.

**Year 1/2**— Students will be revisiting equal and not equal relationships and the trusted adults they can seek to take action to keep them safe. Students will also be learning the 'No, Go, Tell, Tell, Tell...' safety strategy to use when feeling unsafe, uncomfortable or worried.

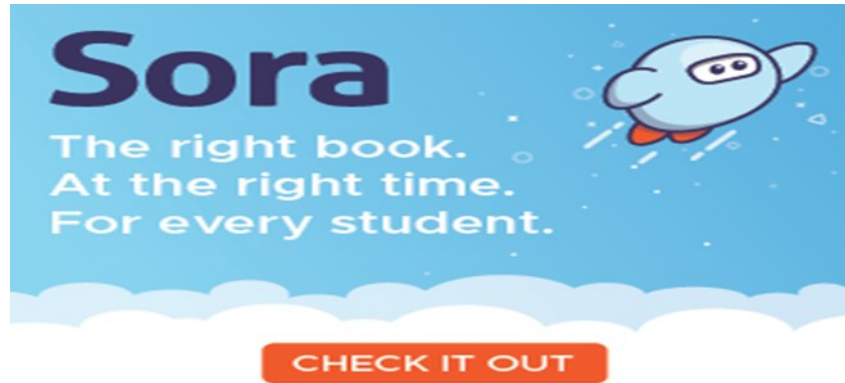
**Year 3/4**— Students will be exploring how the bodies of others will change during puberty.

**Year 5/6**— Students will be focussing on answering puberty related questions.

## LIBRARY NEWS

With stocktake almost complete and most books returned to the library, now is a good time to remind you that our Education Department has purchased well over 7,000 e-books and audiobooks that are included in our library collection. Students can continue to borrow up to 10 digital resources at a time, which should keep them going over the holidays.

All that is required is the Student ID and password that students use when logging onto school chrome books or to access their Digital Backpack. Instructions are below, but please let me know if you have any further queries about digital resources at [pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au)



### Getting started with Sora

With Sora, you can borrow free e-books and audiobooks from the central **ACT Education Directorate** collection. More than 7,000 e-book titles and 1,000 audiobooks available for recreational reading. Borrow up to 10 resources at a time! Loan period is two weeks with an early-return option for those quick, enthusiastic readers. Need a bit more time, then use the renewal option if no one has placed a HOLD (reserve).

#### Step 1


Go online to [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com). or install the free Sora app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)

#### Step 2

In Sora, in *Find My School* enter the set-up code **ACT Education Directorate (NOT the individual school name)**, then, sign in using your school, individual login credentials, ie. student ID number and password or the staff Schools net account and password.

#### Step 3



Browse the  tab and borrow an e-book or audiobook. Your book will open so you can start reading or listening right away.

#### Step 4



Close the book and go to  & see all your books (up to 10!). From there you can:

- Select **Open book** or **Open audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Select **Options** to renew or return the book.

# NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

All notes are available on our school [website](#)

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
2021 Stationery supplies	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2020 Voluntary contributions	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2021 5/6 Camp Wombaroo	Year 4 & 5	As soon as possible
Year 6 Fun Day	Year 6	As soon as possible

## 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.

### For noting - ambulance

ACT School students who are injured or become ill at school or during approved school excursions within the ACT are entitled to free emergency ambulance services that includes medical treatment and ambulance transport.

## SUSTAINABILITY TIPS

Consider sustainable gifts. We've all had the experience of being given something we don't want, like or need. Minimise waste by buying sustainable gifts such as donations and experiences, or gifts made from recycled materials.

For more common recycling mistakes go to <https://www.act.gov.au/our-canberra/latest-news/2019/april/are-you-making-common-recycling-mistakes>

## 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			