



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 2: 11 February 2021

## From our Deputy

Walking around corridors and through classrooms I've noticed how settled and ready for learning our students are this year. Teachers are focussing on school values and expectations, helping students locate our Positive Behaviours for Learning signs across the school and rehearsing what the expectations and values look like. I'm hearing teachers talking and explicitly teaching students our learning assets – collaborating, self-management, communication, thinking and research.

As an inquiry school our teachers are:

- supporting children to explore and seek answers to a range of questions
- using probing questions and thinking prompts as teaching tools
- inviting students to raise questions and wonderings – questions are seen as a sign of good thinking
- involving students in some of the decision making about aspects of learning
- helping students transfer learned strategies across different contexts
- helping students make connections between ideas, subjects and inquiries
- supporting students to access prior learning to construct new understandings
- encouraging students to do more talking and thinking about focus areas of study
- teaching students how to reflect on how, why and what they are doing in class.

Later this term students in years 1-6 will have the opportunity to deeply inquire into an interest area. Teachers are planning inquiries which involve students from various years levels coming together to explore a topic of interest. These will be small groups, of about 15, working on topics such as:

- Plant to plate – Does growing your own food contribute to health and wellbeing?
- How can we use everyday materials to express ourselves?
- How do mosaics make life more magnificent?
- How do we explore our environments safely and sustainably? Safe and Sustainable Movement
- What purpose does giving a card hold?
- What does it take to be the next Master Chef?
- How do authors craft a children's book?
- Construction and landscaping – How do we effectively work as a group to achieve a common goal? How can we contribute to our community?
- The Art of France: What do we think when we hear the word France?
- How does sport build teamwork, leadership and communication? Exploring various sport

Students will do a ten week inquiry into their chosen topic and groups will have a chance to share their achievements with others toward the end of the inquiry. Research shows that programs such as these promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, improve student's ability to concentrate, and make learning more meaningful, valuable, and rewarding. Enrichment activities are fun, which helps students to become more engaged in their learning and retain more information. Socially, the research shows, these programs give children opportunities to build friendships they might not otherwise have had the chance to make. When children are put into an environment with other children at a variety of levels and ages, the gain perspectives they may not have had the chance to before. These programs encourage children to work cooperatively with others. We will monitor how things go and ask students for feedback at the end of the inquiry.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the welcome barbecue on Tuesday evening. Teachers and staff really appreciate the opportunity to connect with the community. A big thank you to the cooks at the event also. The annual P&C AGM was also held on Tuesday. I would like to thank all the 2020 committee executive who contributed in a particularly challenging year, and welcome the 2021 P&C executive into their new roles.

Next week are getting to know you interviews. You will have received a note home asking for information about your child that will help the teachers support their learning and development. The getting to know you interview is the perfect time to share you goals and aspirations for your child for the year. Teachers will be discussing Individual Learning Plan goals, Personal Learning Plans and Behaviour Support Plans with parents of children who have plans during this time also. We look forward to a positive partnership with families in 2021.

Jodie

## Dates for the Diary

### Wednesday 17 February

Assembly 2.15pm

Host - Les Kiwis

### Wednesday 24—Friday 26 February

Year 5/6 Camp Wombaroo

### Wednesday 3 March

Assembly 2.15pm

Host - Les Fruits de Dragon

### Thursday 4 March

Year 2-6 Swimming Carnival

Junior water fun day

### Thursday 18 February

Board Meeting 4.30pm

### Wednesday 10 March

Assembly 2.15pm

Host - Les Fraises

### Monday 15 March—Friday 19 March

Year 2 & 3 Aquasafe Swimming Program

## In this Issue

### In this issue

- [P&C news](#)
- [School board news](#)
- [Merit awards](#)
- [Notes home & reminders](#)
- [Community notices](#)

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



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# NEWS FROM THE P&C

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear community,

Thank you for the opportunity to be P&C President this last year. I think we had a good year in difficult circumstances.

Some of the highlights were:

- the new community orchard and pizza oven gathering area
- the recycling drive that netted over 2,600 containers
- some cool new murals on the school walls
- a number of gardening days
- the continued Friday breakfast club
- a fun read-a-thon
- a sausage sizzle at Bunnings
- a cake stall at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets.

I have enjoyed working with the volunteers in the P&C Committee, the school staff and many for the parents and friends who have helped over the year. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out in 2020. Without you, none of this would be possible.

I hope that 2021 will be a great year for the school and if it is safe to do so, more restrictions can be lifted to allow more opportunities for the P&C to make a real difference in the life of the school.

Best wishes,

Brendan Ding

President | Macquarie Primary School P&C

E: [president.mpspandc@gmail.com](mailto:president.mpspandc@gmail.com)



## P&C UNIFORM SHOP

The P&C Uniform Shop is located in the Tidbinbilla Building. It is run by volunteers and sells new uniforms as close to cost price as possible, and second-hand items for \$2 and \$5. Open times are:

**Mondays** 8:45-9:15am

**Wednesdays** 3:00-3:30pm

**Fridays** 8:45-9:15am.

Cash and card payments are accepted. Orders can also be placed online at [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au). No need to collect online orders—they will be sent home with students. Any questions can be sent to [uniforms.mps@gmail.com](mailto:uniforms.mps@gmail.com)

## LUNCH ORDERS

Our Friday Canteen Service will resume this week. Be sure to get your order in via [Flexischools](http://Flexischools) before the strict cut-off time of **8.30am each Friday morning**. Orders are accepted via [Flexischools](http://Flexischools) only (sorry, no cash orders). Information about [Flexischools](http://Flexischools) and the canteen, including the menu, is available from the front Office.

## CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

How will you volunteer in 2021?

If you aim to do 'just one thing' to help in 2021, think about becoming a Class Parent Representative. It will be a huge help to our P&C and the parents/carers in the School community. It is also a great way to engage with the school community.

Class Parent Reps help to connect the parent/carer community with the school and the P&C, as well as with each other as Macquarie Primary parents/carers. In 2020, Class Parent Reps arranged class and year group catch-ups, coordinated end of year class gifts for teachers, called for volunteers for events and helped to connect the parent/carer community. Being a Class Parent Rep is not a time intensive role, and it would be great if we could fill up all of the Class Parent Rep places early in the year. Please volunteer ASAP by sending an email to [classparentrepsmps@gmail.com](mailto:classparentrepsmps@gmail.com).

## SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES & NEWS

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, 8 February 2021 and closes on Monday 22 February 2021. Nomination forms are available at the front office and on our school website.

Christie Horsfield has resigned from her position on the board to take on the role of P&C President. This has created a casual vacancy for the remainder of Christie's term on the board. The School Board manual requires that this position be offered first to the nominee who received the next highest number of votes in the previous board election.

As a result Sander de Vries has accepted the casual position on the board and will commence immediately as a board member. Thank you Christie for your time on the board and welcome Sander.

## SICKBAY

As part of our environmental efforts we will no longer be printing sick bay slips for minor injuries or illness. We will continue to call you if there is a moderate or severe injury or illness and for any head knocks. We do keep a record of all attendees at the sick bay as part of our normal processes.

## MERIT AWARDS

Please congratulate the following students who will receive a merit award at the junior assembly next Wednesday:

Les Citrons Verts	Frankie H & Aneen B	Les Fruits de Dragon	Mahilini T & Harriet H
Les Oranges	Fatima A & Edward P	Les Kiwis	Jack W & Adelina P
Les Ananas	Jasleen S & Domi E	Les Litchis	Daniel L & Sahasra M

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Students who attend before school care will walk to Big Splash pool with a teacher. Please make sure you return your note, they are due back Friday 19 February. Unfortunately this year we are unable to have spectators. If you would like to volunteer please contact the office.

## MACQUARIE COMMUNITY NETBALL TEAM

If your child (girl or boy) from year 2-6 is interested in playing Saturday morning netball this year, please pick up an application form from the school office. These must be returned by Friday 26 February 2021.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS: RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO MASTER SCHOOL PORTRAITS (MSP PHOTOGRAPHY)

On enrolment at Macquarie Primary School you provided the school with personal information that assists us to support the educational needs of your child/ren while they are enrolled in an ACT Government school. The ACT Information Privacy Act 2014 states that this information cannot be used or released without satisfying certain conditions. MSP Photography will be returning for school photos this year in term 1. They have requested your child's name, student ID and class. If you do not consent to include your child in this years school photos please complete the slip below and return it to the Front Office as soon as possible.

I do not give permission for my child/ren \_\_\_\_\_ in class/es \_\_\_\_\_ to be included in the 2021 school photos.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## 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
Medical Information & Consent form	All year levels	Friday 19 February
2021 5/6 Camp Wombaroo	Year 5 & 6	Wednesday 10 February
Swimming Carnival	Year 2—6	Friday 19 February
Kindergarten Health Check	Kindergarten	As soon as possible
Aquasafe Swim Permission Note	Year 2 & 3	Friday 5 March

## 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

Put up a no junk mail sign on your letterbox to limit the amount of paper waste.

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

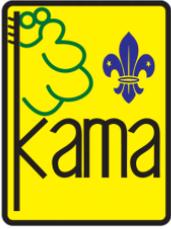
**Office hours:** Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

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>	Christie Horsfield	<b>Board Chair</b>	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## Kama Scouts

Kama Scout Hall, Birch Place, Macquarie

**We want new members**

Join the world's largest youth organisation!

**Joey Mob** (Ages 5-7): We meet **Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 pm**  
**Joey Mob not active**  
**Leaders needed!**

**Cub Pack** (Ages 8-11): We meet **Mondays, 6.30-8.00 pm**

**Scout Troop** (Ages 11-15): We meet **Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Venturer Unit** (Ages 15-18): We meet **Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm**



**Our Summer Camp was AWESOME!**

Do you want to find out more?

Visit our homepage – just scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

<https://kamascoutgroup.org.au/>



## Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

- laptops & tablets
- lessons & activities
- uniforms & shoes
- books & supplies
- sports fees & gear
- camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner)\*, have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment\*



**Contact**  
 your local Saver Plus Coordinator  
**Phone**  
 1300 610 355  
**Email**  
 CanberraSP@thesmithfamily.com.au  
**Online**  
 saverplus.org.au  
 Find us on Facebook



\*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.  
 \*Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, Barry Street and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.\*



## UNDER 10 COME N' TRY

**TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2021, 5-6PM**  
**TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021, 5-6PM**

BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL, MURRANJI ST HAWKER

**FOR GIRLS AND BOYS BORN 2012, 2013 AND 2014 COME MAKE RATS MISCHIEF WITH US!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THESE FREE ACTIVITIES PLEASE EMAIL [RATS.JUNIORREGISTRAR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RATS.JUNIORREGISTRAR@GMAIL.COM)

@GINNINDERRARATS

[WWW.GINNINDERRARATS.COM.AU](http://WWW.GINNINDERRARATS.COM.AU)

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