



The Macquarie Memo

Issue 6: 10 March 2022

From our Deputy Principal

It is hard to believe that we are over half way through the term already. Despite Covid continuing to impact and restrict aspects of school life, it is great to see and hear about all the fabulous learning across our school. Here is a snapshot of some things happening in the great barrier and freshwater fish classrooms.

Great Barriers

We have been doing lots of great learning in the kindergarten classrooms.

We are so excited to have begun our home reading program. Students are enjoying reading books at school and building their letter sound knowledge, high frequency word knowledge and strategies such as looking at the pictures and tracking along with the words.

They are now taking home books to share with their families and apply this learning at home.

Throughout our maths centres we have been focusing on counting numbers to 10, matching numerals and words, subitising and building our maths vocabulary.

Freshwater Fish

Writing: The focus has been on writing to recount and using descriptive language (similes) to 'show' not 'tell' when writing.

Maths: The focus has been on multiplication and division basic facts. Students have been exploring the patterns and links between each concept and how to apply our basic fact knowledge to solve more challenging problems.

Inquiry: During the current inquiry students have been exploring identity and how being unique helps us to contribute to different communities in different ways.

Every year The Smith Family runs a Learning for Life program which provides families with opportunities to increase their children's success at school, and helps children reach their potential by supporting education from primary through to post-school studies. The program offers support, access to educational programs, and financial support to eligible students. If you would like to see if your child is eligible please contact me via email. Stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au

As many of you are aware, one of our priorities in our 2018-2023 School Plan is 'improve wellbeing and learning for all through the development of consistent practices and processes'. We are working exceptionally hard in this area and can celebrate the following achievements towards meeting this goal...

- The implementation of the Positive Behaviours of Learning (PBL) framework across the communal areas of the school to provide consistent expectations and acknowledgement of positive choices. This year we are moving into the implementation stage in classroom settings and looking at our individual acknowledgement systems
- Enhanced teacher skills and capacity through professional learning and collaborative planning cycles
- Mapping of the Australian Curriculum using conceptual lenses across the whole school to ensure alignment and to support authentic, engaging learning programs for students
- Successful obtainment of a grant to support student wellbeing across the school. This included completing a Social Emotional Wellbeing survey with students across the school and providing programs and supports to eligible students.

Every year at MPS, teachers work with students in the classroom to put in place a number of supports and strategies to enhance overall student wellbeing. This includes but is not limited to

- Delivery of an evidence based social emotional learning program to support students understanding of brain development and self-management skills
- Students learning a range of strategies to support self-regulation that can be drawn upon when needed, for example breathing exercises and stretches
- Development of individual support hands, outlining 5 adults a student can talk to or seek help from when needed at school
- Implementing mindfulness experiences, brain breaks and movement times across the day.

If you have any other ideas on how we can support and promote student wellbeing and learning across our school please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a great long weekend. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us after all the rain.

Stacey

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15—18 March

Harmony Week

Friday 18 March

National day against bullying

Friday 25 March

Ride or walk to school day

Sunday 27 March

P&C Gardens and Grounds Working Bee

9am-12pm

Monday 28 March—Friday 1 April

Year 2 Aquasafe

Friday 8 April

Cross country carnival

Junior school 11.15am-12.15pm

Senior school 1.00-2.30pm

Term 1 ends

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



ACT
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Education

NEWS FROM THE P&C

From the President: We still have a few vacant positions on the P&C for 2022. These include:

Secretary (Office Bearer)

Events and Fundraising Coordinator

Preschool Representative

Please contact macquariepandc@gmail.com asap if you are able to fill one of the roles.



Gardens and Grounds Working Bee:

When: Sunday 27 March

Time: 9am—12pm

If you are able to make it to our first working bee of 2022 we would love to have you there. We will kick off at 9am and wrap up around 12pm, but feel free to come to part or all of the working bee. If you are able to attend, please email Chris on: grounds.mpspandc@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Uniform Shop: We Need YOU. The Uniform Shop needs a volunteer for Wednesday afternoons once a fortnight to continue to provide this valuable service to the school community. If you can help please contact Liz: uniforms.mps@gmail.com

The P&C Uniform Shop is open:

Mondays 8:45 - 9:15am, Wednesdays 3:00 - 3:30pm, and Fridays 8:45 - 9:15am.

Cash and card payments are accepted. Orders can be placed online at www.flexischools.com.au. Online orders will be sent home with students.

Donations of pre-loved uniform items are gratefully accepted during open times. Any questions can be sent to uniforms.mps@gmail.com

Canteen: Canteen is back up and running. Orders can be placed via Flexischools with a strict cut off of 8.30am Friday mornings. To top up your existing account or set up an account for new students head to flexischools.com.au or install the app to your phone. There has been some changes to the menu this year, so log onto Flexischools and check it out. Vegetarian, gluten free and halal dietary requirements are catered for.

Class Parent Representatives We still have a few classes without reps. Please email Alethea if you are able to help: classparentrepsmps@gmail.com

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

We will be holding our school cross country carnival on Friday 8 April, which is the last day of school this term.

A permission note will not be going home for this event, as it will be held in the vicinity of the school. All children are encouraged to participate to the best of their ability, however if your child is unable to participate in this event please inform your child's class teacher.

At this point it is our understanding that the Belconnen Regional carnival will go ahead, so if you believe your child would like to be selected to represent Macquarie Primary at this event please encourage them to train.

Unfortunately, due to current COVID restrictions in schools we are unable to invite parents to watch their child run.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT: PROTECT AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES

The ACT Health Directorate has alerted the Canberra and surrounding community to protect themselves against mosquito bites. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) has been detected in samples from pigs in commercial pig farms at locations in regional New South Wales, northern Victoria and southern Queensland, indicating the virus is likely circulating in the mosquito population.

The alert includes more information about the symptoms of JEV and a list of simple actions to avoid mosquito bites. Schools may consider sharing a link to the Public Health Alert in their school newsletters: [Public Health Alert: protect against mosquito bites](#).

Contact Health Media on 0403 344 080 or healthmedia@act.gov.au.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The inclusive education survey on disability and education in ACT Public Schools has re-opened. Discussion groups are also being held over the coming month.

Students with disability (both current and former), carers, families, advocates, school staff and the broader community are invited to join the 'Community Conversation' and help shape how we strengthen inclusive education in ACT Public Schools. If you haven't already done so, visit 'A Community Conversation' to complete the survey and/ or join a discussion group.

For more information about the survey and this work visit the Education Directorate website: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/students-with-disability/strengthening-inclusive-education>

INCIDENTS INVOLVING STRANGERS APPROACHING STUDENTS

This is reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident, or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the Australian Federal Police website for tips on [Child Safety](#) or the [Safety4Kids](#) non-government website for useful information and links. The [Constable Kenny website](#) also has a number of tips for parents.

The school and the Education Directorate will continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue.

MATILDAS VS NEW ZEALAND MATCH

Australian Women's football team the Commonwealth Bank Matildas will play New Zealand at Canberra's GIO Stadium on 12 April 2022. Schools can consider promoting the match in their school newsletters.

The Matildas are a huge inspiration for our aspiring young female athletes in Canberra. \$1 (plus GST) from every ticket will be donated to the women's CP national football program for female footballers with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury or symptoms from stroke. Ticketing information is available from the official [Commonwealth Bank Matildas website](#). [The match will also be broadcast live and free on 10 Bold and simulcast on 10 Play and Paramount+.](#)

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence



Join us on Friday 18 March 2022 for the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). Australia's key bullying prevention initiative celebrates 12 years of action, connecting schools and communities to find workable solutions to prevent bullying.

The theme for 2022 is Kindness Culture. By building Kindness Culture together, we can promote inclusion, respect and community belonging for all students in schools across Australia.

Students
can wear
orange in
support

**Bullying-
No way!
Friday
18th of
March**

Birthday Food

With current Covid restrictions we are unable to share food at school. This includes birthday cakes, lolly bags etc. We request families don't send in food to celebrate birthdays. We appreciate this is a change for families but hope you can understand the reasoning behind it. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible. Teachers are celebrating with students and making their day special in other ways.

Sunscreen

We are a SunSmart school. We are happy to give children reminders to wear sunscreen if they bring their own along in their bag. If your child brings sunscreen please let the teacher know.

MASK RULES REMAIN IN SCHOOLS

The mask rules for ACT schools and early childhood settings have not changed. Face masks must continue to be worn by staff and visitors in all indoor spaces at school and early childhood education and care settings.

Students in years 7 to 12 are also required to wear a face mask while in an indoor space at school.

The wearing of masks for primary school students is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers but is not recommended for children in ECECs, or preschool to year 2.

The measures we have in place, including mask-wearing, are helping to limit the impact of COVID-19 and ensure continuity of learning for our students.

2022 STATIONERY SUPPLIES

Congratulations to the following families who have won the early bird prize for stationery. These families will receive a refund for one stationery pack.

The Little Nippers winner—Tilly

The Great Barriers—Millie

The Water Birds—Seeneen

The Mangroves—Naisyah

Coral Coliseum—Daria

Freshwater Fish—Ysabel

Payments for stationery can still be made at any time.
Payment options are listed on page 4 of the newsletter.

2022 year level	Price of pack
Preschool	\$45
Kindergarten	\$75
Year 1	\$70
Year 2	\$60
Year 3	\$65
Year 4	\$55
Year 5	\$60
Year 6	\$50
Small group program	\$40

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 2. They have requested your child's name, student ID and class. If you do not consent to include your child in this year's 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 2022 school photos.

Signed _____ Parent Name _____ Date ___/___/___

NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

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

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
Library Trust Fund donations	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
Medical Consent Form	All students	Friday 18 February
2022 Stationery supplies	All students	Payments welcome anytime
Band payment	Year 5 & 6 band	Payments welcome anytime
Aquasafe	Year 2	Monday 21 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

Updating Contact Information

Please update the school office if you have any changes to phone numbers, home address or email address.

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

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

OUR CLASS NAMES

Preschool	The Little Nippers	Green Yabbies & Red Crayfish
Kindergarten	The Great Barriers	Curious Crocodiles, Super Seahorses & Shiny Sharks
Year 1/2	The Mangroves	Sensational Sea Snakes, Courageous Clams, Sweet Sea Stars & Great Ghost Crabs
Year 3/4	Coral Coliseum	Majestic Mud Crabs, Terrific Tiger Sharks, Superb Stingrays & Electric Eels
Year 5/6	Freshwater Fish	Magnificent Murray Cod, Splendid Silver Perch, Golden Galaxias & Scintillating Saratogas
Small Group	The Water Birds	Proud Pelicans

SUSTAINABILITY TIPS

Use a keep cup when having a takeout coffee.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Office hours: Monday — Friday 8.30am — 3.30pm

Macquarie Primary is an

ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL

Phone K-6 site:	02 6142 1550	Principal	Jodie Rowell	jodie.rowell@ed.act.edu.au
Phone preschool:	02 6142 1570	Deputy Principal	Stacey Naden	stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au
Email:	admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (P-Yr2)	Candice Kingston	candice.kingston@ed.act.edu.au
Website:	www.macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (Yr3-6)	Mariam Hijazi	Mariam.hijazi@ed.act.edu.au
Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary	Business Manager	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
P&C President	macquariepandc@gmail.com	Board Chair	Amy McGuire	

COMMUNITY NOTICES



The Belconnen Cats Junior Australian Football Club is a community focused club aimed at providing a safe and encouraging environment for children of all ages to learn and enjoy the spirit of sport and the skills of AFL.

Come play with the Belconnen Cats in 2022. Develop skills, coordination and teamwork while having fun with your mates.

Registrations now open for age groups 5 to 17 years.
www.belconnencatsafl.com.au

Season costs:

Auskick Rookie: (5-6): Cost \$85 (born 2016, 2017)



Auskick Pro (7-8): Cost \$105 (born 2014, 2015)



**Junior: under 9s (born in 2013) to under 18s (born 2004)
Cost \$180 discount for siblings**

**Open Day: Sunday 20 March 2022; Giralang Primary School, Canopus Cres
10.00 am – 12.00 pm**

Season starts Saturday 30 April 2022

Training venues are Aranda Oval (our home ground) or Giralang Oval.



AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CAMPS

AUSTRALIANSPORTSCAMPS.COM.AU

3-DAY SPORTS CAMPS ACT

- > 9am - 3pm each day
- > High quality sports program for 5-15 -year olds
- > Delivered by expert & qualified coaches
- > Children grouped on age and skill level
- > Bring your friends along and we can group you together!
- > Suitable for children of all skill levels

**SCAN TO BOOK NOW
30% OFFER!
(Save \$99)**

SPORTS

Basketball - Netball - Soccer
AFL/AFLW - Rugby union

LOCATION

Australian National University (ANU)

11th, 12th & 13th April 2022

Call 1300 914 368 or visit australiansportscamps.com.au to book or for more information.

Attention Kindergarten Parents!

Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a **FREE** health check



VISION CHECK



HEARING CHECK



HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND
BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)



If you have not returned your child's Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire



FIND — Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1



SIGN — Complete the Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire



RETURN — To your school by 8 March 2022

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.

What is *Learning for Life*?



everyone's family

Learning for Life provides families with opportunities to increase their children's success at school.

The *Learning for Life* program helps each child to reach their potential by supporting their education from primary through to post-school studies.

Learning for Life provides:



Am I eligible for *Learning for Life*?

To be eligible, you must:

- ✓ Have a child/ children in Kindergarten/ Prep/ Reception to Year 6, who attend a school that we work with
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pension Concession Card
- ✓ Demonstrate a strong commitment to education through regular school attendance



What else do I need to know?

Learning for Life is a partnership between your family and The Smith Family.

As a parent/guardian or caregiver, you will be committing to:

- Your children attending school regularly
- Providing a school report yearly for each child
- Returning a yearly progress report for each child
- Maintaining contact with The Smith Family

How do I apply for *Learning for Life*?

If you meet all of the above criteria and would like to apply for the *Learning for Life* program, please complete the referral form provided and return to your school.

For further information, please contact the Family Partnership Coordinator:



Monica Watson

Family Partnership Coordinator (Belconnen)

Mob: 0466 941 375

Email: monica.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au