



The Macquarie Memo

Issue 22: 20 August 2020

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 25 August

Touch Gala Day Floral Emblems selected students

ICAS Digital Technologies test

Friday 28 August

Wear it Purple Day

ICAS English test

National World Walk Mount Painter Floral Emblems

Tuesday 1 September

ICAS Maths test

Thursday 3 September

P&C meeting 6:30 pm

Friday 4 September

ICAS Spelling test

Monday 21 September

Snuggle pots arboretum excursion

Thursday 24 September

Cuddle pies arboretum excursion

Friday 25 September

Athletics carnival

Last day of Term 3

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From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends

You may be aware that over the past two years the Education Directorate has been updating its administration system, including moving to electronic roll marking, medical and behaviour records and digital reports. The next phase of this process is due to roll out on Monday 24 August. Please see the paragraph below for the detail,

On Monday 24 August, our school will progress into the third stage of implementation of the new School Administration System (SAS). So far, the program has helped to bring digital roll marking, parent /carer SMS communication and wellbeing processes across all ACT Public Schools. This is a major step for our school and the Directorate as we move away from the MAZE system as our source of student and financial information.

The Directorate's SAS team will be working very closely with us to ensure that the correct support processes are in place to ensure that the transition is a success.

As we transition into the new modules of the system over this period, information will be provided to the school community about new features that enhance or change current school processes. This update is particularly exciting for the administration of our school as previous releases have been focused on teacher use.

We expect this to be a smooth transition and appreciate your support and understanding during this time. As always you can contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns that may arise.

We would like to thank John for all his hard work over the past year as our building services officer. The position has been filled permanently and Kalle Smith will start with us on Wednesday 26 August. John is moving on to another position at Gold Creek School and we wish him all the best.

It is the time of the year when we complete the school satisfaction survey. Students from year 4 on, staff and families are invited to answer a series of questions to help us identify areas of success and where we need to focus on for improvement. This year questions have been added to address the remote learning period. Please take some time to complete the survey. The more input we get, the better the reflection of our current performance is.

We are starting our forward planning for 2021. If you are not returning to Macquarie Primary next year, or know of a family new to the area who may wish to enrol please let us know.

Unfortunately on Wednesday we were unable to hold the official opening of the adventure playground due to the weather. We have rescheduled the event to Friday 28 August. Due to current restrictions we are unable to have the entire student body attend. Each class' SRC members will attend on behalf of their classes, our school captains will participate and the community will be represented by our current and two past P&C presidents. Alicia Payne MP and Katy Haire our Director General will also attend.

At this stage there have been no changes to school based restrictions, and if you want to know how the Education Directorate is responding please use the quick link on our school website home page. When there are changes we will let you know using all our regular communication channels.

Have a great week,

Danielle

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



ACT
Government
Education

NEWS FROM THE P&C

Did you know ... that after just one year of operation, the ACT Container Deposit Scheme had returned, and recycled, over 26 million containers?

ACT CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Did you know, that for every eligible container you recycle, the Macquarie Primary School can get 10 cents? This can really add up.

Eligible containers include most plastic, cardboard and metal containers between 150ml and 3L.

If you have eligible containers and can drop them off to a collection point, you can use the Macquarie Primary School P&C Code so the containers get credited to the P&C account.

Our Code is:

0420499163

The closest collection points are at the Hawker Shops, the ACT Basketball Courts in Belconnen and Anglicare Retail store at the Jamison Centre.

Details of how to drop off containers, the kinds of containers that are eligible and lots of other information is available at <https://www.returnit.com.au/faq/>

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

The P&C Uniform Shop is open on Mondays and Fridays 8:45-9:15, and Wednesdays 3:00-3.30.

Donations of pre-loved uniform items are gladly accepted. Donations may be left at the Uniform Shop during open times, or at the Front Office.

Purchases can be made in the shop during opening times, online via flexischools.com.au, or place cash and order form (available in the front office) in the P&C mailbox at the office. Orders placed via flexischools.com.au or with cash and an order form will be sent home with students.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A big shout out to our wonderful parents/carers. Your P&C need volunteers for these events/opportunities:

Father's Day Stall

The P&C will be holding the annual Father's Day Stall online in 2020. To help make the online stall successful we still need several volunteers to help pack orders on **Tuesday, 1st September**. If you can assist, please get in touch at treasurer.mpspandc@gmail.com

Colour Run

The Macquarie P&C is super excited to bring The Colour Run to Macquarie on **13 November**. We will likely need parents/carers to assist in manning checkpoints and stalls.

Stay tuned for more information!

NEXT P&C MEETING

The next P&C meeting is to be held on **Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 6.30pm** by video call. Stay tuned for more details about how to join the meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

When you dine at the **Canberra Southern Cross Club (Jamison, Tuggeranong, Woden or the Yacht Club)**, 7.5% of your meal and beverage value could be donated to the school.

Link your membership card to the school at your local Club or sign up using this link: <https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/z1yqzsjq0orxe0g/>

The **Athlete's Foot (Belconnen)** will donate \$5 to Macquarie Primary for every pair of shoes purchased in store—this includes all children and adult shoes.

Please don't forget to mention our school when buying your next pair of shoes.



continued...

NEWS FROM THE P&C continued

CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

If you haven't already, please email your Class Parent Representative and provide them with your email address so that they can add you to their class contact list and begin communicating with you.

Your year group may have a parent WhatsApp or Facebook group that you can join to communicate with other parents/carers and stay in the loop. Reach out to your Class Parent Representative for more information.

SCHOOL SATISFACTION SURVEY

As part of our continuous effort to improve ACT schools, each year the Education Directorate invites all parents, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 to give feedback through the **School Satisfaction & Climate Survey**. The survey opens on Monday 10 August and closes Monday 31 August. Your responses will help our school to identify what it does well and how it can improve. The data will also be used to underpin school improvement practices and inform government priorities, as well as in research projects and longitudinal studies aimed at improving the quality of education services in the ACT.

Keep an eye out for the survey invitation, including a unique survey link, which was emailed to all parents before the survey opened on **Monday 10 August**.

LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue notes will be printed on Monday. Can you please help your child look for any missing books over the weekend? It would be wonderful to have them returned BEFORE notes are printed so we can save paper. Many of our students are now able to remember how to look on Oliver (our library catalogue digital platform) to see their current loans; Oliver is accessed through the student Backpack. <https://backpack.ed.act.edu.au/>

TOYS AT SCHOOL

Families are reminded that the school does not take responsibility for items students choose to bring to school to support their playtime (including balls, games, cards etc). We are unable to ensure that these items will be safe and if they are lost or broken, end up on a roof or down a drain it can be very upsetting for students. We recognise that these items can support successful play on the playground and build social skills however, we recommend that precious items be left at home.


WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

On the 28th of August we will celebrate Wear It Purple Day. Wear It Purple's 2020 theme of **WE ARE THE CHANGE** envisions the importance of encouragement, empowerment and emphasis on making effective change for LGBTQ+ folks and all minority groups. Wear it Purple strives to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for all young people.

LGBTQ+ people exist in all diverse communities, ethnic backgrounds, religions, socio-economic status, genders, neuro-diversity groups. And it is our duty, as young people, to motivate, inspire and uplift our generation and future generations to create spaces for all minority groups to feel safe. "

"WE ARE THE CHANGE" represents us, as a generation, implementing productive and inclusive changes in society. Now, more than ever, is a time to incorporate safety, inclusion and empowerment in schools and workplaces to fight adversity and marginalisation. (from the Wear it Purple Website - <https://www.wearitpurple.org/>).

Don't forget as the Safe and Supportive Schools Officers - Monique and Patrick are available for a chat at lunch times on Fridays in the Library.



Taste of Languages Competition

Free and open to students from preschool to Year 12

PRIZES (each category)	
First	\$100
Second	\$50
Third	\$20

To Enter

1. Choose a favourite meal or dish which involves another language
2. Make a short video (up to 3 minutes) to illustrate how and when the dish or meal is prepared and/or eaten.
3. Write a short piece (in English) – maximum 250 words, which
 - briefly describes the dish or meal and why you chose it
 - explains the meaning of the non-English names/words/phrases in the video or associated with the dish/meal
 - explains how the meal or dish relates to your life in Australia and/or to a particular culture or cultures.

Eligibility

Open to all students in the ACT and neighbouring NSW schools from pre-school to Year 12.

Only ONE entry per student

Categories

1. Preschool – Year 2 (with help of parent/guardian)
2. Primary (Years 3-6)
3. Middle School (Years 7-9)
4. Senior High/College (Year 10- 12)

Prizes in each category

1st prize \$100, 2nd prize \$50, 3rd prize of \$20.
Other finalists will receive a Certificate

Submission process

Email canberrabilingual@gmail.com with

- a link to your video
- written piece (max 250 words) and
- completed [Student Declaration Form](#)

NOTE: If you do not have an app to share videos or to create a link on your device, you can use <https://wettransfer.com>. Or contact us by email or mobile (0408 089 235) to discuss alternative methods to submit your video.

All entries must be received by

1 September 2020


Judging criteria

The judging panel will evaluate entries based on how well they:

- Illustrate the dish or meal and identify how or when it is prepared and/or eaten
- Explain its name in the relevant language and other special terms related to the preparation and/or occasion when the dish or meal is eaten
- Show the relationship between the dish/meal and a particular culture or cultures and/or your family, identity or life in Australia.

Up to 20 finalists will be shortlisted.

Winners will be notified by email and/or phone, and results will be posted on the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance website (<https://actbilingual.weebly.com/>)



Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) with support from Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc.(CMCF) and an ACT 2019-2020 Participation (Multicultural) Grant

NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

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

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
Arboretum	Preschool	7 September (Snuggle pots) 10 September (Cuddle pies)
Touch football gala day	Selected students Floral Emblems	Friday 21 August
2020 Stationery supplies	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2020 Voluntary contributions	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2020 Band	Year 5 & 6 band members	Payments due now

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

Are you making common recycling mistakes? Soft plastics can't go in the recycling bin as they tangle machinery- they need be taken to REDcycle collection points at major supermarkets so they can be turned into new products like furniture and decking. This includes things like chip packets, squeeze pouches and bread bags.

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.

Phone K-6 site:	02 6142 1550	Principal	Danielle Porter	danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au
Phone preschool:	02 6142 1570	Deputy Principal	Jodie Rowell	jodie.rowell@ed.act.edu.au
Email:	admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (P-Yr2)	Stacey Naden	stacey.naden@ed.act.edu.au
Website:	www.macquarieps.act.edu.au	Executive (Yr3-6)	Veronique Canellas	veronique.canellas@ed.act.edu.au
Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary	Business Manager	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
P&C President	Brendan Ding	Board Chair	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

Help us make a children's book about bushfire smoke

Researchers at the Australian National University are looking into how we can communicate difficult topics like the health effects of bushfire smoke to children.

We're developing a children's story book this year (2020) and want input from parents/carers and educators of children aged 6-12 years whose primary language is English, Turkish, Arabic or Persian. Short (15 min) interviews will be conducted in Canberra and an interpreter can be provided upon request.

Want to participate? For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bushfire-book>

Piano Lessons

Piano teacher in the local Belconnen area.

Craig Mewett

All ages and all styles.

Beginners welcome.

Ph. (02) 6278 7382.

Mob.0409 151 887.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



A message from the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

In the ACT there are 88 public schools, over 49,000 public school students and around 3,800 educators. But of course, I understand that for each of us as parents, the most important school is the school our children go to. That's why I want to make sure that every public school is a great school.

The ACT Government is upgrading and expanding public schools to make sure that learning environments are accessible and sustainable.

The government is committed to ensuring that every public school has the infrastructure to support high-quality education and that's why the government has been investing more than \$115 million to upgrade public schools right across the Territory.

Here at Macquarie Primary School the government has provided:

- an upgrade of the phone system to a modern digital network, including new phones, servers and an uninterruptable power supply for emergencies;
- a bike repair station to encourage students to ride to school;
- greater thermal comfort across various learning spaces through ceiling fans, cooling systems and solar-reflective window tinting, as well as a new cooling system in the preschool; and
- upgrades to a space for small group learning, including a new courtyard, play area and an accessible toilet.

Additional cooling measures will continue to be delivered for 2021, improving the thermal comfort of learning spaces at the school,

Screens to the outdoor courtyard have also been provided as part of the ACT Government's \$35 million fast track stimulus program to support local businesses and keep Canberrans employed.

Every child and family has a place in ACT public schools regardless of their background or life circumstances. That's why this investment into public school infrastructure goes beyond just the basic things that allow learning and teaching to take place. The ACT Government invests in public schools to make sure that every student has what they need to be included, and to learn and develop their interests, passions and life skills.

The ACT Government has upgraded heating and cooling systems, reducing polluting emissions and making temperatures comfortable and conducive to learning in over 40 older public schools across Canberra.

The government also provided 4,000 Chromebooks to schools at the beginning of this school year and a further 3,000 Chromebooks and 500 iPads were purchased for use during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist with remote learning.

Schools have seen upgraded classrooms, toilets, libraries, canteens and bike shelters, as well as gardens, landscaping and playground areas in schools to make sure that these spaces are positive and accommodating.

As Canberra grows, the government is making sure that schools grow with it. Every child has the right to access education and the ACT Government is making sure that this right is equally ensured for every young person.

Yvette Berry MLA