



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 12: 28 May 2020

## From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends

It has been so lovely to have an increasing number of students at school this week. We have realised how quiet school has been without the children. We are all adjusting to the new way of coming to and from school and we really appreciate the families who are waiting for their children outside the fences. It has been terrific to see our Kindergarten children manage these transitions independently and confidently. Thanks to everyone who has supported their children to return all their school required equipment such as workbooks, stationery items, chromebooks and library books.

We are maintaining high levels of hand and respiratory hygiene at school, with students being prompted to wash their hands frequently during the day. Each classroom also has ready access to hand sanitiser when required. If your child's skin is impacted by this feel free to provide hand cream (like sorbolene) as a protective barrier after they have washed their hands.

Last week the first meeting of the 2020 School Board was held. We welcomed our new community members, David Momcilovic and Christie Horsfield and a new staff member Jodie Rowell. Amy McGuire was elected as the new Board Chair. Next week in the newsletter each member will provide a profile for your information.

Reconciliation Week has commenced and students are inquiring into this year's theme, in this together, which has become even more significant given the world events that have unfolded since the theme's announcement last year. You might like to get involved yourselves, and here you can find 20 ways to be #InThisTogether in 2020 <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/2020/05/19/20-ways-to-be-in-this-together-in-2020/>.

Today is Public Education Day – it made me wonder about education in the ACT, so I did a little research. It seems that the first school in Canberra operated at Ginninderra from 1844 to 1848. A second school opened in the 1840s at St John the Baptist Church in Duntroon, and it was the only school in Canberra until the opening of a state school in Acton in 1880. It's amazing that from those humble beginnings, now in Canberra we have 87 public schools that educate more than 46, 500 students. The Canberra public schools provide education for children from preschool to year 12 across a variety of settings catering for a diverse range of needs and abilities. I am proud to be a product of public education, and a professional educator for over 20 years within the public system.

If you would like to provide some feedback about anything you valued during the remote learning period you can send me an email on [danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:danielle.porter@ed.act.edu.au). At the P&C Meeting on Monday night I asked the in-person attendees if they would like to share their feedback, but with limits on the number of people attending I would like to ask more broadly.

You may not be aware that in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network has been working with NBN Co, the company that oversees much of Australia's internet network, to make sure children learning from home have access to the internet services they need. NBN Co is temporarily waiving the connection fee that phone and internet providers have to pay to connect customers to the internet. This means that until the end of September 2020, a number of phone and internet companies will be providing **free or heavily discounted home broadband to eligible low-income households who haven't already connected to the NBN**. More info is available at [ACCAN's website](#) and the [NBN Co's FAQs](#).

Have a great week,

Danielle

## Dates for the Diary

### Monday 1 June

Reconciliation Day (public holiday)

### Tuesday 2 June

5-6 classes return

### Friday 5 June

Breakfast club commences

### Monday 8 June

Queens Birthday (public holiday)

### Wednesday 24 June

P&C meeting 6:30pm

### Friday 3 July

End of Term 2

### Monday 20 July

First day of Term 3

## In this Issue

### 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>



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## Change to Primary Schools Central Placement Panel date for small group programs (LSU, LSU-A, LSC) and specialist school placement

The 2020 school year has started unlike any other, and this has caused significant disruption to usual routines for students, families, and schools. As we welcome students back into our schools, planning is underway to minimise long term impacts of these unprecedented times on our students and their ongoing schooling. In line with this, the date for Primary Schools Central Placement Panel (where small group program placements for LSU, LSU-A, LSC and Specialist Schools are determined) has been changed, with applications now due in Week 6, Term 3 and letters of offer sent to parents in time for schools and parents to develop a transition plan together in Term 4.

The Secondary Central Placement Panel will proceed as anticipated with outcome letters for Year 6 student applications for high school placements in 2021, sent to parents early in Term 3.

If you would like to access more information regarding the Disability Education Central Placement Panel and process, please see the [Students with Disability](#) webpage on the Education Directorate website or speak to school staff. If you need further information, you can email your query to [DisabilityEducation@act.gov.au](mailto:DisabilityEducation@act.gov.au).

Jodie Rowell

Disability Education Co-Ordinator/Deputy Principal

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Club

We are back up and running with normal book club procedures. Brochures will go out this week (next week for 5/6 students) and orders are due in by Friday June 12. You can pay either online via [www.scholastic.com.au/loop](http://www.scholastic.com.au/loop) or cash in a labelled envelope to the front office.

### Library Books on Loan

Overdue notes will not be sent out for a couple of weeks when most of the books borrowed in March will have been returned. If you would like to see your child's current loans, you can access Oliver (library catalogue) from the Digital Backpack. Your child's name is in the top right corner; hover over it for the 'Loans' option. Alternatively you can email me with your queries, [pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au)

## NEWS FROM THE P&C

*Did you know ...* the City Montessori School in Lucknow, India, is the largest school in the world with more than 32,000 students?

### From the President

Dear Community,

The P&C welcomes back the staff and students after the enforced COVID-19 hiatus. A special thanks to all the teachers and staff who supported the children with online learning and video conferencing while face-to-face classes were not possible. I was impressed by how quickly the school staff adapted to this new environment.

The P&C is excited to announce lunch orders will soon be back up and running. Breakfast Club will commence on Friday 5 June.

I'm sure you join me in hoping that conditions will be right for a phased return to normal life and in-person school events soon. In the meantime, we're planning other events and will announce details soon.

Best wishes to all.

Brendan Ding

President

### Next P&C meeting

The next P&C will be held on Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 6.30pm in the school staff room. The P&C will be following the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines until further notice and physical places will be limited to 10 people. So that everyone can participate, the school will also be hosting the meeting by video call. Please email Danielle to RSVP to the meeting at [Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Danielle.Porter@ed.act.edu.au)

### Friday Canteen Service

The Friday Canteen Service will resume soon. Stay tuned for more information.

### P&C Secretary

The P&C still needs one fabulous person to take on the role of Secretary. The role doesn't take a lot of time—just a little each week to help keep our P&C working well. For more information, contact us at [macquariepandc@gmail.com](mailto:macquariepandc@gmail.com)

### Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is not currently open for walk-in customers.

Families can purchase new uniforms online via [flexischools.com.au](http://flexischools.com.au) or by placing cash and an order form (available at the front office) in the P&C mailbox at the office. Items will be sent home with students.

Second-hand items are available for purchase in the front office for \$2 or \$5.

For any enquiries please contact the uniform shop coordinator [uniforms.mps@gmail.com](mailto:uniforms.mps@gmail.com)

### Class Representatives

During Term 2, the P&C are enthusiastic to get our Class Representatives Program up and running. There are classes that still need a representative. Please consider volunteering if you have children in:

*Rainbow Gums, Waratahs, Royal Bluebells, Desert Roses, Grevillea, Chocolate Lilies and Winter Cress.*

It will not be much work and will help build a sense of community at Macquarie.

For more information about becoming a MPS Class Representative Program, please email your friendly P&C at [mpspandcwp@gmail.com](mailto:mpspandcwp@gmail.com)

### Community partnerships

Remember that when you dine at the **Canberra Southern Cross Club (Jamison, Tuggeranong, Woden or the Yacht Club)**, 7.5% of your meal and beverage value is donated back to Macquarie Primary. Link your membership card to our school at your local Club or use the link below to sign up online: <https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/z1yqzsjq0orxe0g/>

## NOTES HOME & REMINDERS

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

EVENT DETAILS	YEAR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
2020 Stationery supplies	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2020 Voluntary contributions	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime

### 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.

## CARBON DIET

### Act on climate change - cut carbon now

Set your thermostat 3 degrees lower in winter, especially if you have gas heating. Put on a jumper or snuggle under a rug.

Remember, fifty years ago no one had central heating!

These tips have been sourced from Jo Clay's website The Carbon Diet. Jo is a member of our school community who has been running this ACT Government sponsored project on cutting carbon for the past two years.

For more information on the project go to

<https://www.carbondiet.com.au/> .

**Macquarie Primary is an  
ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL**

*Avoiding all nuts.*

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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

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:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary">http://www.facebook.com/macquarieprimary</a>	Business Manager	Ann Walker	ann.walker@ed.act.edu.au
P&C President	Brendan Ding	Board Chair	Amy McGuire	
	macquariepandc@gmail.com			

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## 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.



**2021 school enrolments**  
now open



Education

1. Go to [education.act.gov.au](https://education.act.gov.au) for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before **5 June 2020** to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.



**Enrolling in  
Preschool  
in 2021**



Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at [education.act.gov.au](https://education.act.gov.au)

# What is Saver Plus?

- A free ten-month savings program providing financial education, budgeting and savings tips.
- Participants receive up to \$500 from ANZ in matched savings for education costs for themselves or their children.
- Delivered by Brotherhood of St Laurence, Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community organisations.
- Offered in communities across Australia in every state and territory.

## A Saver Plus Participant's Journey



## Who can join?

Participants must meet all of the below criteria:

- Be 18 years or over
- Have a child at school or attend vocational education themselves
- Have regular income from paid employment (themselves or their partner)
- Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- Be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment\*

## Benefits for participants<sup>1</sup>

- 87%** continue to save the same amount or more 3 to 7 years after completing the program
- 78%** were better equipped for unexpected expenses
- 88%** reported increased self-esteem
- 80%** had more control over their finances

## How did it start?

Saver Plus began in 2003 as a Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ pilot program with 268 participants in three sites across Victoria and New South Wales.

Since then, the program has expanded to all Australian states and territories, reaching more than 40,000 people, making it the largest and longest-running program of its kind in the world.

## Since 2003<sup>1</sup>:

- 40,000+** participants
- \$23m+** - total amount saved by participants
- \$18m+** - matched funds paid by ANZ

## Find out more

- 1300 610 355
- [saverplus@bsl.org.au](mailto:saverplus@bsl.org.au)
- [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)
- @SaverPlusAU

\* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

<sup>1</sup> RMIT University, 2018. A number of Saver Plus program evaluations have been carried out since 2003. For more information see [anz.com/saverplus](http://anz.com/saverplus)

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family 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.

