



# The Macquarie Memo

Issue 33: 28 October 2021

## From our Deputy Principal

It has been lovely to see our preschoolers, kindergarten, year 1 and 2 students, and year 6 students back this week. It has been a very smooth transition back to face to face learning. We've seen lots of excitement and eager learners this week. Next week we welcome back our year 3, 4 and 5 students.

This week children have experienced our staggered break system, divided playground (juniors and seniors using different spaces) and some new ways to transition in and out of building to minimise crowding and cross over. They have learned some new routines around sanitising and hand washing. They have really taken on these new processes with enthusiasm.

The bathrooms in Namadgi are undergoing an upgrade. We have overcome some of the challenges of having fewer bathrooms in Namadgi building by setting up handwashing outside and using other toilets within the building. Teachers will give lots of reminders to children in that building to use facilities at scheduled times to avoid a bottleneck. We hope our sparkling new bathrooms will be ready very soon.

We are trying to limit the number of people at school each day. Please make your trips to school as short as possible and follow the drop off and collection processes as set out. If you need to share any information with your child's teacher, an email in the first instance is a great way to start. They can call you when they are off class to discuss any matter over the phone.

A reminder about the importance of picking children up on time. As a safety measure we ask that parents are on time for pick up to avoid children spending long periods in shared spaces e.g. waiting at the carpark or gates. As a school we are minimising cross over of different cohorts as much as possible and you can help by being on time to pick up children.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel some events this year such as our Learning Journey. We are trying to do things differently though so would like to share our Art Showcase in a digital format. I know we have some artistic parents in our community and it would be great to showcase some of your work too. If you have some art work, of any form, you could share we would love to hear from you. Also, if you know any local creative people, ask them if they would be interested in writing a short piece about their work, showcasing something they've done or recording a short workshop explaining their art/craft. Ami Grover ([ami.grover@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:ami.grover@ed.act.edu.au)) and Shirley Larson ([shirley.larsen@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:shirley.larsen@ed.act.edu.au)) can help if you are unsure about what could be submitted.

We hope every student will contribute to the Art Showcase. Some may like to do more than one contribution. Teachers will be supporting students at school to develop something of interest to them but your child may have a special interest that they do at home. Encourage them to submit what they love. We will be sending more guidelines on length of videos and types of files once we've established a platform to use. Stay tuned.

We have had a couple of staffing changes. We welcome Mary Pezella (who you may already know as a teacher at our school) who is taking over Les Pêches and Courtney Wowk who will be taking over Les Citrouilles.

Jodie

### Dates for the Diary

#### Friday 5 November

Outdoor Classroom Day

#### Monday 8 November

ICAS Year 3/4 Writing 9.30-11.00am

#### Wednesday 10 November

ICAS Year 5/6 Writing 9.30-11.00am

#### Thursday 11 November

ICAS Year 5/6 Science 9.30-11.30am

#### Friday 12 November

ICAS Year 3/4 Science 9.00-10.30am

#### Thursday 18 November

ICAS Year 5/6 Spelling 9.30-11.00am

6.30pm P&C Meeting

#### Friday 19 November

ICAS Year 3/4 Spelling 9.00-10.30am

#### Thursday 25 November

ICAS Year 5/6 Maths 9.00-11.00

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#### In this issue

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### UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS

It is important that we keep up to date records for each student. We request that families let us know as soon as possible during the year about any changes to contact details, medical information and emergency contacts.

- Phone numbers
- Home address
- Email address

If you have any changes or would like to check what your details are currently listed as, please email [admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au](mailto:admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au)

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



**ACT**  
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Education

## UNSW ICAS INFORMATION—NEW DATES

This year we will run the ICAS testing in two groups, 5/6 students together and 3/4 students together. The new dates for testing are below. There won't be time for catch ups if your child is away on testing days.

Unfortunately the **ICAS Writing** window closed before we returned to school – we won't be able to do this test. Parents will need to request a refund for **Writing**.

Please send an email to [icaseassessments@janison.com](mailto:icaseassessments@janison.com) with the below details and your receipt.

- Full Name
- Students name
- Year level
- Order number
- Amount

Should you require any further information about refunds, contact ICAS on 1800 931 775 or alternatively on via email [icasassessments@janison.com.au](mailto:icasassessments@janison.com.au).

Digital Technologies	DONE before remote learning
Writing	Parents will need to contact ICAS for a refund. See process out-
English	Monday 8 November Year 3/4 9.30-11.00 Wednesday 10 November Year 5/6 9.30-11.00
Science	Thursday 11 November Year 5/6 9.30-11.30 Friday 12 November Year 3/4 9-10.30
Spelling	Thursday 18 November Year 5/6 9.30-11.00 Friday 19 November Year 3/4 9.00-10.30
Maths	Thursday 25 November Year 5/6 9.30-11.00 Friday 26 November Year 3/4 9.00-10.30

## LIBRARY NEWS

Students now have a day assigned for library use. Please ensure your child remembers to bring their books in a library bag on their day:

- Monday – Fruits Tropicaux
- Tuesday – Les Légumes
- Wednesday – Les Petit Légumes
- Thursday – Les Baies
- Friday – Les Agrumes

### Book Club

**Issue 7** brochures have arrived and it is a bumper issue! They will be distributed to Les Cucamelons and K-2 this week, and Les Kalettes and 3-6 next week.



**Issue 8** “Home Edition” digital Scholastic and will reopen in early

Online payment only! Please use LOOP, the parent payment page, as we will not be accepting any cash.  
[www.scholastic.com.au/loop](http://www.scholastic.com.au/loop)

**Orders due by Monday November 8**



catalogue has been temporarily closed by November.

Please email [pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:pamela.gaukroger@ed.act.edu.au) for any Book Club questions.

# NEWS FROM THE P&C

**From the Acting President:** Welcome back to school for around half of our students. Only a few more days and the remaining years will be back to face to face learning too. The P&C will be bringing back many of its services as follows:



**Canteen** - resumes November 5 with contactless procedures in place. Please use the Flexischools app to place your order.

**Uniform shop** - When students return to school, the uniform shop will remain closed for walk-in customers. Families can still order new uniforms online via flexischools.com.au and items will be sent home with students. There are no second-hand uniforms available during COVID, sorry. For any enquiries, please contact the uniform shop coordinator [uniforms.mps@gmail.com](mailto:uniforms.mps@gmail.com)

We are hopeful to still be able to run our annual **Cherry Drive** later this term. Watch this space for further details over the coming weeks.

Unfortunately, **Breakfast Club** cannot run under the current level of restrictions and will not be returning at this stage. We will keep you updated if this changes.

We have received a letter from the Canberra High School P&C President inviting parents of Year 6 students to become involved in the P&C at the high school. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact [macquariepandc@gmail.com](mailto:macquariepandc@gmail.com)

**Class Parent Rep:** We would like to thank all the class parent representatives for keeping in touch with class families during lockdown and the home learning period. They have done a great job of helping people stay connected to our wonderful school community, and as always we are grateful for their time and commitment to this role.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hi everyone,

The past few months with the ACT lockdown due to COVID-19 have been stressful and challenging but there have also been some benefits to it (e.g., increased family time, slower pace, one on one support for learning etc.). Now another period of change is upon us with the transition back to face-to-face learning and school in the coming weeks. This period of transition will come with a mix of feelings for yourself and your children including relief and excitement as well as perhaps anxiety and stress.

Here are some strategies and information that may be helpful in preparing yourself and your child for the translation back to school:

- **Re-establishing normal routines.** For instance, the week before school return children to their usual wake up and bedtime routines, as well as breakfast and morning snack/lunch. The day before, involve your child in packing their bag and preparing their uniform - this leaves you time to notice if anything is forgotten. For the morning of return to school, allow more time than usual to get ready to answer any questions your child might have and provide extra cuddles and kisses.
- **Prepare your child for return to school.** This may include walking past and talking about school, talking about how they are going to get to and from school (car, bike, bus, walking), discussing who they are looking forward to seeing at school and what they are looking forward to doing, discussing what they are worried about with returning to school, asking what will make their return to school easier etc.
- **Preparing your child for changes to usual school processes.** This may include talking to them about adults wearing masks, new hygiene practices (hand sanitiser and/or regular washing of hands), reduced contact with parents/carers at school etc.
- **Reassure your child it is safe to go to school and answer any concerns they may have in relation to COVID-19 and school.** Many parents/carers had conversations with their children about the importance of learning from home to keep them healthy and safe, so some children may now worry about the safety of returning to school. To help your child feel safe, have a conversation with them explaining that the decision to return to school is based on medical advice, everyone at school is working hard to make sure that children are safe and anyone who is unwell will stay at home.
- **Reassure your child it is okay to have mixed feelings about returning to school.** If you notice your child is experiencing anxiety associated with return to school these videos (created by the School Psychology Service) may be helpful to you in talking with your child about their anxiety related to returning to school.

[Understanding Anxiety](#)

[Responding to Your Child's Anxiety](#)

[Return to School Plan](#)

Additional information about helping children transition back to school can be found [here](#)

Take care and I look forward to seeing students at school.

Erin

## HELP WANTED—CRCS GIVING TREE

Each year Capital Region Community Service (formerly Belconnen Community Service) provides Christmas Hampers to over 100 vulnerable individuals and families. These hampers contain some basic food items (which CRCS provides). We rely on donations from local schools and businesses to provide special Christmas cheer items such as gifts, treats, decorations etc. Our school is supporting this appeal and we encourage our staff, students and families to donate for a gift to help some of the less fortunate in our Belconnen Community.

This year, rather than collecting gifts CRCS has moved towards contactless online donations to adapt to the impacts COVID has made on us all. Donations can be made at: <https://2021-giving-tree.raisely.com/>

CRCS will utilise donations collected to purchase items such as but not limited to gifts of \$10-\$15 in value, i.e. toys, games, vouchers, toiletries, books, puzzles and stocking fillers.

## SUPPORTING STUDENT SAFETY: MOBILE SPEED CAMERA VANS AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT TEAMS RETURN TO 40KM/H SCHOOL ZONES

With the recommencement of term 4 and students returning to schools, it is critical that parents drive and park safely and legally at and around our schools.

In addition to sticking to the speed limit, please remember it is critical to park safely – including not parking across pedestrian crossings, in no stopping zones, on corners, verges and double parking. Unsafe and illegal parking can reduce visibility of our students and motorists to see each other, creating a significant hazard when students cross the road.

Mobile speed vans will be operation, as well as Access Canberra parking enforcement teams, to support our students' safety. These enforcement teams play a critical role in supporting our students to get to and from school safely and we thank them for their ongoing support.

Let's work together to keep our kids safe.



# 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
2021 Voluntary Contributions	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
Library Trust Fund donations	All year levels	Payments welcome anytime
2022 Class Placement Hand	Kindergarten—Year 5	Friday 5 November

## 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

## 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.

### OUR CLASS NAMES

Preschool	Les Petit Légumes	Les Kalettes & Les Cucamelons
Kindergarten	Les Agrumes	Les Citrons Verts & Les Oranges
Year 1/2	Les Fruits Tropicaux	Les Ananas, Les Fruits de Dragon, Les Kiwis & Les Litchis
Year 3/4	Les Légumes	Les Brocolis, Les Aubergines, Les Citrouilles & Les Concombres
Year 5/6	Les Baies	Les Groseilles, Les Fraises & Les Sureaux
Learning Support Unit	Les Fruits à Noyaux	Les Pêches

### 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

## SUSTAINABILITY TIPS

Use washable reusable masks instead of disposable ones.

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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

Macquarie Primary is an

**ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL**

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