

2022 kindergarten Q&A session 8/12/21

Danielle Porter (current Principal)

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Introduced the 2022 team:

Jodie Rowell – acting Principal

Stacey Naden – junior school team leader

Monique Darragh – classroom teacher

Garima Singh – classroom teacher

Nicole Chapman – classroom teacher

Liz – P&C uniform shop volunteer

The uniform shop is run by P&C volunteers. The aim is to provide uniforms as close to cost price as possible for students.

Trading has finished for 2021 but the uniform shop will be open the morning of Friday 28/1/22, Monday 31/1/22 and the morning of Tuesday 1/2/22 if people need to visit.

MPS uniform is red and green. The uniform shop sells a range of new and second hand items including polos (short and long sleeve), jumpers, shorts, skorts, long pants and hats. You can also purchase school bags which are an optional choice. The uniform does not sell the uniform dress as it is quite expensive. A parent also reported that Lowes at Jamieson is ceasing selling the school dress as well.

New uniforms can be ordered through the Flexischools app. This is the current preferred option and uniforms will be delivered to your child's classroom to come home. There is no issue swapping sizes if needed. Second hand uniforms can only be purchased by visiting the shop during open hours.

There are photos of the uniform available on our school website. A uniform order form and price list was included in your kindergarten information pack.

You can email the uniform shop on uniforms.mps@gmail.com

If you are interested in becoming involved in the P&C please get in touch with them.

Parent questions

1. Do children need to wear a sports uniform one day a week?

Our uniform does not change throughout the week. We do physical activities every day and this is reflected in the uniform.

2. Do children have to wear closed toe shoes?

The preferred footwear is sneakers because we do physical activity everyday. Children can also choose to wear sandals in warm weather.

3. Can children come for a transition visit?

Due to the current COVID restrictions we have not been able to do our usual transition process.

If your if your child is not part of our preschool program and you would like for them to have a visit or you have to do is just give us a call and we can set that up between now and the end of the year. Children can also come in for a short visit the week before school starts if you would like to. Please call the school if you want this to happen.

Monique and Nicole are going to go down to preschool to meet the children before the end of this year and Garima will be available at the start of the year.

If you like our Facebook page we will also put photos of the teaching teams up there.

4. When will children find out which class they are in?

If you are not currently part of our school community you can email the office on admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au and a list will be sent out to you.

If you are already part of our community you will have received the class lists Tuesday 7/12 on Class Dojo.

5. Can you please run us through what the 1st day of kindergarten will look like?

Our school days starts at 9am and finishes at 3pm. Kindergarten students are the only students in the primary school on their first day. We are still working through Covid-19 restrictions so the plan is that kindergarten teachers will be outside ready to greet you and your child. Weather permitting we will have a couple of activities to do outside and some photo opportunities. Children will then say goodbye to parents and go inside with the teacher to start the day.

The first day is very much about orienting the students with the learning space, showing them where everything is and doing a tour of the school. There will be lots of opportunity to meet new friends and play.

Just before 3pm the classes will come back outside to meet you for the end of the day.

6. Is the stationery pack we purchase to stay in the classroom? And do parents who co-parent need to purchase 2?

The school bulk orders everything each student will need for the entire school year to keep the cost low and this is delivered to the classroom prior to the first day. There is no requirement for parents to gather or label items.

7. Can teachers do a little recording of the classroom space the week before school starts to help the transition process?

Yes we can arrange that and post them on the school Facebook page which everyone can access.

8. Do children start by doing 4 days a week for the first month?

No, we are straight in to full time from the start. You know your child best though so if they need a break as they ease in to the routine that is completely fine.

9. Does the canteen cater for a halal diet?

Yes it absolutely does.

10. Can both parents come to drop off on the first day?

Yes definitely. We may only be able to use the outdoor space though. Please use the Check-in Canberra App on your way in.

We will send out an email the week prior with some reminder information.

11. How do we find out if we have the before and after school care positions we have applied for?

Danielle will investigate and email the info

12. Do the before and after school care educators walk the kindergarten students to and from their service?

Yes they definitely do in kindergarten. They walk them to the class line in the morning and collect them from the classroom just before 3pm.

13. What tips do you have for supporting children with the transition?

Be aware that they will be super tired and emotional. This is very normal.

It is important for you to be positive and excited because your child will pick up on any anxieties or negativity you have.

Practise opening and closing lunchboxes, containers and drink bottles before starting. It is also good for your child to be able to pack and carry his or her own bag, and remove or add layers of clothing independently.

14. How does Class Dojo work?

Class Dojo is an app we use to communicate with our community. It is a closed group that we invite parents to. It does require parents to give permission for their child's first name to be put on Class Dojo as it is a third party provider. We communicate instant information, reminders, send photos and things happening in your child's classroom and your child will have a digital individual portfolio held on the app.

15. How do students refer to teachers at Macquarie?

We are a first name school so the students call all staff here by their first names.

16. Closing P&C information

Each class has a parent rep coordinator who assists in creating a community feel with parents and families in the class. It is a nice way to keep families connected. Next year we will be looking for new class reps so if this is something that interests you please let the P&C know.

Everyone should have received an email about the P&C gathering for kindergarten on Sunday 23 January 2022.

You're welcome, please email through or call with any questions that you've got between now and the start. We're always happy to help out.