Achieving Educational Excellence in a Caring Environment

Newsletter
Week 9 Term 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Friday 11 December</td>
<td>Reports Sent Home</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner 5.30pm – 7pm</td>
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<td>Year 6 Graduation Disco 7pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 17 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony 12pm – 1pm</td>
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<td>Friday 18 December</td>
<td>Whole School Talent Show – 12pm – 1pm Hall</td>
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<td>Friday 18 December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4</td>
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Attachments

😊 Understanding Miles Franklin Reports
😊 Board Nomination Form
😊 Parent forum invitation
😊 Canberra Youth Theatre
Message from the Principal

Parent Thank You Morning Tea

A huge thank you to all the parents who came to our Thank You morning tea last Friday. It is an honour to have such dedicated and committed parents in our school and we wanted to show our appreciation!

Staffing
The final piece in our staffing jigsaw puzzle has been filled for next year. Diana Goudge is transferring from Namadgi School to be the Preschool Assistant working with Lalangi full time. Wendy Pero moves back as a LSA (Learning Support Assistant) predominantly working from Kindergarten to Year Six.

Student Excellence
Trystan, Owen and Hayden all represented the ACT in the Australian Primary Schools Track & Field Championships. Owen competed in the Shot Put and Discus, Tristan in the Discus and Hayden in the 800 metres. Hayden came 11th in Australia, Owen was 10th (Shot Put) and 11th (Discus) and Trystan was 10th. These are amazing results for our children up against the finest young athletes in Australia showing the opportunities for children in the greater Belconnen region are amongst the best anywhere in the world!!

Reports home
Tomorrow your child’s end of year reports are coming home in a sealed envelope. Please have a thorough look at your child’s reports and discuss them with your child and celebrate their achievements. Please remember a ‘C’ stands for ‘celebration’: it shows that your child is at the expected standard for their year. If your child receives a D you might want to chat about this further to see why they find this subject more difficult and how they could be supported. Also, please check the absences. The amount of days absent broadly correlates to a percentage so 20 days is around 20% of their schooling missed. This could be the difference between a ‘B’ and an ‘A’. If you have any questions please organise an appointment with your child’s class teacher next week either directly via their school email or through the front office. I am delighted by the quality of the reports and the time and dedication our teachers have put into them.
Talent Show

Final auditions for the Talent Show finished this week. In the next few days I will be sending home a letter to those children who have been successful in gaining a place in the show. My criteria for this is very simple—everyone performing needs to know what they are doing and be able to show this consistently when we practise.

Chris

Living the PYP @ Miles Franklin

A key practice that all PYP schools needs to model is that: The school community demonstrates an understanding of the, and commitment to, the Primary Years Programme (PYP). These weekly newsletter articles are written to inform and involve the school community in our journey at Miles Franklin towards authorisation as an International Baccalaureate World School.

Understanding your child’s written report

At the end of this week you will receive your child’s Semester Two written report. To assist families with understanding the report we have included a document in this week’s newsletter titled, ‘Understanding Miles Franklin Semester 2 Reports’. Along with this document, some frequently asked questions are also explained below:

What is an achievement standard?

Achievement standards indicate the quality of learning that students should typically demonstrate by the end of Year X. They describe the quality of learning (the extent of knowledge, the depth of understanding, and the sophistication of skills) that would indicate the student is well placed to commence the learning required at the next level of achievement, regardless of what school they attend across Australia.

Achievement standards help teachers to make judgments about whether students have achieved the standard expected by the end of the year in each curriculum area in each year level.

The back page of your child’s Semester Two written report includes the Achievement Standard for each Australian Curriculum subject. You can also access these via the website: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au
Why do schools award overall grades?

A national approach requires all States and Territories to report student achievement using a five-point rating. In the ACT, student achievement in Years 1–9 will be reported using the letter ratings A–E. (Note: Kindergarten to do not receive overall grades.)

How do teachers make a final decision on my child’s overall grade?

Teachers use a range of different quality assessment strategies and tools to gather evidence of student achievement with reference to the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Based on the evidence, teachers make an on-balance judgment to assess student achievement in awarding an overall grade.

What does a ‘C’ overall grade mean?

A ‘C’ rating indicates that:
- A student is performing at the standard expected of students in that year group.
- The student has demonstrated satisfactory achievement of what is expected against each Achievement Standard by the end of Year X.

Nicole Jaggers
PYP Coordinator

REMINDER

The front office cannot accept cash payments after 12pm on Fridays
Drop Box Update:

Excursion Medical Information and Consent form

As part of our commitment to making things easier for parents we have now put a copy of the *Excursion Medical Information and Consent form* onto our Miles Franklin drop box, which is accessed through our school’s website. This is so you are able to make our own copy of the form *(go to file; make a copy)* to fill out and keep in our own files.

Having your own copy on file will allow you print out an already completed form for each excursion to sign, without having to write out the same information each time. However we must stress the importance that it is your responsibility to change any information as necessary (including the name of the excursion on the form) and provide the most current medical information to allow us to provide the best care we can for your child/ren. It is an Education and Training Directorate requirement that a paper copy of this form is provided for *every excursion* your child goes on.

Also in the drop box is a letter to parents and careers explaining the importance of these forms and additional information. For example students who are known sufferers of asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, or epilepsy, *Emergency Treatment Plans must be completed*, signed by both parents/carers and the student’s doctor and provided to the school. Further information is available on this letter.

We hope that having your own copy of the Excursion Medical Information and Consent form will make it simpler for your child/ren’s future excursions, however if you would like a paper copy they are available from the front office upon request.

*Link to the Excursion Medical Information and Consent form:*
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ii13phOb6FphsvJKf9Mz659sc9cn2aXxe_CSqIzHm8M/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ii13phOb6FphsvJKf9Mz659sc9cn2aXxe_CSqIzHm8M/edit?usp=sharing)

*Link to the Letter for Parents:*
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cFz_bPWLJNHOi0uWpee_idsjc1byFvrPPd6VFpqBETs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cFz_bPWLJNHOi0uWpee_idsjc1byFvrPPd6VFpqBETs/edit?usp=sharing)

Thank you,

Emily Ashcroft

ICT Executive
Year Five News!

Year Five started Term 4 by finishing our Where we are in place and time inquiry with Market Day. Our Year Five stalls were successful and everyone had fun!

Throughout our Sharing the planet inquiry we researched issues, created our own thinking tools, responded creatively and worked in groups to make displays to teach others about our chosen issues.

One group made a ‘Brain Stems’ graphic organiser to think about their issues affecting biodiversity and another student designed an acrostic graphic organiser.

Some students made individual artworks while others contributed to group canvases and others choreographed a dance to ‘Saltwater’ by Julian Lennon.
We have completed our Sharing the planet inquiry this term with the central idea, Biodiversity is dependent on human choices. We celebrated our learning with a Mini Exhibition on Friday and raised money to continue our adoption of our Year 5 Orangutan, Bunga. Thank you to everyone who gave a gold coin donation. Students enjoyed speaking about their chosen issues and did a fantastic job!

We were lucky enough to have Rachel’s uncle to come in as a guest speaker to talk about The Murray Darling and how it is used and taken care of. We also had Robin’s father and Phil from TAMs come in as guest speakers and teach us about alien species. They helped us identify weeds and plant approximately 60 native plants in the front garden of Miles Franklin.
Canteen News

Thank you to the Preschool class visitors to the canteen last Wednesday and Friday. We hope you enjoyed your treats and we look forward to seeing you in Kindergarten in 2016.

**Flexischools reminder:** We are now a flexischools only ordering system in the canteen for lunches. If you need help doing this please ask us.

**FUN DAY LUNCH:** A very big thank you to all the helpers we had on the day for the BBQ lunch. Without your help we certainly couldn’t provide this type of lunch to the children. They really enjoy it!

**WEEK 10 Canteen opening** – For the last week of school we will open the canteen Wednesday and Thursday as normal and Friday up till 11.30am (no recess). As our stock runs out we will switch off items on Flexischools. If you have a regular order it might be worth cancelling it now and be up to date with out of stock items.

We’d like to say a big thank you to our Volunteers who have helped us throughout this year. In Term 4 our helpers deserve a big thank you - to Carmen, Belinda, Mel and Nicole who have been in regularly to help us out. Thank you to Kylie Gillam our Canteen Coordinator this year for all her help and support.

2016 – We will open again Wednesday 3rd February 2016. Happy Holidays to all the families at Miles Franklin and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

**Uniform Shop News**

**2016** - ++Uniform Shop will be open on Meet the Teacher day 29th January 2016 8:30am to 10:30am++ You will be able to collect your pre-ordered T-Shirts and other uniform requirements on this day. Uniform Shop on Flexischools is available again as of 18th January 2016.
Miles Franklin Primary School Board Elections

If you’re keen to contribute to Miles Franklin Primary school, you should nominate for a position on the Miles Franklin Primary School Board! No prior experience is necessary.

The following position is vacant:
One Parent Position

You can pick up a nomination form from the Miles Franklin Primary School front office between 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, request one be emailed to you or print one from the attachments.

Nominations must be submitted to the front office between

11am, Monday 1 February 2016
And
11am, Monday 15 February 2016

You can submit your nomination by:

- Hand delivery to the front office
- Email to info@mfps.act.edu.au

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Meg King on 6205 7530
UNDERSTANDING SEMESTER 2 MILES FRANKLIN REPORTS
KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

SUBJECT AREA

Australian Curriculum English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking and Listening</th>
<th>Effort:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Listens in discussions, conversations and oral presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands how to express an opinion based on information in a text</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks clearly and confidently in discussions, conversations and oral presentations</td>
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OUTCOME DESCRIPTORS: Indicates your child’s level of achievement at this point of time in their learning for each outcome. Descriptors used in the Miles Franklin report are those used in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards. Descriptors used in the Miles Franklin report are:

- Limited Achievement
- Partial Achievement
- Satisfactory Achievement
- High Achievement
- Excellent Achievement

OUTCOME STATEMENTS indicate the content or skills taught this semester.

PYP UNITS OF INQUIRY:
Explore central ideas that incorporate a range subject areas. (History, Geography (SOSE), Design and Technology, Physical Education and Health, Science, The Arts, Civics and Citizenship)

UNIT OVERVIEW: Explains the content knowledge and skills that have been developed in the unit.

UNIT OF INQUIRY OUTCOME DESCRIPTORS:
Indicate your child’s level of achievement at this point of time in their learning for these outcomes, which have been derived from the curriculum areas listed for the unit.

Central Idea – Technology has transformed the challenges and opportunities associated with human exploration.

History, Geography, Design and Technology
Students inquired into the explorations of humankind from the late eighteenth century and compared their experiences, use of technology and impact with that of the present day. They developed historical skills such as sequencing events, posing a range of questions about the past and identifying connections. Students developed geographical knowledge about the location of places and features of maps and the significance of places explored. Students explained how navigational aides have changed over time to meet the needs of people and then designed, made and appraised a solution to a problem faced today.

- Writes about explorers and explorations from the past
- Designs, makes and appraises to explain a technological advancement from the past
- Understands significance and impact of exploration on society today
- Interprets and analyses visuals and multimedia, including note taking
- Uses time effectively and appropriately

EFFORT: Indicates your child’s level of effort and commitment to learning at this point of time. Effort grades evaluate a student’s work ethics and habits in the classroom.
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING:
The PYP values the importance of students developing and applying a range of skills, to support their understanding. These skills are developed in the context of each subject area and within units of inquiry. Descriptors used in this section:
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Consistently

OVERALL GRADES:
As per ACT Government requirements, all students from Year 1-6 receive an overall A-E grade for each of these subject areas.

All learning areas taught and assessed in Semester 2 are listed on the last page of your child’s report. Note that some subject areas are taught over one semester and may have been assessed and reported on in Semester 1, 2015.

As per ACT Government requirements, all parents are provided with the overall number of grades awarded in each learning area at Miles Franklin Primary School for that year level cohort.
General School Board Elections

Nomination Form

Please use this form to nominate for a position on your school board.

Details:

School Name: _____________________________________________________________

Assistant Returning Officer: _______________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________________________________________________

Nominee Details:

Position: Staff members (A member of the staff of the school)

Number of vacancies: ______________________________________________________

Position: Parents and citizens members (A member of the school community)

Number of vacancies: ______________________________________________________

Position: Student members (A student at the school who attends classes for at least 12 hours per week)

Number of vacancies: ______________________________________________________
Nomination:

I,_______________________________________________________ am nominating for
the position of ___________________________________________ on the school board.

If elected I will undertake the duties of the position.

Signature: _______________________________________________

Date: ___________________________________________________

The Education and Training Directorate (the Directorate) is collecting the information on this
form to enable it to conduct elections for school boards. This is authorised by section 41 of
the Education Act 2004. This information will be disclosed to the school community to enable
eligible voters to elect a nominee of their choice.

Lodgement Information:

Nominations are to be submitted to the school’s front office between 11 am, 1 February 2016 and
11 am, 15 February 2016. Nominations must be submitted during school business hours: 9:00am
to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can submit your nomination by:

• hand delivery to the name of school front office
• email to
• fax to
• mail to ARO, c/- school name front office

The names of all nominees will be announced on 16 February 2016.

If an election is required, the voting period will be from 11 am 22 February 2016 to
11 am 29 February 2016.
Expert Panel Review: Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour

Invitation to parent forum

As you may be aware, earlier this year, the Minister for Education established an Expert Panel to review how ACT schools respond to students with complex needs and challenging behaviour.

On Wednesday 18 November, the Minister for Education released the report of the Expert Panel Review and the Government response to that report.

The Education and Training Directorate invites parents to attend a forum to learn more about the contents of the report, how the Government has responded to the 50 recommendations made by the Expert Panel and what this means for students in ACT schools.

Please see below for dates and times of parent forums. There is no need to book, just come along.

1. **Wednesday 9 December 2015 9-10 am**
   Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

2. **Wednesday 9 December 2015 4:30-5:30pm**
   Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

3. **Thursday 10 December 2015 4-5pm**
   UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Dr, Kaleen

4. **Friday 11 December 2015 10-11am**
   UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Dr, Kaleen


If you are unable to attend any of these dates and you would like to discuss the report, please contact the Director for Families and Students by telephone on 6207 3723 or by email familiesandstudents@act.gov.au
MILES FRANKLIN AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA WORKSHOP

with Canberra Youth Theatre

Semester 1 2016 Enrolments open December 15th!

Our Primary School Drama Workshop Program provides FANTASTIC and FUN workshops for 7 – 12 year olds to learn the fundamentals of performance in a safe, creative and welcoming environment. Through drama games and exercises we explore creativity, build confidence and develop core skills in voice, movement, improvisation, character and story.

When: Mondays Yrs 2-6 | 3:10pm – 4:10pm

Dates: 15th January – 27th June 2016

Hurry - there are only 16 places available!

Visit www.cytc.net or phone 6248 5057 for more information

We look forward to seeing you at Drama!

Thank you!

Kind regards,
Stefanie Lekkas | Workshop Coordinator
Canberra Youth Theatre

E: workshops@cytc.net | P: 02 6248 5057 | W: www.cytc.net
A: PO Box 127, Civic Square, ACT, 2608