Achieving Educational Excellence in a Caring Environment

Newsletter
Week 4 Term 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Friday 27 February    | Assembly – 12 Noon – 1pm
       | Hall – Year 6                            |
| Monday 2 March        | School Board Election Voting
       | Closes 11am                              |
| Wednesday 4 March     | IB PYP Evening
       | 5.30pm-6.30pm                            |
| Friday 6 March        | IB PYP Session
       | 9.30am-10.30am                           |
| Wednesday 4 March     | 5/6 CAMP NOTES DUE BACK                  |
| Wednesday 18 March    | 5/6 CAMP PAYMENTS TO BE FINALISED        |

Attachments

- P&C AGM Final Call
- P&C and Subcommittee AGM Notice
- School Banking Flyer
- Come and Try Joey Scouts Flyer

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The rates for contributions are $100.00 for one child $160.00 for two children, and $210.00 for three or more children.

Account Name: Miles Franklin Primary School Management Account

Account Number: 001 666

BSB Number: 032-777
Message from the Principal

Thank you to all the volunteers and cheering supporters at last week’s swimming carnival. The professionalism, dedication, support (to the swimmers) and humour of the volunteers really helped the day go wonderfully and we had the earliest finishing time from the races in memory. This allowed the children to have greater free-time which was much appreciated! Our sporting carnivals highlight the amazing ongoing support of our parents and the great work of Chris Currie as our sports coordinator. Please remember this volunteer spirit for the canteen, classroom and library too— all help is gratefully appreciated!

**Getting to Know You Interviews reminder.**

Thank you for making the time to speak to your child’s class teacher. There is still a little bit of time left and your reflections on your child are very useful so please ensure they are returned as soon as possible too. At the interview you will be given your child’s six-week overview (if you were unable to come to the information night) and will be asked to check your contact details.

**Start of Term 2**

Please be advised that due to ANZAC Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday, Term 2 2015 will commence for all ACT Public Schools on Tuesday 28 April. All ACT government schools will be closed on Monday 27th April but it is intended that the school holiday program run by our wonderful MFOOHSC will run on this day for parents who require care for their children.

**P&C AGM**

Our P&C AGM last night had a strong attendance and we heard all the positive reports from the sub-committees and our outgoing President, Allison. I would like to publicly thank Allison for her dedication (she has had leading roles in the P&C since I started in 2011), commitment, wisdom and understanding. Allison has been a key player in ensuring the school accounts have been well managed, resulting in the healthy bank balance which was reported on last night. This has led to fantastic donations from the P&C to enable us to purchase library resources (including Chromebooks) and our new playground equipment which is a legacy we will all be able to see for many years to come. She has led changes in the canteen which have improved the efficiency of how it runs, ensuring more of the dollars going in can be used to fund further upgrades as well as streamlining some processes and bolstering documentation for future years and has always been an amazingly strong supporter of the fete each year. These are quite some shoes to fill! However, we still need a P&C President, a person who brings the attributes of the Learner Profile (we won’t worry about the ‘in more than one language’ part though!) to our parent body. Without a President there is no P&C. Without a P&C, there are no Afters, Canteen or Music Scheme committees and those programs will not run. Please think about this role. It has its challenges but it also has its rewards: you are the advocate for the parents, working collaboratively and supportively with the school to help improve and progress our school. The school is more than our children, important though they are: between the P&C and the school there are almost 75 adults employed here and we work with over 1000 adults (parents and grandparents) who care deeply about their children. On top of this, we are also a focal point for others beyond our gates: organisations that work with us, support our fete, came to the school when they were younger or aspire to send their children here in future years. We are a community and this role can have a massive impact in the school. Please consider whether you could be a part of this team (all other positions
were filled) as it is the attributes that are important; any skills can be learnt or supported.

**Board membership**
This week you should have received a short biography from each of the three Board candidates as well as the voting form for them. To help in your deliberations we included a short reference from the School Board Manual on the role of the Board. The Board sets the strategic direction of the school and ensures good governance over the school activities by monitoring our expenditure, curriculum and policies/procedures.

**IB Information workshops for parents**
Next Wednesday at 5.30pm and Friday at 9.30am we are having IB information workshops for parents. Please come along to develop your understanding and knowledge of the IB and how all aspects of your child’s schooling (academic, social, emotional) fits within the ethos of the IB.

**Assembly tomorrow**
Our amazing Year Six students will be running our first assembly tomorrow. Assemblies generally fall on the Friday of even weeks at 12.00pm. We will be handing out the ribbons for the swimming carnival and House Captains and vice-Captains badges. We look forward to seeing you here!

**Preschool canteen lunches**
We are starting an exciting opportunities for parents in Preschool- we will soon be able to offer a Preschool menu from the canteen for children in Preschool. It will be a shorter, simplified choice from our existing items but will be a convenient (on Flexischools) way for families to ensure their preschool child is having a freshly prepared and healthy lunch. Please look out for more details of this in coming weeks.

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**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.

This edition is focussed on addressing the following PYP practice:

*The written curriculum is available to the school community.*

This week’s question:

**What is a PYP “Programme of Inquiry” (POI)?**

In a PYP school, the written curriculum is structured around exploring issues that have global significance- for all students, in all cultures. These issues are explored as ‘units of inquiry’ in each year level, from Preschool to Year 6, and form our school ‘Programme of Inquiry’ (POI).
A PYP school’s Programme of Inquiry consists of a matrix of units explored each year under the following six Transdisciplinary Themes:

- Who We Are
- Where We Are in Place and Time
- How We Express Ourselves
- How the World Works
- How We Organise Ourselves
- Sharing the Planet

Each year, all students will study each of these themes once, as a six week ‘Unit of Inquiry’. The revisiting of each theme each year ensures that our students are immersed in a broad ranging, in depth curriculum. These six units of inquiry each year, across Preschool to Year 6 constitute our school’s ‘Programme of Inquiry’.

Our POI is on display for the school community in the foyer outside the canteen and has also now been uploaded to the Miles Franklin Dropbox for parents/carers to see our PYP curriculum overview work in progress document.

Organising our curriculum around these six themes enables our students to experience and make connections between the traditional curriculum subjects within the context of relevant and engaging real world issues. Each Unit of Inquiry is carefully mapped to the Australian Curriculum to ensure academic rigour and challenge for all students. Due to ongoing updates to the Australian Curriculum, our Programme of Inquiry is under a process of refinement in 2015 in order to include the newly released curriculum areas of Geography, Civics and Citizenship, The Arts, Physical Education and Health, and Languages other than English (French).

Literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are crucial for our students in order to inquire into these units, therefore English and Maths curriculum areas are embedded within our Programme of Inquiry at all levels. Teachers plan collaboratively in teams.
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each week with the PYP Coordinator and Team Leader, to ensure consistency of programs across the school.

Discussion starters for parents and carers this week - Ask your child:

- What theme are you exploring for your current Unit of Inquiry in class? Do you remember this theme being taught last year? What was that unit about?
- What is the ‘Central Idea’ (big idea) for your current Unit of Inquiry?
- What have you been inquiring into so far in this unit?

Regular community ‘Living the PYP’ sessions will be held each term, to explore elements of the Primary Years Programme. We strongly encourage parents and carers to join us at these events. The first event for 2015 is outlined below:

Nicole Jaggers
PYP Coordinator
nicole.jaggers@ed.act.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE:
‘Living the PYP @ Miles Franklin’ - Community Event

**Topic:** What is a ‘Unit of Inquiry’ and how can you become involved?

**Date:** Wednesday 4 March 5.30-6.30pm
OR a repeat session on Friday 6 March 9.00-10.00am

**Where:** Miles Franklin Primary School library.

**Presenter:** Nicole Jaggers, Miles Franklin PYP Coordinator
Please RSVP to nicole.jaggers@ed.act.edu.au
Kindergarten News

The first few weeks of school have been very busy for the Kindergarten students.

We have started our first unit of inquiry centred on the trans-disciplinary theme How we organise ourselves. We have been tuning in with discussions on what we know about school and what we want to learn about school. The first two weeks were focused on understanding what school is and why we come to school. We began by imagining what an ideal classroom would look like, sound like and feel like. Then each class used this information to develop their own essential agreements. Students have chosen behaviours and attitudes that they think are essential in a successful learning environment (e.g. we try our best; we are kind to each other). The essential agreements are an important tool that students use to reflect on their learning and behaviours throughout the year.

Students began to get familiarised with the learner profile. We covered the concepts of being caring and being communicators. We brainstormed aspects of being caring such as sharing, taking turns, using kind words, helping each other. We also explored what good communicators do (e.g. listen to the speaker, take turns talking, use eye contact).

During literacy and fine motor rotations children have been involved in alphabet games, play dough activities, tracing and making words with magnetic letters. The three classes have visited the library and started borrowing books. Our library days are as follows: K Banda - Tuesday, K Packard - Monday and K Farrer - Wednesday. We encourage you to read each night with your child and to return the library books to be changed regularly.

In numeracy we have started learning numbers to 10. Students have been engaged in hands on activities that develop their skills in reading, writing and representing these numbers. During this term we will be covering other concepts such as number bonds, mental computation, addition and subtraction, patterns and 2D shapes. Hands on activities include using ten frames and counters, number bingo games, tracing numbers on laminated cards and making sets of objects with concrete materials.

In Kindergarten we promote a balanced lifestyle through inclusion of regular physical activity. Starting from week 5 we will be engaged in weekly gross motor activities in the hall. If you are available to help out please contact your child’s teacher. Activities will focus on core strength, coordination, basic motor skills (throwing and striking) and teamwork. In class groups students will also be working towards improving their spatial awareness, cooperation and sense of fair play.

Regards,

Daniela Banda, Janice Farrer, Madelyn Packard
Executive Teacher: Nicole Jaggers
CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING WORK!

Classroom Agreements

What we know about school

Representing numbers to 10
Sports News

Swimming Carnival
The Miles Franklin PS Swimming Carnival was held last Thursday at CISAC. Congratulations to all students who took part in races and novelty events and earned points for their House.
Many, many thanks to the numerous parent volunteers who assisted on the day, in particular Mr Imhoff for his expertise on the event and results software.
Results with times for all swimmers is available in the Miles Franklin Dropbox or via this link: http://tinyurl.com/l7q4t8n
Ribbons for ribbon winners, as well as the House Shield will be presented at the Week 4 assembly.
The Belconnen Region swimming carnival will be held in week 8. More information to come in the next week.

Years 3-6 Sports Survey
We have created an online survey for parents of students in years 3-6 to let us know what sports your students are playing already and what sports they might be interested in trying out.
We will use this information to make sure parents receive information about sports that your child/ren might be interested in (including Belconnen School Sport Region trials for years 5/6). This will also help us determine what sort of sports/teams we might look at offering at the school during the year.
You can access the survey by visiting: http://goo.gl/forms/lN74BnWFw8

Chris Currie

P&C News

AGM Results – Still seeking President
Congratulations to the Preschool, Out of Hours School Care and Music Tutor Scheme for filling all the necessary positions to keep functioning and delivering the services we love at Miles. I will announce who they are in next week’s newsletter.
The main P&C has filled all positions bar the President. It is really wonderful to have so many parents offer assistance and exciting to see quite a few new parents to the school turn up.
In reality, if a parent does not step forward and take on the President’s position at the next reconvened AGM (see notice for more info) then the P&C will have to look at winding up. It is a required position to run an incorporated association. The other subcommittees will need to look at alternatives on how to run as independent operators and manage those responsibilities on their own.
I am more than happy to provide support and handover to the new President. It is a great opportunity to build leadership skills, guide others on your team, and develop relationships within the school community and being able to provide direction in where the fundraising dollars go. It is really exciting to be a part of a great team of parents and be able to see the results of your hard work put in place. The new playground is a great example of this.
Important update on Canteen Services

Changes to opening days of Canteen – Starting Term 2
The decision to reduce the days the Canteen will be open was approved unanimously at the Week 3 P&C General Meeting. The new days of service for the Canteen will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday beginning in Term 2.

Changes to Subcommittee – New Canteen Coordinator Role to be filled
Due to the difficulties in getting a subcommittee together to assist in running the Canteen & Uniform Shop the following has been agreed to. The P&C will be redefining the Canteen Manager and Canteen Assistant’s role and add a new paid position of Uniform Shop Coordinator. The Canteen Manager role will be taking on more responsibilities that at times were performed by a subcommittee. All these positions will be advertised to the parent community as soon as possible, our aim to have them filled for Term 2.

In order to make sure we fulfil our duties to the staff of the Canteen and to offer support and a go between the P&C executive team, it was agreed last night to trial a Canteen coordinator role in place of a whole formal subcommittee. This role would suit someone who is keen to learn what it takes to deliver food services to the school. The Coordinator will need to build strong relationships with Canteen staff, students, parents and school staff and assist staff with the menu changes needed this year. This role would suit someone who has the ability to be on the ground to liaise with Canteen staff a minimum once a week to make sure they have what they need to fulfil their roles and to report back to the P&C significant issues/needs. You would not be required to volunteer in the Canteen itself unless you wish to do so. If you would like to know more about the President’s or Canteen Coordinator’s role please give me a call on 0423 013 103.

Allison Reid
Outgoing P&C President

Canteen News

We have a few exciting things in the wings that we are planning and getting ready for this term. 1. Preschool canteen lunch orders – stay tuned as we should have this ready to implement next week. 2. Yr 6 Helpers in the canteen – we will be organising our Yr 6 helper program again in the next few weeks. If you can provide any assistance with these 2 plans we would love to hear from you.

Flexischools for ordering: Please help us out when placing your orders. Flexischools ordering saves us so much time in the mornings and also ensures we get an accurate count of the food we need to make. We highly encourage you to change over from using cash and paper bag ordering to ordering online with Flexischools. www.flexischools.com.au. If there is a usual order you do as a current cash order and you need it added to Flexischools, please contact us and we can create it in Flexischools.

Reminder – Lunch orders need to be at the canteen by 9am. With our 11am lunch time we find it difficult to have everything ready when we are getting late lunch orders at the counter. We understand things happen and you can be late to school on occasion and we are flexible to accommodate for this.
VOLUNTEERING - Can you help out? We’d LOVE your help in the Canteen any day of the week for as little or as long as you can spare. Just after 9am to 11am is our busiest time and we could really use extra hands to make this time easier. Please contact Canteen Manager Chris in person at the canteen, email mfpcanteen@bigpond.com or phone 62051775.

As mentioned already in the newsletter - Does your child have any food allergies or restrictions on what they can buy? – We will need a photo and information from you so that we can make sure they buy appropriate things from the canteen.

Our menu is available via Flexischools and the school website in the dropbox. Please feel free to contact us on email mfpcanteen@bigpond.com or phone (02) 62051775 with any feedback or queries.

**Uniform Shop**

Our new day is Wednesdays only 8.40 to 9.15am. Flexischools operates 24/7 online. We sell hats every day from the canteen for $11. Orders for hats can be via Flexischools or cash at the canteen window.

If you have any questions, please email or ask at the Canteen.

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**The Miles Franklin Mobile App**

Available for free in the App Store, Google Play and in your web browser at [http://tinyurl.com/kann2tl](http://tinyurl.com/kann2tl)
Miles Franklin Parents & Citizens Association
Annual General Meeting

Will be reconvened

Week 6 - Tuesday 10th March 2015, 7:00 PM

Final Call for Positions

Vacancies available for nomination are:

P&C Association President
Canteen & Uniform Shop Coordinator

Last calls for filling the President position. Without this being filled the association will not continue and we will start the winding up process.

Your opportunity to lead a great team of people and have a say where our fundraising dollars go.

Build your leadership and business skills

Get direct access to the Principal and raise issues that are important to you and other parents

If you would like more information of these roles and for any of the services we provide please contact the outgoing President Allison Reid at mfpandc@outlook.com

Nomination forms for these positions available from front office or School website DropBox (P&C AGM Folder)
I wish to nominate ______________________________________ as a candidate for the position of ________________________________ in the ________________________________ committee

Candidate

I accept the nomination for the position of ______________________________________ in the above stated committee.

Name: ________________________________ Signature: ________________________________

Moved by:

Name: ________________________________ Signature: ________________________________

Seconded by:

Name: ________________________________ Signature: ________________________________

Notes:

- The candidate, nominator and seconder must be members of the Association.
- Candidates may nominate themselves.
- “Moved by” and “Seconded by” may be completed before, or at the meeting.
- Additional Officers or General Member positions as determined by the P&C Association are not considered part of the P&C Executive Committee.
- Signed Nomination forms can be handed into the P&C locked box (located opposite canteen) labelled “P&C AGM Nominations” or scanned & emailed to MFPandC@outlook.com before Tuesday 24th February 12pm or brought to the meeting.

List of Committees and Positions available:

Main P&C Committee:

Executive (office bearer) positions to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

General member positions to be filled: Fete Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and ACT P&C Council Delegate.

Canteen & Uniform Shop subcommittee:

Positions to be filled: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Uniform Shop coordinator

Out of School Hours care (MSOSHC) Subcommittee:

Positions to be filled: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Music Scheme Subcommittee:

Positions to be filled: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and enrolment officer

Preschool Subcommittee:

Positions to be filled: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Fun day coordinator
School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.

For over 80 years, the School Banking program has been teaching Australian children lifelong money skills. This year, your child is invited to join the Dollarmites on an intergalactic mission to Planet Savings.

Information on how students can get on board with School Banking, including a Savings Tracker and a rewards redemption card, is available from your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Your school has received parent packs that include all the information you need to get on board. If you haven’t received a parent pack yet, please ask your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Rewarding good savings habits with eight new items in 2015

The School Banking program encourages good savings habits by rewarding students with awesome reward items. For every 10 deposits made through the program, they can redeem a reward from our Outer Space Savers range, including ET DVDs, Planet Handballs, Invisible Ink Martian Pens, Intergalactic Rockets, Glow-in-the-Dark Solar Systems, Cosmic Light Beam Torches, Outer Space Savers Money Boxes and Lunar Light Bands.

You could win a family trip to Disneyland

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition draw to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland. The prize includes return airfares, five nights accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two kids, plus AUD$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Things to know before you can: Conditions apply. Promotion starts 9.00am AEDT 27/1/15 and ends 11.59pm AEDT 18/12/15. Entry is open to all Youth saver account holders aged 5-13 years who participate in CommBank’s School Banking program. Entrants under 18 must have parent/guardian consent. The draw will take place at 12.30pm AEDT on 12/1/16 at the Promoter’s office. The first valid entry drawn will win a family trip to California’s Disneyland valued at $22,245. The winner’s name will be published in the public notices section of The Australian on 26/1/16. Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 of Level 2, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions available at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking NSW Permit No LTPS/14/09857; ACT Permit No TP14/04345; VIC Permit No 14/5086; SA Permit No T14/2327.
Come and Try Joey Scouts

Joey Scouts is the first section of Scouts, for boys and girls who are 6 and 7 years of age. Joeys is a gentle introduction to the world of challenges and adventures through scouting. Fun and friendship is the main aim! The local Scout Group is called Crowajingalong and we are located on Heydon Crescent (next to the shops). Joeys meet on a Monday evening from 6.15- 7.15pm. For more information, please ring Carolyn (Joey Leader) on 62585131.