**Message from the Principal**

**School Review**
If you could take a few minutes to complete the survey that came out last week it would be greatly appreciated. We are holding a drop in session so parents can have the opportunity to discuss any of these aspects. This will take place after the Year Four Assembly tomorrow from 1.00pm-3.00pm. Please feel free to pop in at any time during this period (you don't need to be here for 2 hours but you can if you wish!).

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| Friday 20 May    | Belconnen Cross Country  
9am – 12.45pm – Stromlo Park                                         |
| Friday 20 May    | Year 4 Assembly  
Hall – 12 Noon – 1pm                                                  |
| Monday 23 May    | AFL Clinics – All Day                                                 |
| Wednesday 25 May | Year 5 Day at the Museum  
8.30am-9.30am Big Portable                                            |
| Tuesday 24 May   | Year 6 Combined Band performance  
Hall 12 Noon – 12.20pm                                                 |
| Wednesday 25 May | Reading Information Session  
Library – 3.10pm – 3.40pm                                              |
| Thursday 26 May  | Reading Information Repeat Session  
Library – 8.30am – 9.00am                                              |
| Friday 27 May    | James Hird Cup – Deakin Playing Fields  
9am – 2.30pm                                                          |
Athletics Carnival
It was an amazing Athletics Carnival last week. It was great to see so many supporters and volunteers- it was all really appreciated, we can't do it without you! Special mention goes to Andrew who joined the teachers for the annual student/parents/teacher relay race and helped us to victory (!), Selina and the canteen volunteers who served hundreds of children through the day and Chris Currie and Megan Ferdinand who organised the main carnival and the junior rotations respectively.

Walk Safely to School Day
Tomorrow is Walk Safely to School Day. Children who walk, scooter or cycle to school should come to the front office for a sticker!

Preschool Enrolments
Next Friday is the official cut-off for Preschool enrolments for next year. Whilst enrolments can be accepted after this date, to ensure programs can be delivered it is best if enrolments are in by this date. Please let any friends either looking for a place at Miles Franklin or another ACT school know about this please.

Chris

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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. Please nominate if you would like this payment put to the Library Trust Fund.

Account Name: Miles Franklin Primary School Management Account
Account Number: 001 666
BSB Number: 032-777
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 newsletter articles are written to inform and involve the school community in the implementation of the PYP at Miles Franklin.

Moving away from ‘spelling lists’ to ‘inquiring into words’

Over the past 12 months Miles Franklin staff has been looking into current research trends with regards to the teaching of spelling. In 2015 the school enlisted the professional services of Tessa Daffern, a local PhD candidate, to present her research findings into how children learn, including a comparison of the various models being used in schools to teach children how to spell.

What does Daffern's research tell us about how children learn to spell?

- Daffern supports the view that spelling in the 21st century is learned most effectively through contextualized, explicit and reflective instruction in phonology, orthography and morphology rather than through rote learning or incidental instruction.
- Daffern’s research supports the proposal of an inquiry framework for the teaching of spelling.
- Students learn to spell through an overlapping range of strategies from the beginning of school, and develop these over time and involves so much more than sounding out words.

What do our students think about spelling?

We launched the implementation of our inquiry approach last week in classrooms by asking all students across the school a range of questions about spelling. The range of responses gained will be used by teachers to inform planning:

What is spelling?
How do you feel about spelling?
Who do you know that is a good speller?
How did they become a good speller?
What strategies do good spellers use?
What do you know about words and how they work?
What do you do when you can’t spell a word?
(Why not ask your own child some of these questions at home!)
What will word study look like in our classrooms as it evolves this year?

- Engaging, open ended and thought provoking activities that promote linguistic inquiry in spelling.
- Differentiated spelling groups- flexibly formed and reformed based upon the changing needs of students over time.
- Direct teaching of phonics (sounds and letters), orthography (the letter choices selected to spell the sounds in words) and morphology (the structure of words, such as prefixes, suffixes, meaning and grammar).
- Challenging students to critically reflect on words used in their own writing.
- Increasing student capacity to think about the strategies they are using to spell words.
- Developing an understanding of the Australian Curriculum vocabulary used when spelling and studying words such as syllables, number of sounds in a word, base word and long and short vowel sounds. (See Drop box for a list of vocabulary being introduced at each year level).

Will our students still learn spelling rules?

Yes! Word study involves explicitly teaching and scaffolding a range of spelling strategies and rules.

What words will our students be learning to spell?

The Australian Curriculum English will continue to inform our planning and teaching of spelling. Word patterns and rules are introduced based upon students’ growing understanding of the English language. Students will also study spelling attempts from their own writing, words from books they are reading in class and vocabulary that is being introduced through our units of inquiry. Rather than a static list of words each week, students will brainstorm groups of words to study based upon a spelling rule or pattern, along their own spelling attempts.

What can I do to support my child’s spelling development at home?

- Encourage your child to attempt to spell words. Ask questions such as: “What sound can you hear at the beginning, middle and end of the word?” “What are the ways we can spell that sound?”
- Discourage your child’s rubbing out of spelling mistakes. Instead, encourage them to put a bracket around the word they are unsure of and support them in thinking about what strategies they can use to figure out the sounds and spelling choices needed. (They will be learning how to do this in class).
Where can I find out more?

- Follow along with what is happening in your child’s class on class blogs as they get started over the coming weeks.
- Readings and information will be placed in our school Drop box for parents throughout the year in the ‘Word Study’ folder.
- Attend our parent information session on our approach to teaching ‘word study’ early in Term 2.

**Next Week: Reading Information Sessions**

**‘How to support your child’s reading at home’**

A practical and informative session on how to support your child’s reading development at home, presented by our reading support teaching staff. All welcome, no RSVP needed.

**Wednesday 25 May 3.10-3.40pm**  
**Repeat session: Thursday 26 May 8.30-9.00am**

(If you need to bring your child along to these sessions, there will be an area of the library set aside for children to read quietly while we host this session)

Nicole Jaggers  
PYP Coordinator  
nicole.jaggers@ed.act.edu.au
PE and Sport News

School Athletics Carnival
A huge thank you to all who assisted with the athletics carnival last week. Particular acknowledgement to Mark our BSO for helping truck equipment over to Charnwood and back, Megan Ferdinand for coordinating the K/1 carnival, Year 11 and 12 Sport, Fitness and Admin students from MCSS and parent volunteers and the good people from Ginninderra Little Athletics Club for the use of their equipment and facilities. Results from the day are being compiled and will be published in next week, before presentation of ribbons and the house shield at week 6’s assembly.

Belconnen Cross Country
Fifty of our students will compete at the Belconnen Cross Country event at Stromlo Forest Park this Friday (20 May). We wish them all the very best for their race.

Upcoming Events
Belconnen Region Cross Country – 20 May, Stromlo Forest Park
James Hird Cup – 27 May, Deakin Playing Fields
Sullivan Shield (day 1) – 1 June, Nicholls Playing Fields
Sullivan Shield (day 2) – 14 June, Nicholls Playing Fields

Canteen News & Uniform Shop News

A very big thank you to the volunteers (Leesa, Mel, Sam, Carmen, Vicki – if we forgot someone we thank you too) who helped us out at the Athletics Carnival. We tried hot food for the first time and it was a big hit. Parents and carers please come and help us out on these days (no need to ask just drop by). Even if it’s just for 20 to 30mins. It allows our regular volunteers (and staff) some time to see their children too.

We also want to say a belated thank you to the parents who helped us out on the Mother’s Day stall day on over the counter sales and lunches as it was a busier than normal day.

We have some phased out uniforms (red jumpers, pants, old style shirts etc) we will be selling at a reduced price. Please come and check them out.

Yr 6 commemorative shirt orders have been placed with the supplier and we are just waiting on their arrival. Sorry for the delay. I know the children are anxious to get them. They shouldn’t be too much longer.

We have the new Long and Short sleeve Polo Shirts in stock now. Orders can be processed through flexischools.
If you are interested and able to volunteer, please come and speak to us. We always need help just after school drop off to do jobs like sticking labels on bags and packing items in bags. Just 20 mins of your time helps us out a great deal.

If you need to contact the Canteen or Uniform Shop please email mfpcanteen@bigpond.com or call 62051775 (between 11.30am and 1.30pm unless it is an urgent lunch request).

Information (menus / brochures / forms) about the canteen and uniform shop is available on the school website www.mfps.act.edu.au under dropbox and P&C and Board / Canteen&Uniform Shop. We are now a flexischools only ordering system in the canteen for lunches. If you need help doing this please ask us. You are able to use the canteen computer to place orders if you have difficulties at home placing your order.

**Opening hours** — Canteen days and hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8.40am to 1.30pm. Uniform Shop is open Wed, Thurs and Fri 8.40 to 9.15am(Sharp).

Selina, Julie and Donna.

**DISCO**

Are you interested in helping organise a disco for this term. Selina and Nicole would love the help as we are busy parents too. Please contact Selina in the Canteen if you can help share the load.

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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/kann2t1