



Newsletter

Week 1 Term 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 10 February	Information Night 5:30 - 7:00pm
Friday 12 February	Presentation of Leadership Badges
Saturday 13 February	Preschool Funday
Monday 15 to 19 February	Three Way Interviews
Wednesday 17 February	Parliament House - Year 6
Friday 26 February	Swimming Carnival (Year 3 - 6 & Selected Year 2)

Notes home

Yrs 5 & 6 Camp Cooba 2021 - Expressions of Interest - Due 5 February

Parliament House - Due 10 February

Swimming Carnival - Due 19 February

Medical Notes - Please update medical notes and medication with Front Office

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Miles Franklin staff, I would like to welcome you all back to the new school year! We hope you had a lovely break over the Christmas and New Year period and enjoyed lots of fun and laughter with your children! We hope holiday plans were not too affected (we postponed ours because we were worried about having to quarantine when we came back- and be out of this before school started!) and work has started well for you this year.

As always it a pleasure to welcome our children back for another year of learning! As you may remember from previous years, I believe a quality education should be around the International Baccalaureate Programs (PYP, MYP and DP- my own daughter is studying the MYP) and in more general terms I have coined the term a MODern education:

M is for Making Memories

O is for Opening Opportunities

D is for Developing Dreams

Children should have fun at school- let's keep their lives as simple and stress free for as long as we can! Making memories is about the camps, the excursions, the beautiful relationships formed between friends and with teachers. Opening opportunities is being equipped with as many keys as possible to open as many doors in the future, wherever these doors may open! Developing dreams means allowing children to follow their dreams for as long as possible! Whilst it seems unlikely now that one of our children will become an astronaut for example (purely for the small numbers across the world who have been able to so far), it is not our place to tell children it cannot happen because we don't fully know how the world will progress. Realism and probability is fine to be spoken about but as adults we know how it feels when our dreams are not realised; I don't think any of us want our children to have that feeling just yet. Each year I choose a word that I believe will encapsulate the year ahead or at least the start of the year. This year the word I will be focusing on with the children is optimism.

Coronavirus

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding of the changes we have had to make to manage the current pandemic. We are advised regularly by the Education Directorate and ACT Health on measures we need to take to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. Please remember though we are likely to err on the side of caution due to staff and children who continue to be vulnerable and thank you for your assistance with this. We have asked parents not to walk through the front office/canteen area to access the remainder of the school, nor to walk through the courtyard. These are bottlenecks where it is impossible to remain socially distant. One of our daughter's friends in the UK contracted COVID in December. After a stroke, some heart problems (her heart rate was 270bpm and they couldn't get it down) and a ventilator, she was discharged last week and has gone back this week to see what the doctors can do about her heart. Whilst we have been extremely fortunate in the ACT, this is a good reminder that we cannot be complacent. However, on a positive note, it has been wonderful seeing parents back by the classroom doors this week and hopefully this will continue throughout the year.

Nuts and Strawberries

Please be aware we are a nut aware school which means we cannot guarantee nuts will not come into school, but we ask parents to make every effort to ensure this. We have children who are anaphylactic to nuts and exposure to them puts their life at risk, such is the severity of their reaction. My daughter carries an Epipen too so I have an understanding of the seriousness of this. Please ensure Epipens and any other form of medication and medical plans are kept up to date with the front office. Cathy Marot (Madame M to the children) is our French teacher and she is anaphylactic to strawberries and carries an Epipen. We understand strawberries are an important part of many children's diet (mine included!) but we ask that children wash/rinse their hands and their lips after eating them and preferably that strawberries are not packed on days that Madame M takes the class- your class teacher will tell you and the children which day of the week this is. Strawberry flavoured food and strawberry jam does not have the same reaction from Cathy.

Parking

Please follow and observe good parking etiquette in the car park and neighbouring streets- the safety of our children is paramount. The police do speed checks in the carpark and the city rangers drive through and issue fines for illegally parked cars, as they did on Monday. Just thought you should know...!

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds from 7.30am to 6.00pm. If they need to be tied to a tree just on school grounds (on the ovals, not the carpark due to the number of children going through that area) but as far as possible away from children that is acceptable but being brought near to the school buildings is not I'm afraid. Your support in this is appreciated.

Help and assistance

If you are in need of financial assistance, please let the front office ladies, Sylvia or myself know. There are many things we can do and ways we can support. We understand you will want to contribute as I know that can take some pride away but when we need to support families with 100% of the cost of things we always try to. Most of the time we will halve the cost. We cannot do this in all cases but where there is a need we will. In short, we don't want children to miss out due to the cost.

Uniforms and hats

Uniform is very important to us at Miles Franklin- it shows pride in identifying as a student here and also helps teachers identify our children readily in the distance. This is very important during excursions and on duty. Children may be denied access to excursions and part of the playground if they are not in uniform (please see above- we are happy to help if needed). Before it gets cold please consider the jackets your children have; pre-loved school fleeces are also available from the uniform shop along with new ones. Many children have returned this year

without hats. Can I ask you all to check with your children (possibly ask them to bring their hat home in their bag...) that they do have a sun smart hat please? Again, your support is appreciated.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival is on 26th February and notes are coming out soon. Please return as soon as possible. Spectators are unable to attend this year although parent volunteers, with pre-assigned roles, are able to attend. Please do not come on the day 'just in case'- you will not be allowed due to the current restrictions. Parents who are required to assist their child to participate, also agreed with me beforehand, are able to attend as a volunteer.

Information Night and Three-way goal setting

Our information night is next Wednesday (10th) from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. We start with presentations for each year group in their classrooms and then come to the hall at 6.00pm for introductions and a short presentation. We then repeat the 5.30-6.00pm sessions from 6.30pm to 7.00pm. This gives parents with more than one child the ability to hear the different team presentations and ask questions and those with only one child can choose the time that suits them best. The following week we will have our three-way goal setting interviews with children, parents and staff. Our late sessions will be on Wednesday 17th, finishing at 7.00pm. You will be able to book this on PTO (Parent-Teacher Online) as soon as they are ready for the new year: this is the platform thousands of schools use and it just takes them a little bit of time to upload new class lists from all these schools at once!

Commemorations

Two years ago we lost the lovely Annabelle to DIPG, a dreadful form of brain cancer that afflicts children, in the holidays between her finishing Preschool and starting Kindergarten. This year, her younger brother commenced Kindergarten and we were so proud of him. This time last year we lost a parent, Heather, to breast cancer. This is a difficult time for both families and both Kathie, Annabelle's mum, and Dennis, Heather's partner, would like to thank the wonderful community who have, and continue to, support them and their families. This is a poignant time for us all: Time helps ease the pain but the memories and the love we had for both will never diminish. Our thoughts are for both families.

Specialists

Art with Jessica Clarke and Amy Malusa

Art is back again this year and students will attend one lesson a week starting in week 2. This semester Ms Clarke and Ms Malusa will be teaching the classes. Here is a rundown of what each year level will be working on over the coming weeks:



Kindergarten

Kindergarten will be creating and sharing artworks linked to wellbeing and emotions. They will be focusing on how colours help to identify feelings. We will be looking at the art element of line and how these can be used to identify emotions.

Year 1

Year 1 will be creating and sharing artworks linked to wellbeing and emotions. They will be focusing on how colours help to identify feelings. We will be looking at the art element of line and how these can be used to identify emotions.

Year 2

Year 2 will be creating and sharing artworks that can benefit wellbeing. We will be focusing on colours and emotions and will create a mixed media artwork.

Year 3

Year 3 will be making connections with artists that express their ideas, values and beliefs through their art. Students will create an Aboriginal artwork using oil pastels and watercolours.

Year 4

Year 4 will be exploring and gaining inspiration from Aboriginal artists to create a landscape watercolour painting. Students will learn skills about perspective and to depict their vision of the Earth in a variety of ways.

Year 5

Throughout this term, Year 5 will be learning about artworks from a range of cultural backgrounds. Students will explore artworks of different styles and artists from different cultures and times to inspire their own representations using a range of materials.

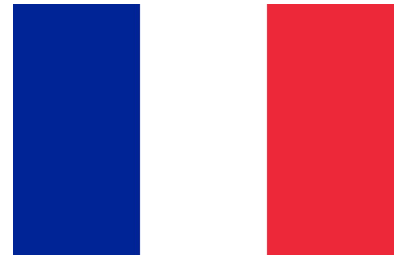
Year 6

Students will reflect and respond to the world around them and view artworks from cultural backgrounds and learn to look at it from different perspectives. Students will use their knowledge of colours, lines and shapes to create a watercolour painting.



French with Madame M

In Term 1 all classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 are connecting their French learning to Canada. This will support our entry into the Francophonie poster competition held between 15 to 19 March. As part of the celebration our school has been allocated an art project portraying the country of Canada. Two groups of students will work during lunch times to create the art project. We will also be communicating with the Canadian Embassy in creating our entries.



Kindergarten

This is the discovery of another language other than English for many of the children. We want their introduction to French to be a success and we want to see them engaged and having fun with the language. We will use songs to start learning about greetings, numbers, body parts and simple instructions in French. Children will watch some videos about Canada.

Year 1

Students in Year 1 will review a few things from last year. We will look into the Canadian ecosystems, some of the Canadian animals and parts of the environment.

Year 2

Students in Year 2 will review last year's learning as well as inquire into the Canadian culture including art, sports and music.

Year 3

Students in Year 3 will review last year's learning as well as inquire into the Canadian environment and culture, including values in their society and sports.

Year 4

Students in Year 4 will review last year's learning as well as inquire into the Canadian explorers and how the country was discovered and named.

Year 5 and 6

Students in Years 5 and 6 will review last year's learning as well as inquire into Canadian history and geography and culture including music, art, sports and dance. We will also try to compare the Australian and Canadian historical exploration and political systems.

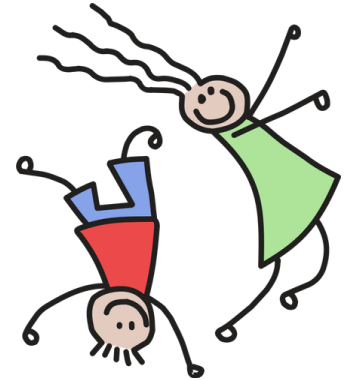


The **French Film Festival** will be held between the 5th March to 1st April. More information will be forwarded once it is received.



PE in 2021 with Michele Davis

PE classes will begin in Week Two with Ms Davis. Students K-6 will have one PE lesson a week. The focus for the first term will be on building students' cardiovascular fitness (stamina), and developing or extending their fundamental movement skills. We will work towards these goals through a variety of unconventional games and an inquiry into the skills, movements and strategies necessary to be successful. Sportsmanship will always be a key focus during all lessons.



Please ensure your child has a sun safe hat and shoes they can run in for every PE lesson.

We will also be linking to the French Francophonie celebration (see French program above) with an exploration of La Crosse and Hockey which are two very popular Canadian sports. For the younger grades this will involve use of more age appropriate equipment. Adapted rules will allow for a gentler version of these games for all students.



LET'S GET ACTIVE!

To encourage participation in sport related activities at lunch and recess a sports bucket has been created for each grade. Students using the equipment will be responsible for returning it to their grade level bucket.

Please encourage your child to be physically active for at least a half hour every day outside of school.

MacqLit Literacy Support

Literacy Support

Luned Scholfield provides literacy support for students in Years K-2 and Nat Collis for Years 3-6.

Luned and Nat work with small groups of students to assist them in developing their reading and spelling strategies. This week they have had the pleasure of meeting students and celebrating some of their strengths. Next week they will be establishing our reading teams, creating our essential agreements and identifying our reading goals.

English as an Additional Language or Dialect

Jenny Hudson is the (EAL/D) English as an Additional Language or Dialect teacher. She provides learning support to EAL/D students from Kindergarten to Year 6. To be eligible, students must speak a language at home other than English. She assesses new EAL/D students to the school on their English proficiency and will be in contact with parents if a student needs support.



Testing's not just for the end of term.

No one should have to do a test on their first week back at school! But there is one test that can't be ignored. With increased travel over the summer holidays, it is important that all Canberrans – even children - get tested for COVID-19, even with the mildest of symptoms.

While evidence suggests that young children are less likely to acquire and transmit COVID-19, their symptoms should not be ignored, with testing our best surveillance tool against the virus.

The COVID-19 test is free, quick and easy and most people receive their test result within 24 hours.

Parents and carers who are required to take their children for testing can also be issued with a carers' certificate for the time when they take their child for a test and while they await results.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, sore throat, cough, runny or blocked nose, or shortness of breath.

There are seven free COVID-19 testing locations across the ACT, with four of them open seven days a week.

Some testing clinics don't have facilities to test children under the age of eight. Please check the website to make sure you're going to the right clinic: www.covid19.act.gov.au/testing