



# Newsletter

# Week 6 Term 2, 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Tuesday 28 April – Friday 5 June	Enrolments for 2021 open
Friday 5 June	Yr 6 hosting MFPS virtual assembly – link to be advised
Monday 8 June	Public Holiday
Term 2	School Sport ACT Virtual Cross Country

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Transitioning back to school- Reminder to parents

A huge thank you to our parents and grandparents for observing the social distancing rules we have put in place. Every now and again we need to remind someone of this and we truly hope we won't need the reminders soon... You will be notified if and when there is a change to the structures we have in place. This is the 'new normal'- we don't like it any more than you do but we need to observe these for the health and wellbeing of staff, children and parents in the community. Your continued understanding and support of these measures is greatly appreciated.

Tuesday was a wonderful day - all children across the school back for learning, a day I've been looking forward to for weeks. You might have heard from some of the older children that they didn't want to return - we had the same conversations at home too but we just couldn't keep the children quiet: they wanted to talk with their friends, they were so excited to be back around each other!

## Prospective Preschool and Kindergarten families

As you know, I meet all new families enrolling in the school and would usually also meet the parents of younger siblings too. Coronavirus has changed this a little but I am still meeting all new families as I think it's an important part of building the relationships with families. Due to the bubble we have created, at this time my alternate office is the benches in the courtyard and we are not entering any of the classrooms with our visitors. Again, this is not how we like to operate but is necessary at the moment. The enrolments 'window' for this first round for 2021 closes this Friday afternoon.

Chris

## ICAS

We will once again be offering the opportunity during 2020 for students in Years 2-6 to participate in the ICAS Assessment Tests developed by the University of NSW. Participation in ICAS assessment is voluntary and entry fees apply.

What is ICAS?

ICAS, is an external, optional comprehensive skills-based program that assesses higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in a range of subject areas.

ICAS will not add extra workload to a student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory. ICAS's diagnostic reports will give parents insight into their child's strengths and weaknesses.

Where can I find out more information?

[www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au)

How can my child participate?

If you would like your child to participate, please log onto the UNSW website using the details below to choose the tests your child would like to participate in.

Your school  
access code  
is:

ZAJ869

Your parent  
page link is:

<https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps>

All tests will be run at school during allocated time slots.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Sofatzis via the front office.

## Message from the Education Directorate: Changes to Semester 1 reporting

Due to the unprecedented circumstances faced by schools across Australia this year, a national agreement has been reached to modify school reporting for Semester 1. In the ACT we will reduce the level of Semester 1 reporting for students from Kindergarten to Year 10.

We recognise that providing families with information about their child's progress and learning is crucial and will be especially valuable after the start to the year we have all experienced.

Semester 1 school reports for 2020 will still include information about each student's level of progress against specific achievement standards for the learning areas that were covered in Semester 1. Teachers will still make a judgement about the level of engagement each student has demonstrated with their learning and, where appropriate, work habits. Personal and Social Capability will still be included.

Reports in Semester 1 will not include overall grades for learning areas/subjects or a comparative A-E grade summary. Additionally, reports will not include attendance information for Semester 1.

If you would like further information about your child's progress please consult with your child's teacher in the first instance.

For any other queries or concerns, you can contact the Education Directorate via the [Education Directorate Contact Form](#) or call 6205 5429.

*Please also remember team leaders or myself are happy to discuss the above.*



## 2021 school enrolments now open



ACT  
Government

Education

1. Go to **education.act.gov.au** for information on your local school and to enrol online.
2. Apply before **5 June 2020** to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.



## Enrolling in Preschool in 2021



ACT  
Government

Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at **education.act.gov.au**