



Newsletter

Week 1 Term 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 7 February	School Assembly (12-1pm) whole school. (Captain badges will be handed out)
Wednesday 12 February	Parent Teacher Info Evening (5.30-7pm) whole school
Friday 14 February	Swimming Carnival - Select Yr 2 & Yrs 3-6
Friday 21 February	Parliament House - Yr 6

Notes Home:

Medications kept at school

Swimming Carnival Yr select Yr 2 & all Yrs 3-6

Camp Borambola Yr 5/6

Parliament House Excursion - Year 6

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 do understand, however, that many of you have been affected by the weather conditions and bushfires over the last month so please let us know if there are ways you might need support.

As always it is a pleasure to welcome our children back for another year of learning! As I wrote last year 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 means being equipped with as many keys as possible to open as many doors as possible. This applies socially as well as academically.

Developing dreams means not stifling their education but allowing children to follow their dreams for as long as possible! Whilst it is unlikely one of our children will become the United Nations Director General for example (purely for the small numbers across the world who would be eligible in a lifetime), it is not our place to tell children it cannot happen. Realism and probability are 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.

Health Advice

Please rest assured we are continuously monitoring the air quality, local bushfires and the current coronavirus alerts. We are advised daily, or more regularly as situations change, by the Education Directorate and ACT Health on measures we need to take to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. We take these measures seriously but try to balance these with children needing to stay physically active wherever possible. Please remember though we are likely to err on the side of caution which might mean children remaining inside for prolonged periods whilst there is the danger of smoke and particles in the air. We are fortunate in having the Belconnen air quality index in Florey so although there can be a lag in the measures being reported, we are reasonably sure they are accurate for our school. We are also receiving almost daily updates regarding the response to the coronavirus threat and as new information comes to us, we are sharing this with you. We are aware of two families that have taken precautions following recent travel overseas and we support their initiative and precautionary measures which go above and beyond what

is currently required. If you have any concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nuts and Strawberries

Please be aware that we are a nut aware school which means we cannot guarantee nuts will not come into school, but 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 this also! Please ensure Epipens and any other form of medication and medical plans are kept up to date.

Cathy Marot (Madame M to the children) joins us this year as our French teacher. Cathy is anaphylactic to strawberries and carries an Epipen in case she comes into contact with strawberries. We understand strawberries are an important part of many children's diet (mine included!) but 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. Just thought you should know.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds from 7.30am to 6.00pm. If the dog needs to be tied to a tree please use the ovals and as far away from school buildings and children as possible.

Help and assistance

If you are in need of financial assistance, please let the front office ladies, Nicole or myself know. There are many things we can do and ways we can support. I try to avoid paying fully for everything 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 do this.

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.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival is next Friday (Valentine's Day). You should have received notes via email last week and paper copies today. Please return as soon as possible. There is a small risk that the carnival might need to be postponed due to poor air quality but we are being optimistic and planning ahead regardless at this stage.

Information Night and Three-way goal setting

Our Information Night is next Wednesday (12th) 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. This gives parents with more than one child 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 19th, 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!

Annabelle and William

Last year I wrote about the sad and tragic loss of Annabelle over the 2018-2019 holiday. Annabelle is still very much in our thoughts and hearts and always will be. It was wonderful talking to Annabelle's mum, Cathy, about their new arrival Viviana and to see Annabelle's younger brother William starting in Preschool this week.

Board Elections

In next week's newsletter you will see information about Board nominations. There are two positions available and they are for two years (all Board positions are) currently held by Belinda Lum and Matthew Miller. Belinda is vacating her position as her last child, James, graduated last year from Year Six and I am delighted that Matthew, our current Board Chair, has volunteered to stand again. All parents are able to nominate for this.



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



Is this your daughter?

“She sings all the time and can’t sit still when there’s music playing”
“She’s always dressing up and doing concerts”

FEBRUARY OPEN CLASSES

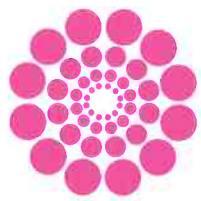
Come along and try a free class at your local rehearsal venue!

Canberra Girls Grammar School



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

ausgirlschoir.com.au



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform.

Your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Over 200 senior choristers recently shared the stage with Hugh Jackman in his Arena Tour across the country. We're proud to have represented Qantas in the 'I Still Call Australia Home' advertising campaigns and live events for more than 20 years.



Try a FREE class in February!

Register online or call 1800 338 142



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

ausgirlschoir.com.au



AFTER-SCHOOL ART WORKSHOPS

www.artkidscanberra.com

"My children get so much out of the class – they have assembled a beautiful collection of work on their bedroom doors. We really appreciate the way the class gives them new techniques as well as inspiration."

New! artKids Preschoolers 3 - 5 yrs sessions at Turner Baptist Hall 2020

After-school art workshop for K* – 6

NEW CLASS starting Term 1 2020 at Miles Franklin! Our **artKids** classes develop your child's creativity through learning drawing skills, art techniques and exploring different mediums. We operate in a fun, supportive environment where there are no such things as mistakes or 'flops' in art, only 'floppertunities'!

The class will run on **Wednesdays in the school art room from 3 - 5 pm**. The children will be met at the school, provided with afternoon tea and walked to the art room. Parents collect children at 5 pm sharp. Cost for the 2 hour workshop is \$35/session, payable by term (and includes afternoon tea, all materials used in class and GST).

admin@artkidscanberra.com

Robyn Thurecht — 0405 014 180

** Kindergarten children will be considered after a trial session.*

**Book now
for Term 1**