Salutations!

This greeting was used by Charlotte the spider to Wilbur the pig in the children’s book *Charlotte’s Web*. Which brings me to the point of this paragraph.

This year students from Preschool to Year 6 will be taking part in the *Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge*. Students participating will read 15 books and have these signed off by their classroom teacher. This will be an ongoing project for Terms 1 and 2. Students can read books at home with their parents and then bring the book to school to discuss with their teacher for inclusion in their list.

**Swimming Carnival**

The Year 2 to 6 Swimming Carnival is on next **Wednesday March 2** at Tuggeranong Pool. Students have received permission, payment and medical notes to be completed and signed by parents and returned to school tomorrow Friday. The Education Directorate requires schools to ensure a medical form is also completed by parents before students can attend the swimming carnival (even though the school already has this information on file). If you did not receive a copy, please contact the front office. Students will participate in a number of water and land based activities. Students in years 2-6 will have the opportunity to compete in 50m and 100m races. We hope to have more students entering these races after the swimming lessons that were conducted in Term 4, 2015. If you did not receive these notes, please contact the front office urgently.

The Kinder and Year 1 students will have a fun water day at school. More information about this will come home later.

**PIPS**

The Kindergarten teachers are completing the PIPS assessment with the students. This information is a snapshot of the student's knowledge of concepts at this point in time. The PIPS test is conducted again at the end of the year and will measure the progress each Kindergarten student has made over the year.

**P&C community BBQ**

Thank you to the Mawson P&C Association committee for the delicious free sausages, pasta and tomato dish and variety of fruits that were provided for the families and teachers who came along to celebrate the start of the new school year. The event was followed by the Annual General Meeting, where the 2016 committee members were elected. Our thanks go to Tricia Copas for her leadership of the P&C Association, in her role as 2015 President. Also to Milli Wong who has been the treasurer for 2015.

**Getting to Know You Interviews**

Please return your completed “Getting to Know You” document about your child to your class teacher. This week interviews are being held with the class teachers. Building positive relationship between teachers and parents is beneficial for all but especially the student. At Mawson we believe parents play a critical role in their child's learning. Research shows that the most effective strategies for family-led learning include:

**Believing in children's potential** – The most powerful thing parents can do is to show children they believe in them and believe in their ability to be successful.

**Reading together** - Reading together helps children to develop and practise their reading, writing and language skills. Telling stories and talking about things that children are interested in helps them enjoy learning.

**Talking with children** - Conversations are an important contributor to children's learning and development. Just spending time talking with children helps them to learn and grow. Simple ways to do this include talking about what they're learning at school and what they enjoy or find difficult.

**Supporting children to develop positive relationship with others** - Parents play an important role in supporting these relationships by helping children to build and maintain a positive relationship with their teacher, helping them negotiate with peers and respond appropriately to negative experiences they may encounter.

**Learning together** – Engagement in everyday activities at home like cooking or grocery shopping, or going to community events, or museums or libraries or just spending time learning with the family provides children with the opportunity to be exposed to new things, explore new areas of passion or interest and learn about their family and culture.

**Creating a positive homework environment** – It is important to provide a dedicated space and time for homework, have the same rules as the school about homework and ensure parent-child interactions about homework are positive.
Year 3 Camp
Our Year 3 students will be attending camp at Birrigai in three weeks. Please return camp notes and payments to the Front Office.

Mawson School App
Mawson Primary has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. In case you haven’t already done this we are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag App. To install it, just look for our school name "Mawson Primary School" in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store, and install it on your smartphone.

2016 Voluntary Financial Contributions
Mawson Primary School strives to provide a challenging and caring educational environment for all students. The Mawson Primary School community and P&C association generate additional funds through services provided by the school’s network of volunteers and fundraising activities. A significant form of additional funding is raised through Voluntary Financial Contributions that are used to provide valuable resources to support a rich learning environment for your child such as readers, maths resources, construction materials, sports gear, musical instruments and computer equipment. The School board will shortly be setting the 2016 amount.

School Board Voting
On page 3 you will find information on our nominees. Voting opens tomorrow Friday 26 February at 11am and closes at 11am on Friday 4 March.

Drop off and pick up area.
This week Mrs Andrews has been in the car park between 8.45am and 9.15am to monitor driver’s use of the designated drop off or pick up area. Unfortunately there are some cars that are still parking there and at times Amanda waited for up to 15 minutes for the owner to return to their car. This means that other drivers cannot use this space. She has also seen families parking on the opposite side of Ainsworth Street, cross the road and come through the car park bays, while cars are driving through. The pedestrian crossing is located near the entrance to the car park and is a safer way to bring your children into the school grounds.

Lantern Festival
You are invited to attend the Australia-China Friendship Associations ACT Inc.’s Lantern Festival this Saturday where our Kindergarten to Year 2 Mandarin Choir will be performing around 6:40pm - 6:50pm. Beijing Gardens, Lennox Park on this Saturday 27 February.

Sandpit update
The 2015 Year 6 students gift to the school was a sandpit. The location has been finalised and there is a sign on the fence, near the Kindergarten to Year 2 playground equipment, that identifies where it will be built. Would you like to help out with the construction? Keep an eye out for news in Schoolweek of what is needed and when the work will commence. An hour of your time may be all that is needed!

ANZAC Day Holiday and Start of Term 2
This is a reminder for those of you planning the school holidays that Term 2 will commence on Tuesday April 26. Monday 25 April is ANZAC DAY and a public holiday in Australia.

Keep cool and drink water!

Trish Ghirardello
Executive Teacher

Ainsworth Street Mawson ACT 2607
Principal: Amanda Andrews
Deputy Principal: Lauren Richardson
P&C President:
Phone: 6205 8033 Fax: 6205 8026
Business Manager: Gail Porter
Board Chair: Aleisha Broadhead
Vice President:
Web Page: http://mawsonps.act.edu.au
info@mawsonps.act.edu.au
Board Members: Andrew Pritchard & Scott Gurney
Secretary: Treasurer:

PRINCIPAL'S QUALITY BOARD

Muweme B. 1M Character Profile
Fahira S. 2F Postcard
Eshaal U. 2F The day the Croayons Quit
Isabella M. 2A Letter Writing
Richin B. 3/4N Writer's Notebook
Adam S. 3T Inside out art work
Katelyn M. 4/5A Artwork Warm and Cool Colours
Patricia S 5/6M Similes & Metaphors
Leah M. 5/6M Similes & Metaphors
Paul Hubbard is a Commonwealth public servant, currently completing a PhD in Chinese economy at the Australian National University. He is the father of three children who are new to Mawson - James in Year 2, Imogen in Kindergarten and Carmen in Pre-school. Paul and his family lived in Beijing last year. Although the family lives in Belconnen, they come to Mawson every day because of their commitment to Mawson’s Mandarin Immersion Program. Paul is seeking to serve on the School Board in order to support and strengthen Chinese-language education in Canberra.

My name is Rhonda Dotson and I am the mother of two beautiful children. Matthew is 5 years old and is in Kindergarten at Mawson Primary. He has special needs. My younger child, Millie, is aged 16 months. I am a medical specialist at the Canberra Hospital. I nominated for the School Board position because I have always been passionate about contributing and making a meaningful difference. If that difference might include improving things for children with special needs or disabilities, then so much the better.

My name is Milli Wong and I have two children at Mawson Primary - Martin in 3T and Emma in 1P. I would be happy to serve on the School Board for a couple of reasons:

- through involvement with the P&C over the past few years, I have seen the many ways in which families and the school staff give so generously of their time and energy to make Mawson a better place for our children. My family and many others benefit from this school community and I want to continue to contribute to keeping it an inclusive, caring and safe community.

- My skills and interest: after graduating from Education and Law studies, I decided to pursue work experience in other fields before starting teaching. Over the years I have worked in policy development and legal advisory roles, in family & community services and education settings. I am interested in and would like to play a part in shaping the policies and decisions affecting our school.

- My special interest in language education: I came to Australia and started learning English as a second language when I was nine. Keeping my home language of Cantonese meant I was able to stride both the Hong Kong and Australian culture. It is wonderful to see Mawson actively support families from non-English speaking backgrounds to keep using their mother-tongue at home.

During 2012 our family went to live in China for a year. After learning to read the simplified Chinese script and building on my Mandarin communication skills, I was suddenly able to access the fascinating world of Chinese social media, music, TV and books of the mainland Chinese people. The insights into the culture and the friendships built was only made possible through learning the language. I am passionate about Mawson Primary as it gives many children the opportunity to build a foundation in the language skills necessary to open doors to the Chinese culture.

My name is Scott Kneebone and I am nominating for a parent and community position on the School Board as I will have three children attending Mawson. They are currently in Yr 2, Pre-school and the Chinese Australia Early Childhood Centre. I support the MIP and firmly believe in the benefits of kids having a second language. I also support how inclusive our school is of other cultures and backgrounds. I’ve lived overseas and appreciate the difficulties families can have when away from family and community. For the last two years I have also done presentations to Kindergarten to Year 2 Students about Indigenous culture and I look forward to continuing to do so.

My name is Nicole Haughie I have one daughter who is in Year 1 this year. I am a business analyst and user experience consultant with a background in service delivery. I have been involved with the Mawson Preschool Association and P&C and am interested in increasing my knowledge of how Mawson School is run and how we can assist in improving the school for our students, parent, teachers and support staff.
Kindness

When one looks at the traumas taking place on our planet the value of kindness is often sadly lacking in society.

Kindness is being unselfish. It is being sensitive to the needs of others and the environment and reaching out to do something about it. Kindness allows us to feel connected to the world around us. Showing kindness does not need to be on a grand scale. Thinking of ways to make another feel happy is an act of kindness e.g. a friendly gesture, a smile, a kind word.

Due to people's selfishness and lack of kindness the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil in which we cultivate our crops has become polluted.

Kindness is also being kind to oneself. It is taking the time and effort to keep your body fit and healthy developing positive attitudes and awareness of one's emotions.

In practicing kindness it is important that we do not deprive others of taking responsibility for themselves by becoming dependent.

You may wish to discuss the following points with your family on the practice of kindness:

- Become aware when someone or something needs care and attention.
- Think of ways to make others happy
- Take excellent care of your pets.
- Accept people as they are
- Start practicing environmentally friendly habits-reduce, re-use, recycle
- Overcome actions of cruelty

We often feel that we can't make a difference in society because the problems seem so great but we never know what difference one kind deed or word may make to another. You may never reach the fame of people like Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Theresa but every gesture of kindness makes this world a better place.
Year One MIP News

How exciting to start a new school year with Chinese New Year celebrations. In Year One, we learned about the tradition of Spring Festival (The first day of the Lunar calendar) and Lantern Festival (the 15th day of the Lunar calendar).

We made Lanterns (灯笼) and fire crackers (鞭炮).

We have started our unit of work: Colours and Animals.

We made Zodiac Collage Posters.

Lanterns (灯笼) represent merit and joy.

Dumplings (饺子) are eaten on the Eve of Chinese New Year representing prosperity and unity.
Welcome to all our families in the Koala, Emu and Possum groups. The preschoolers are all settling into their Preschool groups well. We are learning to follow routines and learning social skills such as turn taking and sharing. First term is always busy as we make new friends and get used to the learning environment.

We have been having fun making lanterns and learning about the Chinese new year celebrations. Teachers Dongmei Yang and Sunny Wang visit our class groups during the week and they have been teaching us to sing Happy New year in Mandarin. We had a visit from the children and staff from the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre who brought us lanterns that they had decorated and shared a yummy snack of sticky rice. It was wonderful to see so many people at our Preschool information evening last week and thank you to all those who attended. We look forward to meeting with you this week at our get to know you interviews. If you missed out on making an appointment time, please talk to any of the preschool staff who will gladly help you make a time for a meet and greet soon.

Please make sure that you apply sunscreen on your child before preschool each day, and your child has a hat and water bottle. Thank you for your assistance.

Kim, Debbie, Wendy, Tanya, Julie, Duncan, Olivia and Claire
- Rice cakes with low fat toppings such as vegemite or ricotta cheese
- Weet-bix™ or other low fat, low sugar cereals with milk
- Pikelets topped with chopped fruit (such as bananas and berries) & ricotta cheese
- Vegetable pikelets or savoury scones made with grated vegetables and added cheese on top
- Jaffles filled with baked beans or mashed potato and cheese
- Baked potato filled with tuna or creamed corn and topped with cheese
- Fruit Flowers – balls of melon surrounded by orange segments with a stem of banana
- Traffic Lights – rounds of kiwifruit, watermelon and banana
- Pita bread nachos – pita bread slices baked in the oven until crisp and then sprinkled with cheese
- Microwaved scrambled eggs which can be cooked with frozen corn and grated cheese – this simple snack can be ready in only 30 – 60 seconds!
- Hard boiled eggs
- Vegetable, meat or tuna patties that can be served hot or cold
- Hot filo based pastries filled with vegetables and meat
- Small tins of baked beans or spaghetti

There is no excuse now - it's time to get snacking!

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Quiz

Quiz Questions

1. How many moons does Mars have? And what are their names?
2. What is a 12-sided shape called?
3. Name three members of the cat family.
4. What are the three elements that make up a carbohydrate molecule?
5. What are stomata?

Quiz Answers

1. Mars has two moons. Their names are Phobos and Deimos.
2. A 12-sided shape is called a dodecagon.
3. Answers may include: tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard, lynx, puma, cheetah.
4. The three elements that make up a carbohydrate molecule are carbon, hydrogen and oxygen.
5. Stomata are tiny openings on a plant’s leaves, stems and flowers. They allow gases, such as carbon dioxide, oxygen and water vapour, to move in and out of the plant.

Written by Julia Cleghorn · Edited by Kath Kovac and Jasmine Fellows · Email sciencemail@csiro.au
Invitation to parent forum

As you may be aware, in 2015, the Minister for Education established an Expert Panel to review how ACT schools respond to students with complex needs and challenging behaviour. In November 2015, the Expert Panel released their report Schools for All Children and Young People – Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour, outlining 50 recommendations. All 50 recommendations were accepted by the ACT Government.

In response to the report, the Education Directorate has begun a three year program of system reform, the Schools for All Program. The program not only aims to implement the 50 recommendations, but most importantly to continue our ambitious, evidence based, and single-minded, ‘whatever it takes’ student-centred vision for ACT public schools.

Throughout the year, the Program Implementation Team will undertake quarterly parent forums to keep families updated about progress. The Education Directorate invites parents of students in ACT public schools to participate in the forums and to provide feedback regarding implementation.

Please see below for dates and times of parent forums. There is no need to book, just come along.

Forum 1 Wednesday 16 March 2016
9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)
5:50pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Multipurpose room)

Forum 2 Wednesday 15 June 2016
9:30-10:30 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)
5:50pm- 6:30pm UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

Forum 3 Thursday 15 September 2016
9:30am-10:30am UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)
5:50pm-6:30pm Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)

Forum 4 Thursday 10 November 2016
9:30-10:30 Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling (Mezzanine)
5:50pm- 6:30pm UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

Regular updates on progress will be placed on the Education Directorate website at www.det.act.gov.au.

If you are unable to attend any of these dates and you would like to provide feedback or enquire about progress to date, please contact the Schools for All Program Implementation team on 02 6207 6606 or by email SchoolsForAll@act.gov.au.
EAL/D News

Recently, all government schools in the ACT completed a Census, gathering information about all students who speak English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D). At Mawson Primary School, this is no small task, as we are fortunate to have at least fifty-one different languages spoken at home by Mawson students (an increase of ten on 2015)! Approximately fifty percent of our students were themselves – or have at least one of their parents – born overseas. Here is a map of the sixty-nine countries where students and their families were born:

[Map image]

Below is a list of the languages spoken by Mawson families; do let us know if we've missed any!

Afrikaans, Arabic, Bangla, Bengali, Cantonese, Croatian, Czech, Dari, Dutch, English, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Hokkien, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Karen, Korean, Madi, Malay, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Nepali, Nyanja, Sotho, Portuguese, Punjabi, Pashto, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Shona, Singhalese, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Twi, Urdu, Vietnamese, Xhosa and Zulu.

Caroline Woolias (EAL/D Teacher)

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12U School Sport

Students 10 years and older are able to trial for Tuggeranong Representative sport. This year all trial information will be posted on the ACT School Sport website. Parents will find everything they need to know on this web page. Notes will not be given out at school as was done in the past.

If you wish to register your child for a sport trial, you must do this online. A non-refundable fee of $3 is charged for each sport you wish to trial for. An email will then go to the school to approve the registration and you will receive a notification when this has been done. Please be aware that these are representative teams and therefore it is likely your child will already be playing their chosen sport outside of school. If you child is selected an addition fee of $7 will need to be paid.

ACT School Sport website: [https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/](https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/)

First Trial for AFL, League, Boys & Girls Softball

At Trinity Christian School on Tuesday 8 March and Thursday 17 March

Time: 3.45 to 5.30pm

Registration must be completed online before the trial.

*All trial dates hereafter will be on the School Sport ACT website, so please check the website regularly.*
Opportunities to get involved at Mawson Primary

Student School Banking – weekly assistance required

For a number of years, Mawson Primary has participated in the Commonwealth Bank’s School Banking Program. This is run weekly by volunteer parents/carers who collect and bank the students’ deposits.

To continue the program, the school needs 2-3 volunteers that can be available for 2 hours on Thursdays. The bank books are processed in the school library using the Commonwealth Bank’s simple online data entry website. You will work as a team of two and training is provided.

Volunteers can be parents, carers, or grandparents of a student at the school. The banking program gives students the ability to set savings goals, whilst receiving fun rewards along the way.

For further information, contact Pam Proud (P&C School Banking Coordinator), 0420 523 187.

Other ways to get involved

The Schoolweek e-newsletter is the main way in which the P&C communicates with the school community. We always need volunteers (and will advertise) for:

- organised events, including barbeques, stalls and sporting events
- assistance (through your classroom teacher) with guided reading
- putting protective covering on new library books (organised through the librarian).

There are many other ways to contribute to the school too, so come along to one of our P&C meetings to discover more ways of making your child’s experiences at Mawson Primary great!

The P & C Association committee has been successful in gaining a fund raising day at Tuggeranong Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 5 March 2016. Are you able to help out by coming along for 2 hours any time from 8.00am to 5.00pm. Contact Nerida King, coordinator on 0431550901.
**Sometimes a school bus has a break down**

From time to time school buses may break down and require a replacement bus to be called. On these occasions drivers will ask students to remain on the bus until the replacement bus arrives. This may result in some delay but it is a much safer option than children leaving the bus. Parents may wish to remind their son or daughter to ensure they stay on the bus on these occasions.

**Time for volunteers and visitors to renew their WWVP registration**

Parents and other adults who volunteer, or work in some paid capacity, at school are required under the Working With Vulnerable People Act to be registered with Access Canberra. There are however some exemptions. Those who registered in 2013 will need to apply to renew their registration during 2016. If your card is over three years old it has probably expired and you cannot lawfully have contact with children as a volunteer or visitor in a school-related activity. If you are uncertain, you should contact Access Canberra on 13 2281 or accesscanberra.act.gov.au, or in person at an ACT Government shopfront. If you think you may be exempt under the Act, you should contact the school. Registration for (unpaid) volunteers is free. Registration for employees and paid visitors is $76 for three years.