Dear Parents/Carers
Welcome to the start of the new school year and The Year of the Horse. A special welcome to our new students and their families.
It was fantastic to be back at our wonderful school after the Christmas and summer holidays and to see so many enthusiastic students arriving for their first day at school. On Monday Preschool, Kindergarten and new students in Year 1-6 were able to get to know the school grounds and meet the teachers. On Tuesday our returning students were able to catch up with their friends and settle back into school routines.

Mawson Preschool is at capacity, with a number of families on the waiting list. Mawson Primary student numbers have increased this year and the school has gone from 8 to 10 classes. 2014 classes have now been finalised and your child will know their teacher’s name. Our 1 and 2 day MIP classes are very popular and class structures will incorporate these programmes.

The Mandarin language teachers have included some information about themselves in this edition, as well as an item on how we will celebrate Chinese New Year in the coming fortnight.

We welcome Sharon Fellows as Executive teacher, class teachers Tara Aherne, Sara Kaltenbrunner, Wen Liu, Dongmei Yang, and Anna Flutsch. We are delighted to have Caroline Woolias and Constance Chen returning this year.

Mandarin Language on Radio
Practice Mandarin with your children via a new Mandarin language program from 6.30pm to 7pm on Friday evenings on radio 2XX: 98.3 FM or online at www.2xxfm.org.au
This Friday (7 February), you can hear ‘The Gruffalo’s Child’ by Julia Donaldson, read in Mandarin. If you have a copy – in English or Chinese – have it ready and you can follow along. There will also be some ideas for using a Chinese song/rhyme to introduce/practice some vocabulary.

ALMA and Mandarin for Fun gratefully acknowledge the support of 2XX and the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs for this program.

DIARY DATE
Class information sessions will be held on Thursday 20 February between 6-8pm. These session are an opportunity for families to hear about the learning activates that are planned for your child. On the night you will be able to make a time to chat with your child's teacher in the following week.

Warmest regards
Amanda Andrews
Principal

MAWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL – 2013-2014 SCHOOL BOARD Nominations

Each year Board elections are held in February, to elect school community representatives for a two year term. In February, 2014, the school will be seeking nominations to fill three positions on Mawson Primary School Board. For 2014-2015. These positions are:

- Two positions for parents and citizens of Mawson School community.
- One teacher representative position

The Board meets regularly during term time at a time suitable to the Board members. The role of the Board is to set broad policy which reflects departmental policies and initiatives. Setting the school's annual budget is worked through in co-operation with the Board. Being on the Board is a great opportunity to get to understand how education works in the ACT, as well as in your child's school. Those who have been on School Boards remark on how much they have learned about what makes it all happen in schools.

If you would like clarification of what the role might entail, please contact Peter Hunter, current School Board Chair. Nominations open on Thursday 6 February 2014 at 11am and close on Thursday 20 February 2014 at 11am.

The election process will be coordinated by Pam Proud as the assistant returning officer for our school.

See page 9 for a copy the nomination form. A hard copy is also available from the front office.
At the beginning of each school year it is important that all information relating to your child is updated. Next Wednesday 12 February your child will bring home an envelope containing:

- Excursion medical information and consent form for Terms 1 & 2 2014.
- Permission to be photographed.
- Family details check list.

Please complete, sign these and return them with your child to his/her teacher by Friday 14 February, in order for our school to maintain efficient and reliable contact with our families. Please confirm your child’s details and make changes where necessary to ensure that our records are up to date. Do note the following points when checking your child’s information:

- Any families with access provisions need to provide a copy of current court orders or other legal arrangements to the front office, at the beginning of each new school year.
- If your child has a medical condition it must be updated. Please remember that an action plan is required for all students with allergies, asthma or other medical conditions.
- Families who request that their child not be photographed and included in any school or associated publications must indicate this.
- The Principal must be notified immediately of any changes to the residency or visa status of students who are non-Australian residents. Notification of changes to student information and contact details throughout the year should be directed to the front office on 62058033.

Morning Routine
Each morning a teacher is on duty in the playground from 8.30am until the first bell at 8.58am. Students need to be at school for this first bell. Students are then able to go to the toilet and be in the designated class area, ready for the second bell at 9.00am. Messages may be given at this time before classes leave with teachers. Playground equipment is not to be used at this time. Parents/carers of students arriving after 9:05 need to go to the front office to sign their child into school. The child is then able to take a late note to their class teacher and join the group. The playground equipment is not to be used after 3:00pm unless a parent/carer is supervising the student.

Car park safety
It is important that all families ensure the safety of our students is paramount when on school grounds. As there are only a certain number of spaces available in the car park, your cooperation with parking is essential.

- There are marked spaces alongside the Environmental Centre for families to stop and let children out of the car in the morning and collect them in the afternoon. PLEASE DO NOT PARK HERE.
- Families should use the other parking bays if accompanying students into the playground or their classroom.
- Please do not double park across the designated parking spaces. When you double park and leave your car to collect children, other drivers are forced to wait until you return to your car as you are blocking their exit.
- Asking children to cross the busy car park area on their own to get to your car could result in an accident and put their life at risk. Stopping your car in the middle of the car park, double parking and calling your child to the car is dangerous. You may need to drive through the car park several times.
- The red lined area at the entrance to the car park must be kept clear and is not a parking area.
- The bus zone also needs to be kept clear.
- Please remember that the speed limit is 10km as indicated on the sign at the entrance to the car park.

It is the expectation that anyone on school grounds acts in a safe, courteous manner at all times. This applies very much to the car park area and your cooperation is much appreciated.

Radio Station 2CC’s School Bonus Giveaway
In 2014 2CC will give away $4000!! Mawson Primary School encourages the parents and friends to nominate the school for a $1000 grant. This February TWO lucky schools will pick up a $1000 cheque with a draw being announced on the 14th and a second draw on the 28th. To nominate our school, simply visit 2CC’s website.

The more nominations we receive, the better our chance is of winning, so please make sure you spread the word.

The question is -What would the school do with $1000?

Please answer with the following: the funds would be used to enhance the Mandarin Immersion Program with the purchase of audio material and readers.
### 2013 AQUITTLAL OF EXCURSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursion</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANZAC DAY AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$132.00</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$187.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOYTS CINEMA AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$984.34</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$994.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWIM &amp; SURVIVE PROGRAM AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$10,275.00</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$10,275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUNZAFUN AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$799.92</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$815.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANBERRA DEEP SPACE AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$253.50</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$225.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JR 6 HOYTS AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$319.00</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$319.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECUCLING &amp; REPTILE SHOW AQUITTLAL 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total paid by students</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$227.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary

- **ANZAC DAY AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $132.00
  - Expenditure: $187.27
  - Difference: -(+$55.27)

- **HOYTS CINEMA AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $984.34
  - Expenditure: $994.55
  - Difference: -(+$10.31)

- **SWIM & SURVIVE PROGRAM AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $10,275.00
  - Expenditure: $10,275.00
  - Difference: 0

- **TUNZAFUN AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $799.92
  - Expenditure: $815.90
  - Difference: -(+$15.98)

- **CANBERRA DEEP SPACE AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $253.50
  - Expenditure: $225.45
  - Difference: +(+$28.05)

- **JR 6 HOYTS AQUITTLAL 2013**: 
  - Total paid by students: $319.00
  - Expenditure: $319.09
  - Difference: +.07
My name is Cissy Lu and 2014 marks 27 years since I arrived in Canberra from China. I previously worked as a hospital admin officer for 14 years before realising my passion for teaching. I joined the Education & Training Directorate 5 years ago. I come from Shanghai where I worked at the Shanghai Medical University as a medical information research officer. Here in Australia, I am married and have 3 children who attend primary school, high school and university! Currently I work at both Mawson and Torrens Primary Schools. My hobbies include reading, travelling and spending as much time as I can with my children.

My name is Dongmei Yang and at school in China students call me Yang Laoshi.

I gained my BA degree in Beijing and worked in Kunming and Beijing as an English teacher and interpreter/assistant. I migrated to Australia years ago. I was granted a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1998 from the University of Canberra, specialising in languages.

I was a professional gymnast when I was very young. I have an Australian National Level 1 coaching qualification in gymnastics. I did some gymnastic coaching for clubs and a primary school in Canberra.

I have taught Mandarin at all levels from K-12, as well as beginning level Japanese from K-6 and EALD to native speakers of Chinese from China in Canberra, both at non government and government schools.

All the best and I wish everyone every success in 2014 (Year of the Horse).

My name is Wenyan Liu. I am currently a classroom teacher and a Year One MIP teacher (Mandarin Immersion Program). I am extremely enthusiastic about and believe in bilingual education. My journey of being an educator started 11 years ago in China; however, furthering my studies overseas and exploring the modern student-centered teaching style has always been my dream. As an educator who speaks two languages, and a mother who is raising a bilingual child, I believe that speaking another language benefits children both cognitively and socially. Furthermore it creates opportunities for children’s future lives and careers in this globalized world. The combination of oriental and western learning and teaching experience enables me to reflect, thus assimilate what suits my teaching style and what is best for the students. I am accustomed to working in a multicultural environment that emphasised inclusion and diversity.

My name is Constance Chen (陳老師) and I am from Taipei, Taiwan. I obtained a Bachelor of Education degree - Teaching K-10 from University of Canberra in 2010. After my graduation I taught as a classroom teacher in both secondary and primary schools. The students that I taught were diverse, including mainstream, EAL/D and Mandarin classes. I also taught in the ACT Southside Introductory English Centre (IEC) for primary students who were new to Australia. In May 2013, I moved to Armadale, Western Australia, where I had the opportunity to teach in a Primary School.

Being a teacher is a rewarding experience for me. I enjoy working with students and I aim to provide students with a safe learning environment, where each student is nurtured to strive for success in their learning, and to develop their wisdom to be a lifelong learner and an informed citizen. I am looking forward to working with you and your children in the coming year.
Dear Parents/Carers and students,

The Mawson Mandarin Teaching Team 2014 would like to say: Happy Chinese New Year of the Horse and welcome to our 2014 Mawson Mandarin Program.

新年快乐， xīn nián kuài lè, Happy New Year,
马到成功 Mǎ dào chéng gōng, Wish You Success

LOTE and MIP Teachers

Wen Liu (Liu Lao Shi) (Mon–Fri.)
Dong Mei Yang (Yang Lao Shi) (Wed–Thur.)
Constance Chen (Chen Lao Shi) (Mon–Fri.)
Cissy Lu (Mrs Lu) (Wed.–Fri.)

To celebrate Chinese New Year at Mawson, our Mandarin teachers will offer every student an opportunity to participate in several activities and the chance to enter a Chinese craft competition. The competition winners will be announced at the week 2 assembly on the 14th February, which will be at the end of Chinese New Year – The Lantern Festival.

Chinese New Year

In China and in many other countries of the world, including Australia, Chinese New Year is celebrated between the end of January and mid-February. Chinese New Year is a very special time to celebrate a new beginning and good fortune. As it occurs at the beginning of spring in China and is also known as the 'Spring Festival'.

Traditions

The house is cleaned and preparations are made for special ceremonies that included honouring the ancestors. Items such as malt candy, wine, special paper money and food are part of the celebrations.

At midnight on New Year's Eve, everyone waits up and exchanges greetings when the new year begins.

Red packets decorated with gold and good-luck characters – with money enclosed – are given as gifts to children.

Red is the colour of happiness and good luck and people hang red scrolls with New Year wishes written on them to decorate their houses and businesses. Fireworks are set off during the night and day to ward off evil spirits.
People born in the Year of the Horse are clever, kind, animated and energetic. Although they sometimes talk too much, they are cheerful, perceptive, talented and love to be in the centre of a crowd. They are popular among friends, active at work and have a deft sense of humour.

2014 is the year of the Wooden Horse. Wood horses are strong and stable and have a better ability to make decisions. Excellent at interacting with others, they are successful personally and professionally.

Chinese New Year Facts

Clean your house from top to bottom and pay off all debts before New Year. Decorate your home to welcome in the New Year. Red is a popular colour as it scares away evil spirits and bad fortune. Place mandarins in bowls throughout the house. Mandarins with their leaves still intact are the fruits of happiness for the New Year. Keep their numbers even though, as uneven numbers bring unhappiness. Wear new clothes and ensure you are polite to others on the first day of the New Year – it sets the tone for the year to come.

Celebrate New Year with a family dinner. Traditional dishes include uncut noodles – a symbol of longevity – and fish and chicken, symbols of prosperity. Apricot and peach blossom are popular decorations during Vietnamese Tet and symbolise new beginnings. The main difference between the Chinese and Vietnamese lunar calendars is that the Vietnamese replace the ox, rabbit and sheep in the Chinese calendar with the buffalo, cat and goat respectively.

Kite flying is a popular New Year tradition in Korea. Enjoy a soup of thinly-sliced rice cakes (duk gook) – a traditional New Year meal in Korea. Everyone turns a year older with the start of each New Year (and not on their birthday), many people tell their children that they can’t get older unless they’ve eaten some duk gook. Refrain from uttering words relating to misfortune, such as ‘death’, ‘broken’, ‘killing’, ‘ghost’ and ‘illness’ during New Year as this may bring bad luck for the year to come. Make sure the barrel of rice is full at New Year to ensure prosperity in the year to come. Give younger members of the family red lai-see (‘lucky money’) envelopes to pass on prosperity.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

From 8 November 2013 volunteers and other visitors to school, unless they meet exemption criteria, are required to hold an appropriate working With vulnerable People registration with the Office of regulatory Service to engage in activities involving contact with children.

Working with Vulnerable People

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 that strengthens protection for children and young people. From 8 November, a person who has contact with children in certain circumstances must be registered with the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS). All ACT Education and Training Directorate school-based staff and a number of staff, who are not school-based but fall within the requirements of the Working with Vulnerable People Act, are required to be registered. These include teachers, learning support assistants, front office staff etc. Registration has been progressively undertaken during 2013. Some circumstances will require volunteers and other visitors to schools who are working with children to be registered with ORS. Information will be available on the Directorate’s website. Volunteers who regularly work with children in classrooms and other school activities will need to be registered.

While a number of members of the school community may already have taken steps to register with ORS, others will need to consider whether this is required for their participation in school activities. www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people.

Parents and members of the community make a valuable contribution in a diversity of roles. Mawson Primary School looks forward to your continued support in whatever capacity you choose. If you are unsure whether you need to be registered, please contact the front office on 62058033.
BANKING NEWS

School Banking for 2014

Yes, banking is back for 2014 so remember to bring your yellow deposit wallets every Thursday.

Want to be a banker?

It’s easy. School Banking accounts can be opened at a Commonwealth Bank branch. Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for School Banking. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers licence and birth certificate).

You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it is that easy!

If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with NetBank you have the option to open the account online as well.

The benefits

- Students learn the importance of saving and receive one token for every deposit made through the school. 10 tokens can be redeemed for great reward items, such as pencil sets, handballs, money boxes, beach bags, projector drinking cups, pencil cases and much more! This year's rewards theme is Deep Sea Savers and the Lost City of Savings.
- The School also benefits from the program and it’s run by the P&C Committee. Commonwealth Bank give us $5 for each new student banker and a further 5% commission on all deposits made. This adds up to hundreds of dollars each year that the P&C can put towards student resources. It's a win-win for everyone!

Further info

In the coming days, a blue information pack will be sent home. This contains vouchers for this year's reward items and information on how to be part of the program. If you do not receive an info pack, one can be collected from the School Office.

HAPPY BANKING!

BANKING COMPETITION

STAY COOL AT SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

Win a CommBank Marquee for your school and $50 for a student just by depositing to your CommBank School Banking account in Term 1.

The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of Term 1 will win a marquee. There are 4 marquees to be won in the ACT area.

Also, every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their School Banking account.


Banking day at Mawson Primary is every Thursday.
Advertisements are included in Community News as a community service. The inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by either the school or the ACT Department of Education and Training.

Communities News

Parenting involvement – the secret ingredient to children’s school success.

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families

Mandarin for Kids Club (Mawson)
Date: 10th February 2014 Monday
Time: 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Venue: Mawson Primary School
Cost: $144 (Term 1)

All new students who register for Term 1 2014 get one free lesson
Pay by 1st February 2014 and you get 10% discount
Sibling discount 10% apply

A Fun Way to Become Bilingual

Register now with Sarah Mak
@0431252768 or sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au

New to Canberra? Update Your Address with Medicare for a Chance to Win $10,000!

If you’ve recently moved to Canberra, welcome to the neighbourhood! Now that you’ve settled in and the school term has begun, you should update your address with Medicare for a chance to win $10,000, thanks to SERVICE ONE Members Banking.

Not only could you win the $10,000 cash, but by updating your address you will be supporting the local community you live in.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) uses Medicare data to calculate population figures, and this information is then used by the Commonwealth Government to allocate GST funding to each state and territory.

For every year that an ACT resident is not counted in the data, the ACT Government forgoes over $2,500 in GST funding.

So updating your address with Medicare will ensure we receive our fair share of funding to enable the ACT Government to provide new and improved services for the local community.

From 25 January to 2 March 2014, anyone who updates their address after moving to Canberra from interstate will be eligible to enter the competition to win $10,000!

To update your address visit www.humanservices.gov.au/medicare and then enter the competition at www.updateyouraddress.com.au

Community Notices

Mandarin for Kids Club (Mawson)
Date: 10th February 2014 Monday
Time: 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Venue: Mawson Primary School
Cost: $144 (Term 1)

A Fun Way to Become Bilingual

Register now with Sarah Mak
@0431252768 or sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au

New to Canberra? Update Your Address with Medicare for a Chance to Win $10,000!

If you’ve recently moved to Canberra, welcome to the neighbourhood! Now that you’ve settled in and the school term has begun, you should update your address with Medicare for a chance to win $10,000, thanks to SERVICE ONE Members Banking.

Not only could you win the $10,000 cash, but by updating your address you will be supporting the local community you live in.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) uses Medicare data to calculate population figures, and this information is then used by the Commonwealth Government to allocate GST funding to each state and territory.

For every year that an ACT resident is not counted in the data, the ACT Government forgoes over $2,500 in GST funding.

So updating your address with Medicare will ensure we receive our fair share of funding to enable the ACT Government to provide new and improved services for the local community.

From 25 January to 2 March 2014, anyone who updates their address after moving to Canberra from interstate will be eligible to enter the competition to win $10,000!

To update your address visit www.humanservices.gov.au/medicare and then enter the competition at www.updateyouraddress.com.au

Advertisements are included in Community News as a community service. The inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by either the school or the ACT Department of Education and Training.
TOP TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

Start your routines again as soon as you can. Getting back to school-day bedtimes is a good place to start. Decide on a school-day routine and stick to it.

Try to prepare in advance. Then you won’t be in a panic assembling books and gear at the last minute and your children will be equipped for their school day.

Be prepared for back-to-school blues. Changing from the relaxed and lazy days of summer is hard on all the family but if your child seems too worried or stressed, find out what is wrong and see what you and the school can do to help.

Talk about change. Whether it is a new school, or a change in your family’s circumstances, make time to talk about any fears or worries. Accompany your child so they can get used to the new journey.

Your child may be worried about losing friends who are going to a different school or about making new friends. Talk about ways children can gradually make new friends.

Tell your child you are excited for them and the year ahead. If your child is about to start an important year such as the first year at secondary school, they may need reassurance.

Address any problems left over from last term. If your child has experienced bullying or has had problems at school, discuss what they want to happen this year and how they can achieve their goals.

Be prepared to give them a bit of leeway for the first week. School can be a long day for children and when they are out of practice it can be exhausting. Early bedtimes and a regular routine are helpful.

Celebrate the first week back. Have a family outing or meal or other treat to regroup and talk about the week.

Acknowledgement: Times UK

---

Label all your child’s belongings
Ensure a healthy lunch and recess is packed daily (rubbish/wrapper free if possible)
At Mawson Primary we have fruit breaks at 10am to help stimulate our brains. Please pack a fruit or vegetable snack for your child.
Ensure your child has comfortable, well fitted and enclosed shoes
We are committed to sun safe practices at Mawson and ask all students have bucket hats (available to purchase from the front office). Wide brimmed hats with the cords are not permitted as it is considered dangerous.
Nominee Form

Please use this form to nominate for a position on your school board.

School Name: MAWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Assistant Returning Officer: Pamela Proud, 0488 388 579

Nominee Details:

Position: Staff members (A member of the staff of the school) No. of vacancies: 1

Position: Parents and citizens members (A member of school community) No. of vacancies: 2

Nomination:

I, ________________________________ am nominating for the position of ________________________________ on the school board.

If elected I will undertake the duties of the position.

Signature: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________

The Education and Training Directorate (the Directorate) is collecting the information on this form to enable it to conduct elections for school boards. This is authorised by section 41 of the Education Act 2004. This information will be disclosed to the school community to enable eligible voters to elect a nominee of their choice.

Lodgement Information:

Nominations are to be submitted to the school’s front office between 11 am, 3 February 2014 and 11 am, 17 February 2014. Nominations must be submitted during school business hours: 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the front office
- email to info@mawsonps.act.edu.au
- fax to (02) 6205 8026
- mail to ARO, c/- Mawson Primary, Ainsworth St, Mawson 2607

The names of all nominees will be announced on 19 February 2014.

If an election is required, the voting period will be from 11am 24 February 2014 to 11am 3 March 2014.