Dear Parents/Carers

Harmony Day At Mawson

Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity and is a day to promote inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Celebrating Harmony Day is a great tradition at Mawson Primary, and this year will be no exception! Next Friday, 20 March, we invite all students to come to school wearing their national costume or dressed in orange clothing. Students will be participating in Harmony Day activities in their classrooms during the day, and if you would like to share something with your child’s class (e.g. a story, song, photos or craft), please approach their teacher. We will also be having a special assembly at 12:45, which you are warmly invited to attend (please be encouraged to wear your national costume or orange clothing too!). This year, we will also be participating in “A Taste of Harmony”, and some families will be providing food from around the world for students to try. If you would like to be involved in this part of the day, please contact me by email: caroline.woolias@ed.act.edu.au.

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will also be held on next Friday, 20 March, to coincide with Harmony Day. This day provides a focus for all schools to say “Bullying. No Way!” and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time. As part of this initiative, Ms Constance Chen accompanied five students - Edeline O., Flynn O., Kyla V.D., Robert M. and Iris H. - to a conference on 'Staying Safe Online'. The conference provided students in years 5-10 and their teachers with an opportunity to further their understanding of cybersafety issues and how we can use student voice and activism to promote cybersafety in schools and the community. Our students had the opportunity to participate in workshops run by Project Rockit (Australia’s premier youth driven anti-bullying and leadership movement), Susan McLean of Cybersafety Solutions (a prominent Australian cybersafety and cybercrime expert) as well as planning their own National Day of Action engagement activities for our school. More information can be found online: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/national-day/

Lockdown Drill

A practice took place yesterday and all students were able to follow the procedures we have in place at our school to remain safe if there is an external fire, gas leak or other emergency situation. A lockdown involves all teachers and students silently hiding in classrooms with all doors and windows secured. It is important that students feel comfortable about the procedures so that things run smoothly in the event of a real emergency.

Preschool and Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments

Enrolments open on Tuesday, 28 April 2015 (first day of Term 2). Enrolments must be completed online at www.det.act.gov.au, by clicking on “Applications for Enrolment of Student in ACT Public Schools.” If you have questions about the process, please contact Mary at the front office on 6205 9033.

Chinese New Year Assembly

Last Friday, 3/4MIP hosted a wonderful assembly to celebrate the end of Chinese New Year. The performance items included: 1MIP – Congratulations, Congratulations 恭喜,恭喜; 2MIP – Three Sentences and half 三句半, 3/4MIP – 9x table in Mandarin 九九乘法口诀表 and Year 5 MIP – Year of the Sheep Greeting, Lion Dancing and Dragon Walking 贺羊年, 舞狮, 舞龙. We also presented LOTE awards to students as well as certificates to those families who kindly hosted our X’ian exchange students. Thank you to our Mandarin teachers for their hard work in coordinating this fantastic event.

Gifted and Talented 3-6 Maths Program

The ACT Education and Training Directorate’s Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 (which is available at http://det.act.gov.au) requires every school to ensure that there are established, effective and equitable processes and measures in place for the identification of gifted and talented students. At Mawson Primary, we have used parent, peer and teacher nominations, as well as data from standardised tests such as PAT Maths and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) to identify students who would benefit from inclusion in our Gifted and Talented Year 3 to 6 Maths Program. This program will begin on Monday 16 March, and notes will be sent home with participating students on that day. Rohan Evans is the school’s Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer (GATLO) and can be contacted with any queries.

Year 3 and Year 4/5/6 Camps

The Year 3 Camp to Birrigai will begin next Monday, with students leaving the school just after 9am. Teachers will be meeting with attending students on Friday to provide final information and answer any questions. Final notes for the 4/5/6 Camp to Borambola have been sent home and must be returned along with payment no later than Tuesday 31 March.

Swimming carnival ribbons will be given out at today’s assembly.

Ainsworth Street Mawson ACT 2607
Principal: Amanda Andrews
Deputy Principal: Rohan Evans
P&C President: Nicole Stewart
Preschool P&C President: Nicole Haughie

Phone: 6205 8033 Fax: 6205 8026
Business Manager: Gail Porter
Board Chair: Scott Gurney
Vice President:

Web Page: http://mawsonps.act.edu.au
info@mawsonps.act.edu.au
Board Members: Andrew Pritchard & Aleisha Broadhead
Secretary: Andrew Pritchard Treasurer: Milli Wong
Nominations have closed for the two Parents and Citizens member positions on the Board. As we have four nominees, voting will take place starting today Thursday 12 March (11am) and concluding Thursday 19 March (11am). You are eligible to vote in the election if you are a person within the school community. In line with Education and Training Directorate guidelines Ballot papers are available from the front office. Below are the four nominees.

Get your votes in

**Donna Theron**
I was born and raised in Canberra, and I have been a member of the local Mawson Community for over 10 years. I am a mother, a foster carer, and an individual who has a passion for making a difference to my own children's life, and that of children at our school, and within our Community.

On a professional level, I work in the Private Sector in a Senior role in the Media industry. I am a key decision maker in my organisation with a stable mind, and have responsibility for the strategic direction of my team, ensuring positive outcomes for all stake-holders.

I am excited by the opportunity to be a 'Voice for parents', and to assist the school with achieving the desired outcomes that improve the school, and develop the relationship between the school and the Community.

**Nicole Haughie**
I am a mum of a gorgeous girl who is in kindergarten. Last year I became the president of the Mawson Preschool Parenting Association as I was interested in contributing and getting to know what happens at school, I also became a member of the Mawson P&C as I believed it was important that there was a strong link between the preschool and the school. We had a lot of fun and managed to raise funds to assist the teachers in supporting the children's interests and made a number of exciting purchases for them. I also spent time looking at options to ensure the longevity of fundraising and involvement of parents with the preschool in future years. I, like everyone, am a busy parent, I currently work as a business analyst and user experience consultant. I love to read, feed people and have decided this is the year to fulfill a lifelong wish of learning to play the piano (I have already conquered Mary has a little lamb).
Patricia Stewart
Hi everyone, I am Patricia Copas Stewart but I prefer to go by Tricia. My family and I moved to Australia 3 years ago so I could continue working and studying biologic research. My two kids Nicole (year 5) and Serenity (Kindergarten) have just moved to Mawson this year as it is the best school in the Universe. The multicultural nature of the school and strong focus on language was an important reason we moved. I am so proud of the work being done by the staff and parents of the school I felt it important to participate as much as possible. I look forward to an opportunity to work closely with others who have been meeting the needs of the students, staff and community.

Scott Gurney
I again seek election to the Mawson Primary School Board as the Parents and Citizens representative. I have been a member of the Mawson Primary school community for six years. During this time I have seen Mawson Primary grow into one of the best schools in the ACT. My son Cody is in year 4 and my daughter Clare is in year 3. I am very familiar with the school as a teaching entity, and am an active member of the P&C, assisting most social events (BBQs) and supporting sporting events hosting by the school. Those that know me know that I am a very active participant in my children's education and have a passion for their Mandarin learning and their sporting activities. I also talk to other parents about their concerns and interests in their children's education and give feedback to the School Board. Some of the things the board has approved during my term include; the fence, the new asphalt area and the classroom refurbishments. I currently work as a contract Manager at the Department of Human Services and have lived in the Canberra region my whole life. If elected I will continue to represent to the best of my ability to optimise outcomes for students, their families and the Mawson community.

SCHOOL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN ON 1 APRIL. ALL STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN CLEAN, FULL SUMMER UNIFORM.

THERE IS A LARGE NUMBER OF LOST PROPERTY. PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO ALWAYS LABEL THEIR CHILD'S BELONGINGS. IF YOU CHILD HAS ANYTHING MISSING CHANCES ARE THAT IT IS IN LOST PROPERTY, LOCATED AT THE FRONT OFFICE.
Recently, all government schools in the ACT completed a Census, gathering information about all students who speak English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD). At Mawson Primary School, this is a big task, as we are fortunate to have at least forty-seven different languages spoken at home by Mawson students! More than fifty percent of our students were themselves – or have at least one of their parents – born overseas. Here is a map of the sixty-five countries where students and their families were born:

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

Afrikaans, Arabic, Bangla, Burmese, Cantonese, Croatian, Czech, Dinka, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Ghanaian, Gujarati, Hindi, Hokkien, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Madi, Malay, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Mongolian, Nepali, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Samoan, Shona, Sinhalese, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese.

BE PROUD OF MAWSON

ACT Smart Schools
School Grounds and biodiversity Accreditation

Acknowledges the actions the School has undertaken to create a more sustainable future for students, staff, families and community.
Isabella M. 1P has been short listed in the Earth Hour Schools Competition!

Isabella has entered and been shortlisted in the Earth Hour Schools Competition and needs your vote to win. Entries are shortlisted based on their capacity to show an interest in local produce or their local farming area combined with a passion to raise awareness about how climate change affects how our food is produced.

Voting for shortlisted entries opened the 10 March and will close 5pm Tuesday 17 of March. One like for the image of a shortlisted entry on the Earth Hour Australia Facebook page equals one vote.

Earth Hour and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition will help the winners have their work seen by millions of people in the lead up to Earth Hour Schools Day (Friday 27th March) and Earth Hour (Saturday 28th March).

All you have to do is follow this link and click “like” to vote.

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155265723660117.1073741830.94410305116&type=3&uploaded=2

Thank You from
Teachers Nicole Parker and Kathryn Glanville

Earth Hour Australia 2015 - Schools
www.earthhour.org.au
2015 is the Year of the Goat according to the Chinese zodiac. To start off our new school year, we would like to wish you a Happy Chinese New Year!

Our Year 6 MIP students are in their final year of Primary Schooling, so they are now the leaders of our school. From week 1, Year 6 have led Year 5 students to work cooperatively to learn about leadership and the features of a good leader.

Sir Douglas Mawson was an enthusiastic teacher who helped students in their learning.

Sir Douglas Mawson was helpful, as a series of weather reports that were initiated by him and the other early Antarctic explorers are still important weather research documents.

Sir Douglas Mawson also showed his resilience when he was under extreme pressure and the worst weather conditions during his epic treks in Antarctica.

We have been learning the structure and features of a narrative this term, in both English and Mandarin. We are going to demonstrate achievement of our learning outcomes by producing a Chinese picture story book: Three little sheep go for a trip.

5/6 MIP teacher: Constance Chen
18 March was Chinese New Year Eve. We made some delicious dumplings to celebrate!

2015 is the Year of the Goat. Happy New Year!
新年快乐！
An app is available called “The Allen Adventure” for P – 3 students. This app is a sun way for teaching social skills and exploring how to deal unpleasant or difficult behaviour.

The 2015 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is being held on Friday 20 March 2015. The National Day of Action provides a focus for schools and the wider school community, including parents and carers, to strengthen their everyday messages against bullying and violence.


This website provides parents with information to support their children and includes:
- Facts
- What is bullying (including cyberbullying)?
- Why does bullying happen?
- My child is being bullied
- What are the signs that a child might be being bullied?
- Tips to help your child if they are being bullied.
- My child has been bullying
- What are the signs that a child might be bullying others?
- Tips to help your child if they are bullying other children.
- My child has seen bullying take place
- Tips to help your child if they have seen bullying take place.
- Who should I tell?
- What should I say to the school?
- What can I expect the school to do?
- Where else can I get support?
Helping kids deal with rejection

A bit of rejection and disappointment is good for kids, as long as they learn how to cope with it...

One of the keys to functioning socially and emotionally is the ability to deal with disappointment and rejection. Most children experience some type of rejection from their peers throughout childhood. One study found that even popular children were rejected about one quarter of the time when they approached children in school.

Paradoxically, children's experience of rejection and disappointment at school is good for them, as long as it's balanced with successful experiences too. They learn that they can cope and solve problems in their own way and that bad experiences don't last forever.

And they learn that sadness and disappointment can be managed too, which is an important lesson to learn to take into adolescence and beyond, when life is full of ups and downs.

Helping them move on

Most children recover from such rejection. They move on and form constructive, worthwhile relationships but some children need help. They often take rejection personally, blaming themselves. As a parent it is useful to challenge children’s unhelpful thinking and encourage them to look for new friendship opportunities. Parents can help children understand that rejection may happen for any number of reasons that are unrelated to them.

In the course of a school day children will meet with a number of challenges and even setbacks. They may struggle with some schoolwork. They may not do well in a test and they may not be picked for a game that they wanted to play. Children grow stronger when they overcome their difficulties. The challenge for parents is to build and maintain children's confidence levels to help them get through the rough times.

One way to help children deal with rejection and disappointment is to talk through problems or difficulties, recognising and accepting their feelings. Talk about various scenarios, discussing possible outcomes. The age of your child will determine the amount of detail. Keep things simple and avoid burdening a younger child with concepts he or she doesn’t understand.

Your attitude as a parent can make a huge difference to how a child reacts. If you see rejection or disappointments as problems then your child will be hamstrung by this view. See them as challenges then your child, in all likelihood, will pick up your upbeat view and deal with disappointments easily. After all, confidence is catching!

To help children handle rejection and disappointment try the following four strategies:

1. Model optimism. Watch how you present the world to children, as they will pick up your view.

2. Tell children how you handle disappointment and rejection. Not only is it reassuring for children to know that their parents understand how they feel but they can learn a great deal by how their parents handle situations.

3. Help children recognise times in the past when they bounced back from disappointment. Help them recognise those same strategies can be used again.

4. Laugh together. Humour is a great coping mechanism. It helps put disappointment in perspective. It helps them understand that things will get better. They always do.

The stronger the wind the stronger the trees is the notion here. Supporting kids to handle life's hurdles helps them to develop a lasting sense of resilience, which is essential for good mental and emotional health.

Michael Grose
A free seminar and discussion session for parents and carers as well as early childhood educators, teachers and others interested in bilingual education.

The program will be led by a panel comprising a teacher at a bilingual school, two parents who are raising bilingual children and two young adults who have grown up bilingually.

After a break for refreshments, networking and time to pursue written information about bilingualism and language learning ideas and options, participants can explore specific topics and hear more discussion of useful resources, including websites.

Children welcome but must under parental supervision at all times.

For more details or to book a place email: Canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance with the support of the Australian National University and the ACT Government’s 2014-15 Multicultural Grants Program

**CANBERRA BILINGUAL MUMS’N’BUBS**
A new group in Canberra to share tips and experiences for bringing bubs up bilingually, and for networking with other mums and bubs that share your languages. The group will organise regular meetings to help support those wanting to bring their bubs up bilingually, as it can be a hard task for native and non-native parents alike!

Find out more from their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/374193169405460/

**SBS PROGRAM IN ITALIAN FOR BILINGUAL FAMILIES**
Speak or understand Italian? You can now listen to podcasts from a weekly SBS radio program featuring interviews with families and others sharing their thoughts and ideas about bilingualism and maintaining and developing bilingual skills.


**FUN FOR CHILDREN OVER 5 YEARS OLD AT LANGUAGE-BASED SCOUT GROUPS**
There are now four bilingual scout groups for children to have fun and adventure in other languages: German, French, Mandarin and Spanish. For more details see:


Australian Pfadfinder scouts (German) http://www.spielwelt.org.au/home/page.php?pid=55

Chinese Phoenix Scout Group http://www.phoenixscout.org/


Interested in starting up a scout group in another language? ACT Scouts will offer support. Contact Lisa on spielwelt@homemail.com.au for tips on who to speak to.

**INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY A GREAT SUCCESS**

Over 400 people celebrated International Mother Language Day on Saturday 21 February. The walk across Commonwealth Bridge was followed by live music, cultural performances, kids’ activities and multicultural food stalls in Commonwealth Park. Everyone received a free T-shirt specifically designed for the event, which helped symbolise the spirit of 'unity in diversity' among the participants, who represented over 20 different cultural and ethnic groups and spoke more than 40 languages.

Missed the event this year? Come and join the celebration on 21 February 2016, which will be a Sunday!

For ABC news coverage of the 2015 event, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sVcbPQNmyw&feature=youtu.be

**FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME**