Dear Parents/Carers
We would like to welcome Nadia S. 5/6F, Sabina 3K & Adam S. 1/2F, Ti-lah H. 5/6F & Payten H. KK, Pranav A. 4M & Jacqueline W. 4M and families to our wonderful school.

Message from Minister for Education and Training Joy Burch MLA— Getting Involved in Your Child’s School is a Key to Education Success
The ACT’s national leadership in education is founded on the quality of our schools, our teachers, and our focus on putting parents and children at the centre of everything we do. I recently announced the Progressing Parental Engagement in the ACT project, an Australia-first to help parents and families get more involved with their children’s schools and education.

Simply by reading this newsletter, you are showing your interest in being involved with the education of your children. We know children do better at school when parents and families are actively engaged. After all, you are your child’s first teachers and I encourage you to maintain connected throughout their schooling.

There are many ways of doing this and, as part of the project, your school will be invited to develop innovative ideas to help you to be an active part of your school community. We will keep you updated on how the project will support you in doing this.

With your help we can ensure that your child will get the very best education, tailored for them – and that the ACT will continue to lead the nation in educating our children.

Medical Excursion Form
It is a requirement from Education and Training Directorate, that a separate Medical Excursion Form be completed for all activities or excursions that take place away from the local area. Details of the policy can be located at: http://www.det.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policy_a-z.

Uniform Requirements
At Mawson it is expected that students abide by a dress standard while attending school or official school activities. Parents are encouraged to purchase the correct uniform from the school. The school uniform is outsourced to Noble Style.

A sizing rack is kept at the front office. Uniform order forms are returned to the school. All clothing can be picked up at the school each Tuesday. For those cold mornings we have royal blue leggings for girls available for $16.

Study Tour to Mawson Primary School by students and teachers from Kingfar School, Xi’an- China.
Thank you to the two families who have offered to host our visitors in August. The school would appreciate your support for this Study Tour and request expressions of interest be returned by this Friday 9 May.

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

Phone: 6205 8033 Fax: 6205 8026
Business Manager: Gail Porter
Board Chair: Scott Gurney
Vice President: Scott Gurney
Web Page: http://mawsonps.act.edu.au
info@mawsonps.act.edu.au
Treasurer: Janelle Patten

P&C Mother’s Day Stall
When: This Friday 9 May
Time: 8:30-9:30am
Where: Environmental Centre
Cost: $5 and under

COMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>Breakfast club 8:15am</td>
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<td>8 May</td>
<td>Thursday banking</td>
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<td>9 May</td>
<td>P&amp;C mother’s day stall 8:30-9:30am</td>
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<td>9 May</td>
<td>Assembly 12:45pm</td>
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<td>13-15 May</td>
<td>Years 3&amp;5 NAPLAN</td>
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Thursday is bank day!
We made the Chinese character 马 (horse) using different materials after learning about Chinese New Year.

Literacy Rotation

Move to learn – switching on our body and brain

Measuring using sand and water

We tried out best at Cross Country.

Chinese version of Duck Duck Goose (苹果 苹果 香蕉 Apple Apple Banana).

Class Meeting
1/2F have had an exciting first term together, growing as a class and exploring many new learning areas together. With more than seven countries represented in the class, it has been interesting as we share with each other our backgrounds, families, and relate learning to our various customs. We are learning to work together as a team, in small groups, and to build friendships individually. Below is a mind map we did together at the start of the year.

For History class, students have brought in family photos, and practising their oral language, shared their family traditions, interests, and past. As the current theme is ‘Past and Present’, it has been interesting to share our thoughts and ideas about some major differences and similarities in time (for example, toys, roles, photographs).

We started Term 2 with a bang last week, commencing with an assembly practice. What a busy week it was! We performed two pieces for the school, including a fun version of ‘Old Macdonald’s Farm’ and a traditional dress-up show, displaying clothing representing a mix of family traditions and interests. The students worked well in class, and have really enjoyed singing to the guitar, and moving to actions. It was wonderful as a teacher to see further arts-related interests and talents surface, and identify the students who buzzed from the whole experience.

Teacher: Ms Anna Flutsch
Dear Families

I am delighted to inform you that Mawson Primary School has the opportunity to host a 6-day study tour to Canberra by students and teachers from Xi’an Kingfar School from China. Xi’an City is the home of the very famous Terracotta Warriors.

The students are coming to experience Australian culture, see local flora and fauna and improve their English language proficiency through conversation with their host families and intensive English language sessions at school. They will be able to experience learning in an Australian classroom and have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the diversity of our Australian culture by interacting with teachers, students and families at Mawson Primary School. Our students will have the opportunity to practise their Mandarin language with the visitors and show them what life is like in an Australian school.

We expect that there will be 20 upper primary students and 2 teachers coming to our school.

The dates for the tour are Sunday 3- Friday 8 August. They will arrive in Canberra on Sunday around midday and leave the following Friday to travel to Sydney International Airport. I am including an overview of the week’s programs for your information. Please see the itinerary of the visit. Attachment on Xi’an Kingfar School.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

The study tour is coordinated by the ACT Government Education and Training Directorate’s International Education Program and includes homestay. The school needs host families during the students and teachers stay in Canberra. Homestay is when local families open their homes to visiting international students and provide a safe and nurturing place to live during their stay in Canberra. Homestay is one of the most valuable components of international education in Canberra.

International students pay fees to cover all living expenses. Expenses reimbursed include three meals a day, snacks, electricity, water, laundering and supply of house hold items such as bed linen and towels.

Currently host families will be paid $256 for this 6 day study tour.

A homestay family provides international students with the opportunity to experience life with a local family and is the best way for students to improve their English. Homestay families gain a unique understanding of cultural diversity through the relationship that develops with the student they host.

Host families will have to apply for a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. Under the new policy, to host international students, every person over 18 years old in the homestay household must have WWVP card. International Education has provided a Proof of Volunteer Status letter for the application fee waiver. This Proof of Volunteer Status letter needs to accompany the application when you are submitting your application at any ACT Government shop front. This process has been relatively quick and easy for study tours that took place in February this year.

The Education and Training Directorate have completed most of the information on the application form. All families need to do is complete personal information and lodge the form.

Homestay guidelines for families having students from Kingfar School, Xi’an- China.

Short term visits provide particular cultural and educational benefits. The contact and interaction between visiting students and host school community broadens the horizons and enriches the lives of all involved. The visits are an important instrument in the development of improved cultural awareness, understanding and friendship between Australia and other countries.

The reimbursement received by host families is for the provision of 3 meals and snacks per day and no more than 2 students (same sex) sharing a room.

The following are some of the essential requirements to become a homestay family.

- As students come to Australia to learn English it is important that English is spoken in the home.
- You will need some knowledge and understanding of the needs of young people, a realistic expectation of cultural, linguistics and religious differences and an awareness of the emotional needs of young people who are away form their home environment.
- A clear but flexible approach to matters of discipline, house rules and cooperative living is needed. House rules and expectations should be clearly explained to the student on his/her arrival.
- A stable living environment with an Australian family is very important part of a student assimilating into Australian society and improving their English.
- It is necessary to supply each student with their own bed. The bed must be a proper bed with bed linen and blankets.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks are to be provided for the student. Students must be provided with a packed lunch and recess snacks for each day of the program. A water bottle needs to be brought each day.
- It is expected that the host family will arrange for the washing and ironing of the visitor’s clothes.
- Please make it clear to the student which electrical equipment in your home he/she may use and any restrictions on this use.
- If problems occur, the first thing to do is discuss the matter with the student. If the problem cannot be resolved contact the principal, Amanda Andrews.
**ACT Government Education and Training Directorate - Canberra Study Tour Program**

**15-20 students + 2 teachers**

**3 Aug 2014 – 8 Aug 2014**

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|        |         |           | Group depart China | Group arrive Sydney | Sydney Tour day 2 | August 3
|        |         |           |         | Sydney Tour day 1 |         | Arrive in Canberra at Noon |
|        |         |           |         |         |         | Meeting buddies and host families at School |
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 3**
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 4**
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 5**
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 6**
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 7**
|        |         |           |         |         |         | **August 8**
| August 4 | August 5 | August 6 | August 7 | August 8 |         |         |
| Morning ESL Class | Morning ESL Class | Morning ESL Class | Morning ESL Class |     Day Excursion | Farwell Function |         |
|        |         |           |         |         |         |         |

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**Homestay Accommodation for Kingfar School, Xi’an Sunday 3 - Friday 8 August 2014.**

Please complete the following form and return to the front office by **Friday 9 May 2014**, to express your interest in providing homestay accommodation for the Kingfar students during their study tour at Mawson Primary School.

Name ______________________________________________________

Student’s name_________________________________________ Class________________

Name and age of other children in the family.

Pets:______________________________________________________

Home address______________________________________________

Telephones:
Home:________________ Work:________________ Mobile:________________

Email address:____________________________________________

Please circle: I wish to host  1 student    2 students

Signature:_________________________________________________

Please return to the front office by **Friday 9 May 2014**.
Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been involved in the guitar program for the past 4 years. Students learn guitar once a week in a 30 minute lesson. In 2010 the School and P&C purchased 13 guitars to trial the guitar program as part of teacher’s release. Due to the overwhelming success of the program the P&C purchased a further 15 guitars so students could practise individually in lessons. Some students who enjoy the guitar program have purchased a guitar to continue their practice at home or receive outside tuition. Students are always encouraged to bring in their own guitar for their class lesson.

The year 3 students have only just started learning guitar. They learn about the different types of guitars, sizes, shapes and sounds. The students listen to different types of music that involve the guitar from classical to rock.

The students practise on classical guitars due to the cost of the guitar and the softness of the strings. We have two sizes of guitars for the students; full size and three-quarter. The size of the students hand determines which guitar they use.

The students begin to learn songs by using tab music. Instead of naming the note the students learn to place their finger on a fret which is indicated by a number.

**BLUES BROTHERS**

E.................................................................................................
B.................................................................................................
G.................................................................................................
D.................................................................................................
A.................................................................................................
E...0.....0.....2.....0.....3.....0.....5.....4...............  

The students learn to play a number of riffs from songs including Smoke On The Water, TNT, Thunderstruck, Satisfaction, My Girl, Brown Eyed Girl, Paint It Black, Are you Going To Be My Girl, Mission Impossible and Seven Nation Army.

Students in Years 5 and 6 have been learning to play basic chords. These chords have allowed them to play Brown Eyed Girl at a very slow pace. The year 6 students have been using the ipads to choose their own style of music.

G                C                D  
E…3…………0……………2…………………………………..
B…0…………1……………3……………………………………
G…0…………0……………2……………………………………
D…0…………2……………0……………………………………
A…2…………3……………X……………………………………
E…3…..…..…0....…..…...X..…………………………………

All students perform in front of the class each week whether it be in a group or individually. Each term we attempt to select a number of students to show case their skills at assembly.

If you have any questions about the program please do not hesitate to contact Rohan Evans on 62058033.

At morning line up each day we celebrate student and teacher birthdays by singing happy birthday in English and Mandarin. Here are the characters and pinyin for your information. Your child should be able to help you learn it.

Zhù nǐ shēng rì kuài lè, zhù nǐ shēng rì kuài lè.

祝 你 生日 快乐，祝 你 生日 快乐。

English translation: To you birthday happy

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you.
The value to be addressed over the next fortnight is ‘Respect’. It encompasses all the other values.

Many of the difficulties facing society today are due to the lack of respect for others, ourselves and our environment. In the process of becoming technologically and scientifically advanced the youth have often overlooked the wisdom of older people.

Being respectful is an attitude of caring and treating everyone and everything as you would like yourself and your possessions treated. “Treat others as you would like to be treated.” This concept is common to every doctrine in the world.

Self-respect is developed when you protect your rights for things that are important to you.

Being respectful makes people feel valued. It is shown in the way you speak and act towards others. People’s privacy is not violated and you take extra care of their belongings. You speak courteously to each other, particularly elders and treat others as if they matter.

Respecting the rules of the society, your family, workplace and school creates a more peaceful and pleasant environment for all. It helps to keep you safe and provide a sense of order.

Respect is not allowing others to use or hurt you. It is an act of treating yourself in such a way as to care of yourself through nutritious food, exercise, sleep and relaxation.

Thankyou to those families who came along to cheer on their children in the races, as well as those individuals who helped out on the day. Congratulations to Stacey Meyer and Sara Kaltenbrunner for coordinating this successful event.
P&C meeting
Wednesday 7 May
@ the Environmental Centre,
6:30pm
We will be meeting to discuss ways Mawson parents can support and encourage student's learning of Mandarin. ALMA (Australian Learners of Mandarin Association) has been invited as the guest speaker and to join in the discussion. P&C committee meeting to follow. Hope you can come along.

To stay up to date about school news and events:

You can find us @
https://www.facebook.com/mawsonprimary.pceor simply search for
Mawson Primary P&C
Mandarin for Kids (5-12 years old) Term 2, 2014 @ Mawson Primary School

An engaging and progressive language program for your child.

Start Date: 5 May (Monday)
Time: 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Cost: $140 per child (8 lessons)

For enrolment, please go to our LCF website
www.lcfclubs.com.au

Register or Enquire Sarah Mak @0431252768 (sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au)

FOOD ALLERGY WEEK 2014

A key focus of the week is to help increase schools understanding of food allergies, their importance and to ensure that best practice allergy management plans are in place.

The theme for this year is Be Aware. Show You Care.

Please visit www.foodallergyaware.com.au for further information or to download resources for your school.

Weston Creek Forum on Children's Physical Health and Wellbeing

The ACT Government with ACT Medicare Local are hosting this community event promote the importance of early child development to achieve future positive outcomes. This forum may be of interest to parents/guardians and health, education and community professionals in the Weston Creek area who have an interest in the physical health and wellbeing of young children.

Places are limited. For more information please visit ACT Government Community Services Please contact Natasha Hudson on 6207 1961 for further information.

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.
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it's best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May, Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You've probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests place undue pressure on children to perform in best-seller situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it's best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago through his research into children's thinking styles, how closely a child's explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent's explanatory style seems to be magnified somewhat in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent, it helps your child if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It's better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It's also worth remembering that many children don't stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:** If your child doesn't worry about them, neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn't exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about, them.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:** Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results.

The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:** If your child confesses to some worries then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a 'get over it' response. "Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them. Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional skills which starts with recognizing how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:** Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain in their perspective:** One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what's the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practice.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it's going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.
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<td>Yr 6 visit Melrose P&amp;C meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>Breakfast club 8:15am</td>
<td>Assembly 12:45pm South Weston X Country</td>
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<td>ICAS Computer comp</td>
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<td>Board meeting 6:15pm</td>
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<td>Kindergarten excursion to the National Library 10am</td>
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<td>Assembly 12:45pm</td>
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<td>JUNE</td>
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<td>ICAS writing comp</td>
<td>ICAS spelling comp</td>
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<td>Assembly 12:45pm Christian education class 2-3pm</td>
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<td>3 Way Interviews</td>
<td>Interview late night</td>
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<td>JUNE/ JULY</td>
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<td>Breakfast club 8:15am</td>
<td>Assembly 12:45pm End of term</td>
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Term break Monday 7 July to Friday 18 July 2014