Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of the 2015 school year for new and returning students and families. A special welcome to our Preschool and Kindergarten families and congratulations on choosing Mawson Primary School for the start of your child’s education journey. The staff and I look forward to working with you and your child in their learning this year.

This will be an exciting term with many activities already planned. These include the community BBQ and class teacher information evening next Thursday 12 February, the get to know your child interviews, swimming carnival, Harmony Day assembly and Year 3-6 camps. More information will be published in the weekly newsletter closer to the time of each event.

This year our newsletter, Schoolweek, will be sent out by email each Thursday. If you have not given the school your email address, please contact Mary at the front office. If you do not have an email address contact Mary, as we do have a small number of printed copies available each week from the front office.

I am delighted to introduce several new teachers who are joining the awesome Mawson staff. Ms Kim Middleton (Kindergarten), Ms Nicole Parker (Year 1) Ms Gina Nestler (Year 3), Ms Monica Marsham (Year 4/5) Ms Kathryn Glanville (Environmental Centre) and Maria Sofo (Learning Support Unit). Ms Leonie Jenvey (Learner Support Assistant), Taneal Proctor Integrated Support and Sunny Wang MIP Teacher also joins the awesome Mawson teaching team. Ms Sara Kaltenbrunner has moved to Calwell Primary and we wish her all the very best at her new school. Ms Sharon Fellows will be acting in the Deputy Principal role at Garran Primary this term.

This edition contains information on how you can nominate for the parent position on the School Board. Please complete the nomination form and return it to the school by 11.00am on Thursday 19 February 2015. There is a locked letter box located at the front office for nominations, to maintain the confidentiality of the process.

Warmest regards
Amanda Andrews
Principal

---

**P & C Community, BBQ, P-6 DISCO AND PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS**

This year we will be having our school community BBQ on the same evening as the class information sessions, where you will get to know what is happening this year in your child’s learning. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and complete a written questionnaire about your child. You will also be able to book a time to meet your child’s teacher/teachers to share information that may assist the teacher to meet your child’s academic, social or emotional needs. While families attend the information sessions several teachers will supervise the disco.

**Overview of the evening**

5.30-6.00 pm Mawson P&C ’s community BBQ
6.00pm Hall to meet the teachers and a few words from the Principal!
6.15-7.00pm Kindergarten, Years 1, 3 & 3/4 classes
7.00-7.45pm Year 2, 4/5 and 5/6 classes

---

**Xi’an Student Study Tour**

Wednesday 25 February to Monday 2 March.
Thank you to those families who have expressed an interest in hosting one of the 12 students from Xi’an, China, who will be accompanied by a female teacher. There are 10 Year 4 students from Xi’an Quijiang No 1 Primary School - 7 males and 3 females. There are 2 male Year 8 students with one from Xi’an Quijiang No 1 High School and one from Xi’an Jiaotong University No 2 Middle School. Please return forms on pages 8-10 to Mary by Wednesday 11 February, if you would like to host a student.
Each year Board elections are held in February, to elect school community representatives for a two year term. In February, 2015, the school will be seeking nominations to fill four positions on Mawson Primary School Board. For 2015-2016. These positions are:

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

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 Scott Gurney, current School Board Chair.

Nominations open on Thursday 5 February 2015 at 11am and close on Thursday 19 February 2015 at 11am.

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

See page 5 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 Thursday 12 February at the information session you will receive an envelop containing:

Permission to be photographed only Yr1-6 returning students.
Family details check list.

Please complete, sign these and return them with your child to his/her teacher by Tuesday 17 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.

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.

Please remember that the speed limit is 10km as indicated on the sign at the entrance to the car park.

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 may 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 as we have students being dropped off and collected.

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.

**Morning Routine**
Each morning a teacher is on duty in the playground from 8.30am until the first bell at 8.58am. Students go to the top playground leave their bags and move to the lower playground. 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.

---

### Student Injury Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained. As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity **within the ACT.**
General School Board Elections

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: 2

Position: Parents and citizens members (A member of school community) No. of vacancies: 1

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, 5 February 2015 and 11 am, 19 February 2015. 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 20 February 2015.

If an election is required, the voting period will be from 11am 23 February 2015 to 11am 2 March 2015.
School Banking Rewards now available! Term 1

These new rewards have just been released for Term 1, and are available while stocks last:

ET DVD
Planet Handball

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for these exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. There are 2 new items to come in Term 2 as well!

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking program Information Pack from the School office.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Thursday is School Banking day!

To stay up to date about school news and events:

You can find us @
https://www.facebook.com/mawsonprimary.pc
or simply search for
Mawson Primary P&C
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Dear Parents,
Our school has received a request by parents for their children to receive Christian Education (CE) as part of our school curriculum, based on provisions in the Education Act 2004. The Christian Education In Schools (CEIS) project of the ACT Churches’ Council provides a coordinated service to fulfil such requests. This service includes 4 modern and interactive CE sessions each year, prepared professionally and delivered by trained and endorsed volunteers. The one-hour sessions are designed for small groups of students, encouraging them to discuss and explore the topics outlined on the attached postcard.

Parent permission is essential for children to attend CEIS. To assist the CEIS coordination process at our school, please use the section below to indicate your preferred request for your children. Parents requesting ‘yes’ have the option to do this online at www.ceis.org.au/yes (which will be forwarded to the school). Requests will remain in effect while your children attend this school, but can be changed simply by contacting the front office. Each CEIS session will be advertised in the relevant school newsletters.

For further information please contact the school or visit www.ceis.org.au.

Regards,

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

☐ YES, I request that my child/ren listed below participate in the CEIS sessions offered at school.

☐ NO, I do not want my child/ren listed below to participate in CEIS.

CHILD: ________________________________ Class: __________

CHILD: ________________________________ Class: __________

CHILD: ________________________________ Class: __________

Parent/carer signature _______________________________________ Date__________________
Parents please note
Hats with cords are not allowed in schools.
As a safety measure against strangulation, if you child has a hat with a cord, please cut it off before they come to school.
Please complete the following form and return it to the front office by Wednesday 11 February 2015, to express your interest in providing homestay accommodation for a Chinese student(s) on an educational/cultural visit to Mawson Primary School for the period 25 February to Monday 2 March 2015.

Name of Parents: ______________________________________________

Name of child __________________________ Year: _________________

Name and age of other children in the family:
_________________________ Age: ________
_________________________ Age: ________
_________________________ Age: ________

Pets: ______________________________________________

Home address: _____________________________________________

Telephone number: Home: _______________ Work: _______________

Mobile: ______________________

Email address: _____________________________________________

I wish to host 1 2 student(s).

Signature (parent/guardian): ____________________________ Date: ________

Please return to the front office by Wednesday 11 February 2015
NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

SELF DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be used to self-disclose incidents, factors, police records or any other information that may be relevant.

If space is not sufficient, please attach an additional sheet and sign it too.

I have no matters to disclose.

Signature..................................................Date: ........../........./..............

Please Print Name:................................................................................................

I wish to disclose the following matters:

Signature of Applicant: .................................................. Date: ........../........./..............

Please Print Name: .........................................................

The ACT Government Education and Training Directorate (the Directorate) is collecting the information on this form to enable it to provide host families for students from overseas in the ACT Government school system. This is authorized by section 8 of the Education Act 2004 (ACT).

PLEASE RETURN TO THE FRONT OFFICE BY Wednesday 11 February 2015.
HOMESTAY GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES HAVING STUDENTS FROM XIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 25 February to Monday 2 March 2015

Short term visits provide particular cultural and educational benefits. The contact and interaction between visiting students and the 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.

Becoming a homestay family for an overseas student is a very worthwhile experience. The students from China are coming to Australia as a group and will participate in a program of English language tuition and cultural experiences at our school.

Homestay host families are currently paid $40 per day to host students on a study tour. The provisions include 3 meals and snacks per day and no more than 2 students sharing a room (same sex). **Families can take two students if they wish.**

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

1. As students come to Australia to learn English, it is essential that English is spoken in the home.
2. You will need some knowledge and understanding of the needs of young people, a realistic expectation of cultural, linguistic and religious differences and an awareness of the emotional needs of young people who are away from their home environment.
3. 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.
4. A stable living environment with an Australian family is a very important part of a student assimilating into Australian society and improving their English. It is essential that the overseas student becomes part of the family and participates in family activities. It is not appropriate for students to be left alone in the evenings or on the weekend.
5. It is necessary to supply each student with their own bed. The bed must be a proper bed with bed linen and blankets.
6. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are to be provided for the student. Students must be provided with a packed lunch and recess snack for each day of the program. **A water bottle brought to school each day.**
7. It is expected that the hosting family will arrange for the washing and ironing of the visitor’s clothes.
8. Please make it clear to the student which electrical equipment in your home he/she may use and any restrictions on this use.
9. If problems occur, the first thing to do is to discuss the matter with the student. If the problems cannot be resolved contact the principal, Amanda Andrews, on 0434 363 520

**Working with Vulnerable People** cards

Under the new policy, to host international students, every person over 18 years old in the homestay household must have the above card.

As mentioned in the information sent home earlier, you need to apply for a **Working with Vulnerable People** (WWV) card. There will be no cost to you but it could take a few weeks to be processed.

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. The Education and Training Directorate have completed most of the information on the application form. Each adult will need to complete a separate form.