

malkara matters

the newsletter for
Malkara families



ACT
Government
Education

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8 June 2018

Diary Dates:

- **Reconciliation Bush Tucker Gardens - Opening**
Thurs 7 June, 12:15pm
- **Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday**
Monday 11 June
- **P & C Meeting**
Wednesday 27 June, 6:30pm
- **MRE**
Sat 4 & Sun 5 August

Inside this issue:

- Principal's report
- Deputy Principal's report
- Aqua Animals
- What is MRE?
- Numeracy Strategies Handout
- Community notices

Assembly Fridays @ 12:15pm/ 2:15pm	
Week 6	White/ Aqua
Week 7	Silver/ Blue
Week 8	Emerald/ Green
Week 9	Teal/ Purple
Week 10	Red/ Mauve
Subject to change	

Dear Families

Over the past few weeks we have been busy at school installing our Bush Tucker Gardens and murals- the project funded by a grant from the Reconciliation Council for Reconciliation week. The work has been overseen by Emm Greene, with support from both students and staff. Everyone enjoyed the day we added our hand prints to the wall around our new possum - it was a lovely sensory experience for all of us! This Wednesday students had the opportunity to explore the plants in the garden under the expertise of Adam Shipp, Wiradjuri man. Adam encouraged the students to look at, touch and smell the various plants in the garden and now we are looking forward to later in the year when we will be able to taste some of the fruits as they develop. The opening of our Reconciliation Bush Tucker gardens and outdoor learning spaces was held on Thursday, led by Dr Matilda House, Ngambri Elder. The school is deeply appreciative of the support we have received for the project from Dan Greene, Alyawarr man and 2017 ACT Naidoc person of the year.



Another project that we are very excited about is our entry into a short film competition called *Focus on Ability*. The competition is held every year and celebrates the abilities of students with disabilities.

One of our classroom teachers, Kerry Burgess, has created a short film called *We Can* that incorporates images of some of our students and submitted it for the competition. All entries are judged by a panel; they are also included in an on-line voting forum where visitors to the website can vote for their favourite short film. The competition has only recently closed so when we have information about the online voting we will let you know. In the meantime you can find more information about the competition at the following website: <http://www.focusonability.com.au/>

Thank you to the parents and carers who indicated their intention to come along to our numbers information session this week. Unfortunately we did not have enough responses to go ahead with the evening. We do understand the difficulties of getting out in the evening, especially as Winter sets in. The handout prepared for the evening is included in this newsletter and if you would like more information about supporting your child's development of number concepts please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher or the leader of our Mathematics PLC- Janelle Munson. Every day at Malkara our staff members are working to support our students to be as successful as possible. I extend an extra thanks this week to Kerry, Janelle, and Emm for the time they have spent on our extra projects over this term.

Kind regards

Allison Chapman

Deputy Principal Report

We were fortunate to host a two day PODD training workshop at the school last Friday and Saturday, presented by Hayley Parfett and Janelle Sampson, accredited PODD trainers. Six school staff attended along with staff from other schools, speech pathologists and a few of our parents. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop and refresh our PODD skills and think about how we can continue to develop our school AAC implementation. We are currently working on updating our school PODD to incorporate more language for learning as well as the behaviour expectations from our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) matrix.

We are continuing to work with Ted, a design student from the University of Canberra, to 'tweak' the design of our PBL mascot – Pogo the Possum. I look forward to sharing it with you soon. Ted will also develop signage for our PBL expectations which will be situated around the school. The PBL team is working hard to develop the lesson plans to teach our behaviour expectations for areas outside the classroom, such as the playground, shop, corridor, gym etc.

The school shop continues to be a popular school program each Friday morning. Our shop keepers from the Blue class are doing a wonderful job serving customers, accepting money and giving change, using the correct retail language, such as 'May I help you?' Stocking non-food items in the shop such as pencils, has proven to be popular with our students. If you are in the school on Friday morning, please feel free to visit and purchase something.



Dagmar

Dentist Visit

Carolyn Stroud from the ACT Dental Health Program will be attending Malkara on Tuesday 12th June visiting Purple & Aqua classes and Tuesday 19th June with Silver & Red.

Each time Carolyn Stroud visits Malkara she will visit two classes at a time, offering a dental lesson, dental screenings for students and a parent consultation clinic.



Please keep an eye out in your child's bag for further information.

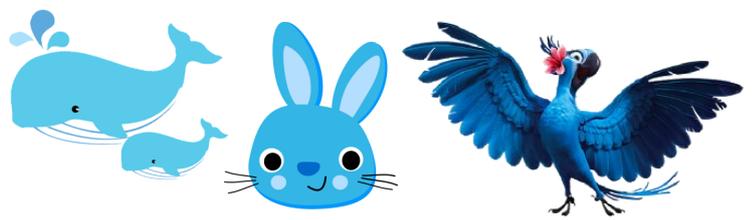
If you have any questions please feel free to phone the front office on 61 42 0266

Glow Worm Disco

WOW! What a hit! I don't know who had more fun at the Disco, the children or the adults!
Thank you to everyone who attended our Glow Worm Disco.



Aqua Animals



We are cooking professionals!

The Aqua Chefs have been learning about the kitchen's rules including being safe, clean, and skilfully using different equipment and utensils. We wash our hands and food before cooking, handle our knives carefully when we cut our food, and use the knives to put the cut up food into a bowl. Most importantly, we know how to present our food in the perfect way. Look at our fruit faces and mini pizzas!



We love interacting within our school!

Within the school, we interact with our classmates at our morning meeting. Our interactions outside of the classroom include: attending the senior assembly weekly to celebrate our achievements, drumming with the visiting Red Hill Primary School students, and having the senior boys from Marist College visit us for academic exchange.



We are interested in our nutritional needs!

Aqua Nutritionists are working on how we can have a healthy diet, naming and identifying foods from each of the Five Food Groups from the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. In Aqua class we include healthy food choices in our morning tea and lunch.



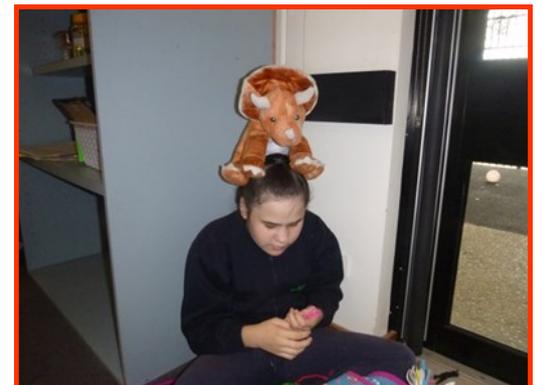
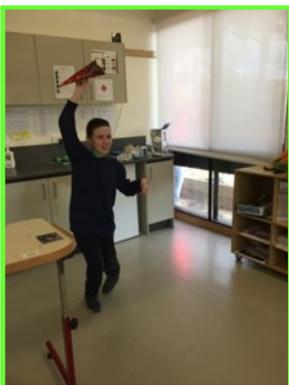
We are athletes!

Aqua Athletes engage in gym, swimming and ball games sessions weekly. In these physical activities, we explore our health, skills and the fitness benefits. We also demonstrate ethical behavior and fair play that aligns with rules when participating in ball games.



We are Scholars!

We challenge ourselves by engaging in games, songs and individual hands on activities to extend our Literacy, Numeracy and other knowledge, such as Science. Our theme is Reuse and Recycle. We use magazine and new paper to make art and toys. We have always have fun.



Have you heard of MRE?

What on earth is that?

MRE stands for **Model Railway Exhibition**. This is our annual Malkara major fundraising event and is run in conjunction with the ACT Model Railway Society. This year will be the 46th Malkara Model Railway Exhibition.

What Happens?

All classrooms are emptied of equipment and furniture on Friday afternoon. This is a big job, usually aided by a special activity in the school hall for the students after lunch. At 3:45pm the exhibitors start setting up their layouts in the rooms. Model boats prepare for launch in the pool, and a steam train track is set up in the playground for rides. The staff room transforms into an art gallery, complete with Devonshire Tea, while BBQs and coffee carts are prepared for the thousands of visitors who come over the course of the weekend.

Wow! How can I help?

Before:

During this term we will be asking for donations of lollies for the lolly stall as well as items such as biscuits to sustain the exhibitors over the weekend. We also run several large raffles, and will be calling for donations for those. The P&C would love to see some new faces at their meetings, where organisational plans are made. We will also be asking parents and carers to nominate a time they can come in and help on a stall, such as cake, lolly, BBQ and drink stalls, and to cook for the cake stall or make sandwiches for the exhibitors.

During:

Come and join the fun! See the exhibits, and spend some time meeting other parents while you work on a stall. Try your hand at baking some goodies for the cake stall.

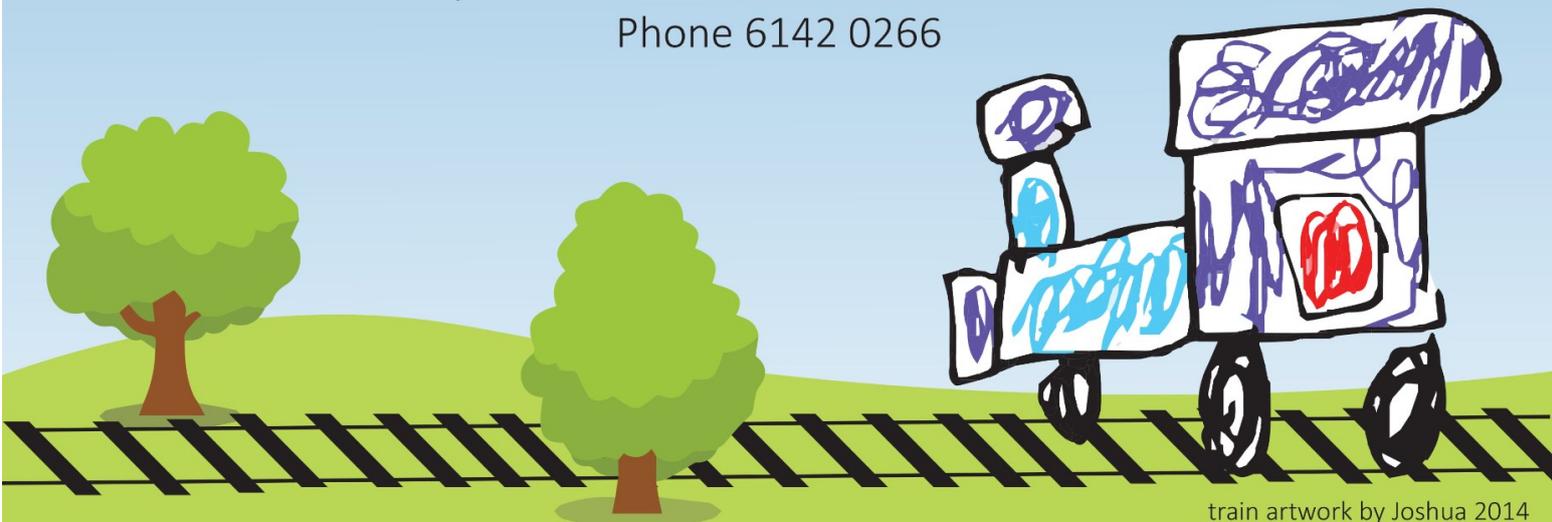
After:

Continue coming to the P&C meetings and networking with other parents. You will be able to help make decisions about how the funds raised are spent.

*As you can see, MRE is a lot of work, but also it is a **lot** of fun. It's a great way for our parent community to get together, and is also a great way to promote Malkara in our local community. Roll on MRE 2017!!*

Malkara Specialist School, Wisdom St Garran ACT 2605

Phone 6142 0266



Numeracy Strategies for Learning in a Specialist School

Numeracy involves a range of skills that reflect being able to represent, classify, understand numbers, spatial relations and time within meaningful contexts.

How do children learn to count?

One of the first experiences that children have with numbers is counting. Counting starts as a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme. This is referred to as 'number sense'. Children may not necessarily initially relate the words to a quantity. Counting can be reinforced through storytelling, picture books, songs and rhymes.

At home: count the objects when you set the table, hanging out the washing, ask questions about numbers, play board games and card games.

Hand on learning

Children with additional needs learn through hands on experiences involving manipulative materials such as counters, blocks and dominoes. Allowing children to learn through hand on experiences means that they are able to develop an understanding of mathematics.

Numeracy and Play

Children love to play. As teachers, we use play as a teaching tool, it is not always 'free play'. Scaffolded play allows children to be involved in a range of opportunities to explore, investigate and engage in purposeful numeracy experiences. Linking play and numeracy allows for children to be engaged in real life situations and use real objects as a basis for hands on investigation and learning.

At home: below are examples of play based numeracy

- ⇒ Blocks and building explores height and the language of position.
- ⇒ Play shopping using money
- ⇒ Identifying shapes in everyday objects
- ⇒ Classifying everyday items by colour or size.

Literature

Read books with strong links to numeracy:

Number

Let's Count Goats – Mem Fox

One is a Snail Ten is a Crab – April and Jeff Sayre

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish – Dr Suess

Ten Apples Up on Top – Dr Suess

Counting on Frank – Rod Clement

Volume/Capacity

Who Sank the Boat – Pamela Allen

Mr Archimedes Bath – Pamela Allen

Position

Rosie's Walk – Pat Hutchins

Curriculum Links

At Malkara we use the Victorian Curriculum Towards Foundation for most of our learning.

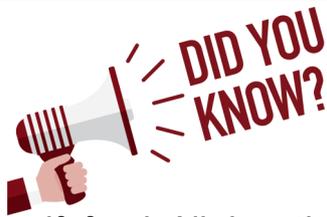
<http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/levels/>

If a child works through this levelled curriculum, they are then taught using the Australian Curriculum.

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/mathematics/>

We hope this handout was helpful.

Please do not hesitate to contact Malkara for additional information and assistance.



Malkara School has a tax deductible gift fund. All donations to this fund are fully tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation please deposit directly into our bank account and reference your transaction with *Donation* and your name. Alternately you can use the payment tab on our website. All funds raised are used to purchase equipment to support our students.

Malkara School

BSB: 032777

Account: 001607

We thank you for your support of our school.
A tax deductible receipt for all donations will be sent home with your child.



Hats Off!

The Education Directorate's sun safe policy allows for hats to be off when outside during June and July as the UV levels are considered to be low.



Do you receive emails from Malkara?

If not please send your preferred email address to malkara@ed.act.edu.au and we will add you to our email list.



Next P&C meeting will be held on
Wednesday 27 June at 6:30pm

Ever wondered what happens at a Malkara P&C meeting?
Then head along to our next meeting!

Mental Health Issues and Young People: FREE Parenting Forum

Carers ACT is hosting a unique opportunity for parents, carers and friends to learn how to recognise the warning signs and better understand depression, suicide, eating disorders, deliberate self-harm and other mental health problems in young people. Mental illness in our youth – often known as the 'invisible disease' - is growing at an alarming rate with many parents at a loss on how to deal with it. The speaker will be Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's leading experts in parenting and child and adolescent mental health and founder of CanTeen for teenagers with cancer.

Bookings essential.

When: Tues 19 June 2018, 7-9pm, Hellenic Club, Woden
More info: Ph 6296 9900 or email mhcarers@carersact.org.au
Register : through Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/2HIqSiy>
Cost: FREE