

malkara matters

the newsletter for
Malkara families



ALLISON CHAPMAN
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

NICOLE MACKEY
BOARD CHAIR

BRI HESLETINE
P&C PRESIDENT

LADY ELIZABETH HOUSTON
PATRON

WISDOM STREET, GARRAN, ACT 2605
PHONE (02) 6142 0266
EMAIL MALKARA@ED.ACT.EDU.AU

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Diary Dates:

- **Parent morning tea**
Thursday 2 April 9am
- **P&C meeting**
Wed 25 March
- **Board meeting**
Wed 1 April
- **Last day of Term 1**
Thursday 9 April
- **First day of Term 2**
Tuesday 28 April

Inside this issue:

Report from Lime
COVID—19 FAQs
PBL Awards
Dental visits info

Assembly Fridays @ 1pm

Week 4	Red
Week 5	Mauve
Week 6	Purple
Week 7	Silver
Week 8	Blue
Week 9	Emerald
Subject to change	

Dear Families

You will know from our recent emails to our community that the Directorate is closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and providing regular updates to schools. You may be feeling bombarded with emails from us at the moment, but it's important that we keep you up to date with Directorate information and how we are managing the impact at Malkara.

I know that for many of our families, COVID-19 is causing high levels of anxiety- please be assured that no question is over-cautious or trivial at this time and I urge you to contact us to talk through any concerns you may have. For some of our families the risk to the health of their child should they become unwell is too great- if you decide that the best place for your child to be is at home for now, then again, please contact us so we can talk through the best way we can support you and your child.

In keeping with the past few years, we have a few building improvement projects planned for this year- the student kitchen is undergoing a renovation, extra equipment storage space is being built, the back carpark is going to be configured to become a long-term carpark, one of our classroom courtyards is being upgraded and we are in the process of installing a permanent shade cloth over our staff courtyard. And I wonder if you noticed that our mission brown trim on the exterior of the school is now black??

This year we would also like to spruce up the sensory space at the front of the playground, adjacent to the office. If you, or someone you know has experience in landscaping and creating natural sensory spaces, we'd love to hear from you.

Our teachers have recently had a day off class to refine their teaching programs, link them to the individual students in their classes and continue to deepen their knowledge of the different curriculum areas. The day was supported with input from our exec teacher Emm, who as well as being our English coach is also overseeing the implementation of our move to the Directorate reporting template later this year. We consider this investment in our teachers to very worthwhile.

Kind regards

Allison

Lime Ladybugs

The Lime Ladybugs have settled into routines wonderfully well. We are learning to sit together for group time, transition to places like visiting the library and going to the gym with our Pink Garage Buddies. We love outdoor play times on the Early Education Playground with our friends. We look forward to starting our weekly play sessions with our Pink friends too. During our Term 1 theme of 'This is Me', we are talking and reading about what we look like, finding out about our families, and sharing our interests and favourite things. We have started talking about our friend 'Pogo' from PBL who helps us 'Be Safe, Be Caring and Be a Learner'.



We are friends.



We are creative.



.... and most importantly we are happy.



COVID 19 – Frequently Asked Questions for School Communities—15 March 2020

The ACT is in a very good place to respond to COVID-19 and the Directorate has developed plans for ACT schools to respond to the potential spread of the virus in school communities. The Education Directorate continues to work closely with ACT Health.

To assist parents, carers and the broader school community, the following answers have been compiled to frequently asked questions around how ACT public schools are managing their response to COVID-19.

Are schools boosting their cleaning or hygiene practices in response to the threat of COVID-19?

We are focusing our cleaning on maintaining the best possible hygiene standards to staff and students. All ACT public schools have been asked to ensure school-wide hygiene practices such as hand washing are in place, encouraged and maintained and that signage is displayed around good hand hygiene, preventing the spread of germs, coughing and sneezing. Currently, the ACT Government is not advising additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures to be implemented in schools, public transport, shopping centres and other public places.

How will the school respond if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school?

Planning has been underway to assist our schools in the event of the spread of the virus in our school communities. When and if there is a case of COVID-19 in an ACT school, these plans will be scaled in proportion to the spread of the virus. Our response will be based on ACT Health advice and learnings from other jurisdictions.

Is it possible that schools will close?

If a student or staff member were to test positive to the virus, the impacted school may close for a short period while ACT Health investigates the incident. Those students and staff identified as close contacts of a case will need to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

Parents will be notified by their school if it is to close via their normal communication channels which include email and SMS.

What about my child's learning? (will there be provision of online resources?)

All ACT public schools have access to the Google platform which they use daily with their students. We are working ensure that flexible learning options are available for all students.

For college students, how will workload and BSSS requirements be met?

The ACT Education Directorate is working with BSSS to ensure college students will still be able to meet learning requirements if their school needs to close for a short period.

Advice for parents on sending children to school

If your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

Call your GP in the first instance. By calling your GP before arriving they can take appropriate infection control measures.

Call your school to let them know.

As always, please do not send your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of sickness. Once your child is well again, they can return to school.

My child has COVID-19, do I need to notify the school and how long should they be excluded from school?

Yes, you need to notify your child's school as soon as possible if your child has received a positive diagnosis for COVID-19.

Your school will work with you and ACT Health to follow up close contacts and take appropriate public health action in line with national guidelines and well-established processes.

The ACT Education Directorate will also receive direct advice from ACT Health, if a public school student or staff member returns a positive diagnosis for COVID-19.



ACT
Government

Education

What happens if my child has had close contact with another student who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

[Students and staff identified as close contacts of a case of COVID-19 will need to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.](#)

Being quarantined at home means that you, or your children, need to stay at home, except if you are unwell and need medical attention. You cannot go to work, school, or public areas (such as shops or cafes/restaurants) and should not use public transport, ride share or taxis. You also need to tell people not to visit you while you are in self-quarantine.

Someone in our household has coronavirus, can my child go to school?

If you are concerned your child may have been exposed to or have symptoms of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), it's important you limit exposure to other people to reduce the risk of transmission.

Students identified as close contacts of a case of COVID-19 will need to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

Being quarantined at home means that you, or your children, need to stay at home, except if you are unwell and need medical attention. You cannot go to work, school, or public areas (such as shops or cafes/restaurants) and should not use public transport, ride share or taxis. You also need to tell people not to visit you while you are in self-quarantine.

What should I do if I think my child may have COVID-19?

You or your child should get tested if:

you've travelled overseas recently, and you develop symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of leaving an overseas country.

you're concerned you may have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19 and you develop symptoms of the disease within 14 days of contact with the sick person.

If you think you might have COVID-19:

Limit your exposure to other people by isolating yourself at home.

Call your GP and let them know you are worried you may have COVID-19. Testing will be arranged by your GP or medical practitioner if they determine it is necessary. It usually takes about 24 - 48 hours for the test results to be returned, but in some cases may take longer. Further information for someone who is being tested is available [here](#).

If you can't see your GP, the preferred Walk-in Centre (WiC) for assessment is Weston Creek WiC. If you are attending a WiC, please ensure you use a mask and hand sanitiser available at the front door.

You do not need to visit the Emergency Department unless you have severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath, chest pain or high fever.

If you or your child have recently travelled internationally or been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, and have symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, cough or sore throat), it is important that you take certain steps to reduce the risk of transmission.

[Are students and their families who have travelled to certain countries excluded from my school?](#)

New quarantine requirements are in place for anyone arriving in Australia from overseas from midnight on 15 March 2020.

Anyone returning from any overseas country, should isolate themselves for 14 days.

The ACT Health Directorate continues to work closely with the Australian Government and other health authorities across the country to monitor and respond to the evolving global situation. As the situation evolves advice will be updated, as necessary.

Are events going to be cancelled at my school?

The Australian Government has announced that all organised, non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020.

This announcement does not recommend school closures however, it does apply to a range of school events and events organised by school communities.

From Monday 16 March, the following events will be cancelled in ACT public schools:

upcoming school or regional/ACT swimming, athletics and other sporting events, large band or other music concerts where there would be large gatherings of students

school assemblies

parent/teacher nights

school open days/nights.

Are school excursions still going ahead?

Local and interstate school excursions, including camps will be cancelled - effective from Monday 16 March.

All camps scheduled to commence from Monday 16 March will be postponed and rescheduled, or, if there is no other option, cancelled.

Dental Visits at Malkara

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to inform you that I will be visiting Malkara School again regularly throughout this year to conduct dental lessons and dental screenings for the students as part of an outreach service. I will commence visiting the school on Tuesday 10th March. Written consent from a parent or guardian is required if you would like your child's mouth checked. Consent forms will be sent out shortly.



At each visit, I will visit two classes at a time so that I can offer a dental lesson and dental screenings for students. This will take place during the morning session. My aim is to teach the class about the importance of dental care, build their confidence and tolerance of someone looking in their mouth whilst in the familiarity of their school environment. I try to make it fun and interesting using social stories, models and pictures.

During the dental screen, the child can sit on a chair/wheelchair in an area of the classroom. Disposable battery dental mirrorlights are used to check the mouth for any signs of dental disease. Latex free gloves are used. I also have information on where to obtain dental care both in the public or private areas. Some students may be existing clients within A.C.T Health or the special needs paediatric dentist.

Following the dental screen, a letter will be sent home to parents with the results and followed up with a phone call for any urgent care. For those children requiring a follow up visit, an appointment can be made with the ACT Dental Health Program at your nearest convenient community health centre clinic or with your existing dental practitioner. Parents are welcome to meet me at the end of the session if they wish to discuss their child's individual needs or by contacting me at the details below.

For the dental lesson, I cover topics such as:

- > Names/function/eruption of teeth
- > Teeth cleaning
- > Tooth friendly foods and foods that cause tooth decay
- > Visiting the dental clinic

I look forward to visiting your school and working with your beautiful children.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Stroud
Dental Therapist
ACT Dental Health Program
Tuggeranong Health and Community Centre.
Ph: 5124 1347 (M,Tues,F)
Carolyn.Stroud@act.gov.au

Purple Day

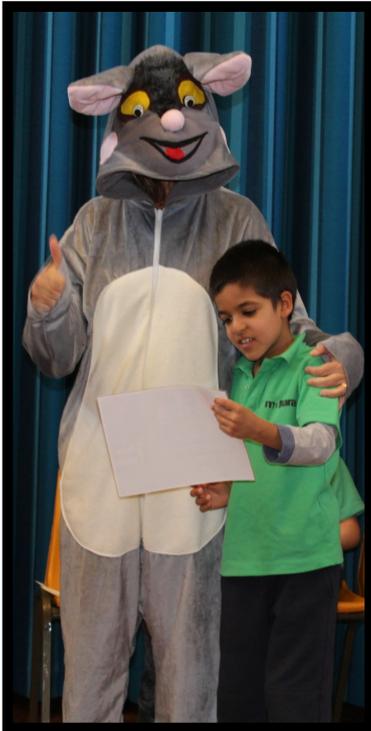
Notes will be sent home shortly with more information.



Epilepsy
Action
Australia

PBL Awards

Congratulations to our first recipients receiving the first PBL awards for 2020.



Are you the parent/carer of a child with a disability commencing primary (kindergarten) school in 2021?

The Education Directorate is holding information sessions for parents/carers of children with a disability who are commencing primary school in an ACT Government school in 2021.

Hedley Beare
Centre for Teaching and Learning
Fremantle Drive
Stirling

Thursday 30th April
11.30am-1pm

The session will cover the following topics:

- Disability Education programs
- Transition to primary school
 - The application process
- The Student Centred Appraisal of Need process

To RSVP or for further information contact:

supportatpreschool@ed.act.edu.au

or

Support at Preschool on 0434 668 694

Rewards Program at Southern Cross Club

As a valued member of our Community Rewards Program, we would like to let you know about our latest promotion at the Southern Cross Club- Kids Month, which runs throughout March at all of our venues.

I've attached some information about Kids month, and we'd be delighted if you can share it on your social media channels and newsletters if applicable. As a participant of our Community Rewards program, this is a great opportunity to encourage your families to come in and earn money back for Malkara Specialist School.

If you're not the right person to contact, please point me in the direction of the person in charge of your communications.

Below is the wording that we have used on our Facebook pages:

This March, it's all about Kids at the Southern Cross Club! We have heaps of fun and free activities planned that the whole family will enjoy!

- *Kids under 12 years eat free at Woden, Tuggeranong and Jamison everyday**
 - *Free Face Painting and Balloon Sculpting at Woden, Tuggeranong and Jamison on Fridays and Saturdays*
 - *Free Jumping Castle at Jamison on Saturday 14 and 21 March*
 - *Free scoop of ice-cream with the purchase of any kid's Whipper Snapper meal sold at Snapper on the Lake*
- PLUS- Every kid's meal ordered during March will earn an entry to win a free Henry's Birthday party worth \$350 for kids aged 12 and under! <http://ow.ly/9Hpk50yx9IH>*

Queanbeyan Market Stall

We have been contacted by the Queanbeyan Market about giving out some information on how you can enter a stall. If you are not able to enter a stall make sure you go along for a fun day.

The Queanbeyan Markets are looking for stall holders young & old. We are a community run market focusing on helping everyone we can. We are at the Park on Lowe St behind the Queanbeyan court house.

Last months market we donated all of the proceeds to NSW RFS, with a total of \$1960.00. We will also have a drop off point for medical supplies to help our injured wildlife.

The markets are run on the 3rd Sunday of the month with the next one being on the 16th. we encourage anyone with home made goods to come along and join in on the fun and make new friends.

Stalls cost \$30 paid on the day, setup is from 7am, take down from 1pm. Markets start at 9am til 1pm

You can email through any application forms or they can be filled out on the day, any questions can be answered through this email address. thequeanbeyanmarket@gmail.com

