Principal’s Message

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of Monash School, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the 2017 school year! What an extremely busy and productive week we have had. A special welcome to all our new families and staff.

On Monday, our Kinders and Possums commenced followed by students in year one to six on Tuesday, and Echidnas on Wednesday. Throughout this week students have been engaged in learning new routines, discussing expectations with teachers and participating in a variety of “get-to-know-you” activities.

Yesterday, “Meet the Teacher” interview notes were sent home with students. Please note that interviews will occur from 13 to 16 February. I encourage parents and carers to complete and return these notes as soon as possible so as to secure your preferred interview time. Upon return of your interview notes, you should receive a transition note which is designed to provide teachers with more information about your children. Your interview time will also be on this note. We ask that you please bring this with you to your interview.

At your child’s interview in Week 3, you will receive the Term 1 Overview from your child’s teacher. This document will outline the key learning content for this term and staff will be able to discuss with you ways that you can effectively support your child’s learning.

I am aware that over the holidays, quite a few of our families have changed their residential addresses. We ask that if any key information,
including contact details and custodial arrangements, be updated with staff at the front office as soon as possible.

Homework for all students will commence next week.

**HOME LEARNING K - 2**

This week families of students in K-2 will receive a letter outlining our Home Learning beliefs and ideas. Early Years Education is a very important time to develop foundational academic skills as well as social and emotional developmental domains. Considering this, the home learning we are encouraging is focused on building a love of reading, playing numeracy games and developing fine motor skills. We also recognise that simply spending time talking and sharing interests and everyday activities such as cooking, eating, gardening and playing provide opportunities to learn. This is why we strongly believe that learning opportunities at home should be fun and exciting and build a love of learning. This means there will be no rigid ‘homework’ structure from K-2, rather we will support families to enjoy learning experiences by providing resources to use at home and strongly encourage you to read for enjoyment with your children as often as possible. More information about our new improved Home Reading Program will be communicated very soon!

**YEAR 3-6 HOMEWORK**

This year grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to participate in a trial to use digital homework. Students will access homework tasks through the use of Google Classroom. Most students are already familiar with Google Classroom as they use it on their Chromebook for everyday activities at school. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to also access their child’s Homework Google Classroom by providing their email address. This will allow parents/carers to be notified of new tasks posted each week. Please note that not participating in homework will not disadvantage your child as homework is used to consolidate classroom learning. Paper copies will also be available if you would like your child to participate and do not have access to have access to digital homework. If your child does not currently have access to Google Apps for Education (they do not use Chromebooks during class time) please see your child’s teacher for a note if you would like them to participate. Keep an eye out for homework notes that will go home today as more information will be provided about how to participate in this program.

In Week 4 (23 February), our annual Swimming Carnival, for students in Years 2 – 6, will be conducted at the Tuggeranong Leisure Centre. Information/nomination forms for this event were sent out yesterday. This year, Miss Saywell will be our Sports Coordinator and to assist in the organisation of this major event, she has requested that all forms be returned to school as soon as possible.

I would like to thank the many families who have supported our school through purchasing the required equipment listed in the book packs. Please be reassured that staff will be maintaining a focus with the children on being accountable for and respecting their own belongings.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge those families who have already paid their voluntary contributions. These funds provide a valuable additional source of revenue for our school and will be used throughout the year to purchase much needed resources.

Please note that two parent representative positions for our School Board are currently vacant. Nominations are open until **13 February**.

The P&C also provides another great way for parents to actively participate in our community. I encourage any parents, friends or family members who may be interested in participating to come along to our P & C AGM and first meeting for 2017 on **15 February**.

A reminder that we have a very active and constantly updated school Facebook page. In addition to the newsletter and our Seesaw real-time learning app, this provides a great way for parents to stay in touch on a regular basis with what is
happening at our school. We can be accessed at https://www.facebook.com/Monash-School-426164594092469.

Finally, I would like to reiterate how important positive home/school partnerships are to us here at Monash. We are very aware that you as parents and carers are the primary educators of your children and look forward to working productively with you in 2017 to achieve the best outcomes for your children.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Shane Carpenter
Principal

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**Kitchen Garden**

HELP WANTED!

Hello families! Monash school is seeking support from our community to help our kitchen/garden teacher Miss Grunwald prepare the garden.

This will involve weeding, planting and watering. As we are coming into hot weather we were hoping for help in the mornings this week between 9:00 and 10:00am.

If you are interested please contact the school office.
Thank you in advance!

Leia Grunwald
Coordinator

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**Library News**

Welcome to the new school year.

Children have commenced visiting the library and borrowing books. It is important that all students have a labelled library bag to protect the books from damage in their school bags. The bags can be cloth or shopping bags.

If students have overdue books from last year, please return these so that they are able to start borrowing this year.

Thank you

Margaret Brittan

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**2016 End of Year Concert DVD**

End of Year Concert DVD’s are still available for purchase. Please see the front office.

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**Monash School Board**

**NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD**

Nominations are called for the election of two parent/citizen representatives on the School Board of Monash School for two years (1 April 2017 to 31
March 2019. Nominations must be in writing and must contain the signed consent of the candidate.

Nominee Forms will be available from the Monash School front office from 11.00 am on Monday 30 January 2017.

Please note nominations close at 11.00 am on 13 February 2017.

The following position is open for nomination (2 positions available):

**Name of Position:** Parent/Citizen Representative.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Members of Monash P &C – which all members of our parent body are deemed to be, or citizens of the school community. Current members may nominate.

**Lodgement of Nominations:** Place your completed Nomination Form in the ballot box in the Front Office from 11.00 am Monday, 30 January to 11.00 am Monday, 13 February 2017.

**Polling:** Elections, if required, will be held by ballot from 11.00 am Monday, 20 February to 11.00 am Monday, 27 February 2017.

**Declaration of Nominees:** The Assistant Returning Officer will declare the nominations as soon as practicable after the closure of nominations. Nominations will not be made public until after the time of declaration of nominations.

Suzan Visentin
Assistant Returning Officer

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Arrival Time** - Please ensure your child arrives at school as close to 9.00 am as possible, as there is no supervision before that time. Before and after school care, along with holiday programs, operate here at Monash School. For further information please contact Communities@Work on 1300 212 273 or email enrolments@commsatwork.org (website www.commsatwork.org).

**Absences** - If your child is absent, please send the teacher a note when he/she returns. It is a Directorate requirement that we account for all absences. Absences can also be sent in via the Monash App.

**Allergy Friendly School** - We ask that you remember that Monash is an allergy friendly school when you are preparing student lunches. For some students their reaction to peanuts or peanut products is so serious that it could cause death, even from limited contact with nut products. **Please do not give your child peanut butter or nutella sandwiches or nuts in any form.** Your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

**Hats** - In keeping with our SunSmart policy, we ask that you provide your child with a hat that will protect his/her face, ears and back of neck. A broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire’s style hat would be suitable. Please remember to cut strings off the blue broad-brimmed hats. The hats are sun safe but the strings are dangerous, hence the direction from the Directorate to remove the strings. Caps are not acceptable at school because they do not adequately protect the wearer from the sun.

**Visiting the School** - Our priority is your child’s safety and we endeavour to keep track of everyone who is in our school at any given time. Our procedure of asking everyone, who visits our school, is to come via the Front Office and sign in.

If you would like to volunteer your time at Monash School please be aware that you will need to obtain a Working With Vulnerable People Card. Further information is available online at www.ors.act.gov.au. The cost of the card is free for parent/carer volunteers. We encourage all our volunteers to sign up for a
Please remember to carry your Working With Vulnerable People Card with you if you are volunteering in the school.

**Hub Happenings**

Welcome back to a new exciting term one. I hope you all enjoyed a good holiday break.

Our regular programs are up and running.

**Monday**
Breakfast Club is from 8.15 am to 8.55 am and welcomes all students to enjoy a healthy start to the day. Families are also welcome.

Book club is on Monday and Tuesday before and after school. Students are encouraged to bring the books they have read and swap them for something new to read.

**Tuesday**
Breakfast club from 8.15 am to 8.55 am  
Clothing pool from 8.30 am to 9.15 am. We have a wide range of school uniforms, sizes 4-16 starting at $1 each.  
Playgroup from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Please bring a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit the share for morning tea.

Would you like to get involved in the Monash community and volunteer your time to help out with events and programs this year? I would love to hear from you. I am in the Hub on Mondays and Tuesdays if you would like to chat or leave your number at the front office and we will be in touch.

Upcoming events this term:-

- Goodwin reading program  
- Goodwin Village morning tea in the Hub.  
- Mother/Carer and Daughter Night in the Hub. Think nails, cupcakes, movie and maybe some dancing.  
- Relay for Life on 25 and 27 March. I will be creating a Monash team in the weeks to come for you to join. This will be the third year Monash School has got behind this awesome fundraising event.

Virginia Martin, Hub Coordinator

**P & C News**

**P & C AGM**
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Monash Primary School Parents and Citizens Association will be held on **Wednesday, 15 February at 7.00 pm in the Hub**. All parents are welcome and invited to nominate for a position on the P & C.

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**Scholastic Book Club**
Scholastic Book Clubs operates up to eight times a year and offers a convenient way for your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books. Simply select books your child would like and fill in the Order Form on the back page (remember to fill in child’s name and class). Return the order together, with payment, to the Front Office by the closing date.
Please note – there is now only one Scholastic Book Club pamphlet per year level/s.

Please remember the following:

- **PAYMENTS FOR BOOK CLUB MUST BE SENT TO THE FRONT OFFICE**
- A credit card facility is available for ORDERS OF ANY AMOUNT (one credit card payment for all orders). Cheques must be made out to “Scholastic” (one cheque for the whole family will do).
- Orders should be placed in a sealed envelope/sandwich bag with your child’s name and class listed
- **Issue 1 Orders must be back by Friday, 17 February 2017.**

Many thanks for your support as our ‘Book Flood’ and school library benefit from your orders.

Sue, Book Club Coordinator

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**School Banking**

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to make deposits into their personal Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

To encourage regular savings deposits made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmite token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for the exclusive School Banking reward items, listed below, in recognition of their continued savings efforts.

School Banking day is Friday – so please remember to hand your completed bank books into the front office before school.

If your child/ren are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program Information Pack from the School office.

Sue, Student Banking Coordinator

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**School Uniforms**

School uniforms are available from Savvy School Wear, shop 32, Homewold, Soward Way, Tuggeranong. For any enquiries, please phone Savvy on 6293 4342/9529. All Monash parents receive 10% off uniform purchases.

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**Attention Volunteers at Monash School**

If you would like to volunteer your time at Monash School please be aware that you will need to obtain a Working With Vulnerable People Card. Further information is available online at [https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1804](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1804). The cost of the card is free for parent/carer volunteers. We encourage all our volunteers to sign up for a card.
Please remember to carry your Working With Vulnerable People Card with you if you are volunteering in the school.

**Nut Allergies**

Monash School has a number of students who are allergic to nut products. If they were to come in to contact with these products, they could have a life-threatening reaction. We are asking our school community to avoid sending in products that contain nuts.

**School Rule**

“At Monash Primary School we all try to keep ourselves and others safe and happy”

**Monash School Song**

We are children of Monash Primary,
We all take part in our community
We form a part of one big family
This school is for you, this school is for me,

**Chorus:**

Touch the earth, reach the sky
you can challenge the future if you try
Reach on high, let your spirits fly
you don’t know what you can do until you try

Pre School to seniors is a long way
With tears and laughter and lots of play,
but through it all we have to say
Monash helps us grow everyday

Some of us will leave and go on our way
the rest of us return and face another day
Farewell to those who part, you’ve made a good start.
You’ll always be in our heart.

Resilience, organisation getting along
Persistence, confidence, respect, getting along
Honesty, responsibility, care and compassion
don’t forget inclusion it’s part of the solution.

**Chorus:**
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We’ve golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature’s gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history’s page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We’ll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who’ve come across the seas
We’ve boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Showtime in the City

Showtime in the City brings the best of the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show to the city centre, with snow cones, popcorn, showbags and a petting zoo all on offer between 10 and 11 February, in Petrie Plaza.

This free event showcases the family-fun atmosphere away from the showground in one of Canberra’s most accessible spaces, as part of the Government’s commitment to bring our city to life through the City Action Plan.

Tickets to the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show will be available for sale at a ticket booth both days. Showtime in the City will take place in Petrie Plaza 10 (4pm-9.30pm) and 11 February (10am-4pm).

Showtime in the City is an initiative supported by the ACT Government and the City Action Plan, the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society and ActewAGL. To find out more information or to have your say on the future of Canberra’s city centre visit YourSay.act.gov.au/activatecivic.
As we start a new school year, we would like to remind schools, parents and students about our bus services and how to best prepare for bus travel in 2017.

**School Bus Services**

Details of all school and regular bus services are now available for parents and students to begin planning their journeys. We ask that parents and students familiarise themselves with the most suitable route, times and stop locations. School bus services are available to school students only however, parents with young children may apply to travel on these services for a few weeks to help their child get used to bus travel. Please use the links below for further information on our bus services:

- [School bus timetables](#)
- [Regular bus timetables](#)

**MyWay Cards**

Prior to travel, please ensure you check your child’s MyWay card balance and top up if required, on time. Allow up to 48 hours if paying by electronic funds transfer or Autoload, where cash funds will be applied immediately.

MyWay cards can be topped up automatically using the handy Autoload service, online, B-Pay, over the phone via the Transport Canberra information line (13 17 10) or with a MyWay Recharge Agent. Ensure to register your MyWay card to protect your travel balance in the event the card is lost or stolen.

**New Bus Fares**
New bus fares came into effect on 14 January 2017. Single trip school student MyWay fares are now $1.16 and single student cash fares are $2.40. Card holders can save an additional 5% on all ACTION bus fares by activating Autoload on their MyWay card. Parents and students can find more information on the Transport Canberra website or by calling 13 17 10.

Refresh on safety rules when inside and outside of the bus, which is available on the Transport Canberra website under Etiquette and Safety.

**NXTBUS**

Please use [NXTBUS](http://www.nxtbus.com.au) to track real time of your awaited service.

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