

Dear Families

It was wonderful to welcome the new members of our school community this morning! We are delighted that we have more than 240 new students who started with us over our two campuses and welcome them, and their families to the MC community. We cannot wait to see our returning students tomorrow, hearing about their holidays and welcoming them back to their learning community.

An enormous amount of new information is shared in the first days so we would like to ensure families have this information too. More information will follow of course in the coming weeks. Should you have any questions regarding your child, their learning or wellbeing please contact the front office and they will direct you to the appropriate staff member.

Please keep an eye out for permission notes coming home in the next weeks! I know that they can often land at the bottom of the school bag and be forgotten so I have added some notes below for your information.

Key dates for the term:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 18/02/2021 Thursday | Swimming Carnival Big Splash – we are hoping this will be able to go ahead. The Covid19 restrictions have meant that we are reviewing this date and will inform you if there are changes. In the meantime, it is essential that permission notes and money is paid as soon as the notes are received. |
| 23/02/2021 Tuesday | MCSS Photo Day - Advancedlife school photography- notes will be sent home soon so please keep an eye out for those! |
| 23/02/2021 Tuesday | 5 pm Meet the Teachers Year 7 parents High School – further information will be provided in the coming weeks and we look forward to meeting families! |
| 23/02/2021 Tuesday | PC & 6.15 pm Assessment Evening Year 11 -12 College – an information evening for families of college aged students and further information will be provided soon – we look forward to seeing you there! |
| 02/03/2021 Tuesday | Moderation Day College only – there are no classes on Moderation Day and year 11 and 12 students do not attend on this day |
| 03/03/2021 Wednesday | year 7 Immunisations – keep an eye out for permission notes! |
| 10/03/2021 Wednesday | Photo catch-up day |

Important information for NSW Families who utilise buses to the Dickson Interchange

I'm sorry that this morning's transfer from Dickson was delayed, there was some communication confusion and some students were transported by QCity. Our staff arrived just after the bus had departed, however, thanks to the supportive folk at QCity all students were transported to MC.

I have consulted with the ACT Education Directorate and have been advised that we will not be able to continue collecting students from the interchange beyond the end of this week. As many of you are aware, the staff at MC

have worked over the past 12 months to try to arrange for one of the transport providers to deliver students to us from the Dickson Interchange. We have been unsuccessful in gaining a commitment to do this. The team here have demonstrated significant commitment to our students by arriving early to drive the school bus to collect students and missed important meetings in the afternoons to ensure they are safely delivered back. We are not able to continue this service into 2021. This is not a reflection on our care for your children and I am sorry as I understand this will put additional pressures on families. We have asked the ACT Education Directorate to continue to investigate options but at this time families will need to find their own arrangements for getting students to school.

In the short term, I have coordinated transport for the remainder of the week to give you some time to make other arrangements.

For the rest of the week, including this afternoon, we have coordinated school staff to use the school bus to transfer students to and from Dickson. I've attached a permission note for you to consent to this. Students will not be able to board the MC bus tomorrow if they do not have the consent note signed and with them.

Again, this transfer is only possible for this week. From Monday 8 February, students will need to make their own transport arrangements to travel between from Dickson and Melba Copland Secondary School.

My thanks and gratitude go to the many staff members who have gone above and beyond to help with this and again extend my apologies to you that we have been unable to gain access to suitable transport.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children

Kerrie



Kerrie Heath | Principal

Phone: 02 6142 0333 | Email: kerrie.heath@ed.act.edu.au

Melba Copland | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Conley Drive, Melba ACT 2615 | www.mcss.act.edu.au | act.gov.au

Melba Copland acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of the land where we live, work and learn. We celebrate the continuing culture of the Ngunnawal people and pay our deepest respects to all elders past, present and emerging.

Dear Parents and Carers,

MCSS will provide a school bus to pick up and return students to Dickson bus interchange in order to facilitate their attendance at Melba Copland Secondary School. We would like your consent to travel on the school bus if your child is using this service. Please sign below.

Please note, this service is provided for Week 1 of Term 1, 2021 only.

Name of student/s

1. _____ year level _____
2. _____ year level _____

I give my consent for my student to travel on the school bus to and from Dickson bus interchange.

Name of Parent _____

Phone No _____

Signature _____

For further information, please contact:

Kerrie Heath, Principal
01/02/2021

E: kerrie.heath@ed.act.edu.au
P: (02) 6142 0333