



Macquarie Fields Public School

43 Fields Road
Macquarie Fields NSW 2564
T 02 9605 1024
E macfields-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe, the Autumn holidays are upon us. It has been an awesome Term One, jam packed with so much learning, sport, special events and opportunity. The students have been our stars, and I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff at Macquarie Fields, allowing our students to shine as brightly as they do! A very big thank you also to our families for your continued support and collaboration to make Macquarie Fields the best it can be!

For our families who recently celebrated Easter, Happy Easter to you. I hope you enjoyed spending time together with your family and friends. For our families who celebrated Eid this week, I hope your time together was happy. Eid Mubarak. May these special times for everyone be ones of joy and celebration for your children and your family.

I hope you all have a well-deserved break with lots of fun, love and laughter. **Students return to school on Tuesday 30 April.**

Easter Hat Parade

I am delighted to share that our recent Easter Hat Parade was a tremendous success. It was lovely to see our students donning their beautifully crafted hats, showcasing their creative endeavours. The parade was filled with laughter, joy and a sense of community. We are always thrilled to welcome a large group of families and friends to this event, who add to the fun atmosphere. I extend my thanks to the students, staff and families who made this event a memorable one, thank you families for the time you dedicated to making your child's hat – I hope it was great family fun together! A special thanks to Ms Kallipolitis who led this event.



2024 Student Leadership Team

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of inducting our 2024 Student Leadership Team. I would like to congratulate our student leaders and acknowledge all students who nominated for a position and went through the selection process. Thank you to Ms Sommerville and Miss Chiew who are the coordinating teachers and will guide, support and mentor these students to develop their leadership skills. We look forward to the great initiatives they will promote this year.

Our 2024 leadership team includes:

Captains: Vidushi, Ruby, Justin and Evan

Prefects: Wania, Aayan, Fatmah, Ananya, Anauva and Joseph

Sports Captains: Alveena and Ved (Waratah Captains), Eiliyah and Mahant (Waratah Vice Captains)

Rishav and Aliyah (Boronia Captains), Nathaniel and An (Boronia Vice Captains)

Azriel and Maidah (Wattle Captains), Joshua and Sophia (Wattle Vice Captains)

Christian and Rumaisa (Banksia Captains), Nicole and Olin (Banksia Vice Captains)

SRC: Arya, Ariana, Eddie, Emma, Bianca, Marcelle, Pritha, Savannah, Tajwar, Asfiya, Nouman, Zara, Janvi, Farhaan, Mishel, Jesse, Amreen, Talin, Aarav, Sarim, William and Sara



Harmony Day

Harmony Day was a vibrant celebration of diversity and unity. Students and staff came together on Monday 25 March to celebrate the many cultures that make up our school community. Through Harmony Day, we emphasize the importance of embracing diversity and working together to create a more inclusive and harmonious society.



Swim Scheme

Students in Years 2, 3 and 4 have been enjoying Swim Scheme over the last two weeks. Lots of great progress has been made – great job! Thank you to Mrs Macpherson and Mrs Lown for coordinating the program.



Anti-Racism Contact Officer

With your support, we do the very best we can to ensure that our students feel safe and are able to reach their potential.

The Department of Education rejects all forms of racism and is committed to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in NSW public schools. The Department's Anti-Racism Policy aims to ensure that no student, employee, parent, carer or community member experiences racism within the school environment.

The policy asks all members of the school community to assist in countering racism by demonstrating respect for the cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds of others, and by behaving in ways that promote acceptance and harmony in the school environment.

Mrs Cheney is the ARCO officer for Macquarie Fields Public School.

Thank you for assisting us to maintain a positive school environment in which all forms of racism are rejected. If your child is experiencing racism at school, you should encourage them to report it to a teacher or Mrs Cheney, or you may report it on your child's behalf.



Community Participation – Formation of a P&C

Macquarie Fields welcomes all families and friends to be active members of our school community, working in partnership for our students. Today on Seesaw, a link has been sent to a survey asking for parent and carer interest in joining a P&C. This survey asks families to register their interest and nominate the best days and times that would suit them for meetings. There is also an option to give a preference for the type of meeting (being face-to-face or online). I look forward to the community's responses and anticipate our first meeting will be in the first half of next term.

Staff Development Day

Our school will be joining with all other public schools across NSW on Monday 29 April 2024 to carry out professional learning focusing on curriculum. School development days are used by schools to build on the knowledge and skills of our teachers, school leaders and school administrative support staff through a targeted professional learning program. The professional learning has been planned around the needs of our school community and will help to sustain positive change and improve educational outcomes for all learners.

NAPLAN

Last month, over a three week period, our Year 3 and 5 students completed the NAPLAN assessment. It was wonderful to see the confidence of our students as they completed these assessments, keen to demonstrate their understanding of their learning. Thank you to the Year 3 and 5 teachers, led by Mrs Menne and Mrs Pritchard, who overseen the administration of approximately 1000 assessments in the four areas of reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

We asked that students give it their best and that's exactly what did – well done Year 3 and 5 students, I am proud of you all!

Prayer group

Students from Stage 3 approached me to request if they could have a student-led prayer group during the holy month of Ramadan. They were very respectful and explained their proposal clearly and with a sense of pride and responsibility. The prayer group went ahead during the recess break and the parents of students involved were informed. The student-led prayer group was conducted under the Department of Education's procedure titled 'Other Activities of a Religious Nature in Schools' and more specifically, the 'Voluntary student activities of a religious nature in schools' (VSA). Thank you and well done to the students who led their peers.

Attendance

This year we continue the use messaging to parents via the School Bytes application to communicate student absences. If your child is absent from school and the school or classroom teacher has not been informed, you will receive a notification message through School Bytes letting you know of this absence. You are then able to respond to the portal message letting us know the reason for this absence. Alternatively, you can message the classroom teacher directly on Seesaw or telephone the school on 96051024. A response to the notification will be recorded as an explained absence. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

YEAR 5 2025 OC Class Applications

Applications for placement in opportunity classes in Year 5 in 2025 opened last Thursday 4 April 2024 and close on **Monday 20 May 2024**.

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes are one of the ways the NSW Department of Education supports high potential and gifted students. The classes help students learn by:

- grouping them with other gifted students
- using specialised teaching methods so students can learn concepts in more detail and more quickly
- supporting their wellbeing needs.

Most students in opportunity classes enjoy learning with peers who have similar abilities and interests.

Opportunity classes are not zoned.

Where are they located?

There are 86 primary schools with opportunity classes in NSW each year.

- 54 schools are located in metropolitan Sydney
- 31 schools are located in rural or regional centres
- a virtual class, Aurora College, for rural and remote students is available in over 600 authorised host schools.

Students successfully placed, and who accept the position, attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school.

Should you apply?

If your child learns with greater ease and speed than their classmates, they **may** benefit from placement in an opportunity class. High potential and gifted children need to be challenged so they remain engaged with their education. Please discuss the opportunity with your child and look through the information together on Opportunity classes – Year 5. If you would like to discuss whether you think you should apply, please contact your child's teacher.

Ready to apply?

Apply online at: [Opportunity classes \(Year 5–6\) \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/education/primary-schools/opportunity-classes)

School holiday security

The number for school security is 1300 880 021. If you notice any unusual activity over the school holidays, please call the above number. Alternatively, you can call Macquarie Fields Police on 9605 0499.

Have a wonderful holiday – see you all next term!

Warm regards

Ms Vicki Craze
Principal
12/4/24