**From the Principal’s Desk**

**Welcome Back to School.**
A big welcome back to all students and families after the summer holidays. We hope everyone had a good summer break and feel ready and refreshed to start the new school year. Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome at Macarthur. I feel very privileged to be the Principal over the next few weeks and am really looking forward to my time here. I am sure Mrs. Lyles will be enjoying her well earned break. I can already see what a wonderful school we have in Macarthur. The year has started very smoothly with all the children getting straight down to work. I have been very impressed by the excellent attitude, behaviour and manners of all our students. The year ahead looks set to be a busy and exciting one for our school with much happening in educational programs and facilities development. The Grade 5’s are very excited about the arrival of their new netbook computers.

A big thankyou to all the staff for their hard work during the holidays. They have put in many extra hours preparing for the new school year and the school is looking fantastic.

**New Students**
A special welcome to all new students and their families. We have ten new prep students this year and it was wonderful to see them settle in so happily to school over the first two days. Welcome to Paris, Jaz, Molly, Isabelle, Cody, Amelia, Mac, Marcus, Sam and Latisha. We also welcome Michael (Grade 1), Emily (Grade 6) and a welcome back to Claudia (Grade 3).

**Grades 2009**
Grades and teachers for this year are as follows.

**Prep/One:** Miss Cunningham
**Grade 2 / 3:** Mrs. Shepherd
**Grade 4 / 5 / 6:** Miss Mulder
**M A R C V a n:** Mrs. Hatherall

**Art Program:** Mrs McNaughton.
**Music Tutor:** Hazel

**Special Programs**
Music Tuition: Available Mondays
Art/Library: Thursday
Physical Education: Tuesday
LOTE/Cultural Studies: Tuesday
Music: Monday
Technology: Monday

**Phys Ed Program**
Could all children bring P.E clothes to school on Tuesdays (ie runners, shorts). Children will change at the end of lunchtime ready for their lessons in the afternoon. We will organise assistance for the younger students at the start of the year.

**Swimming Program**
This year the swimming program will begin on February 9th. Lessons will run in the afternoons for two weeks every day except Wednesday. The Swimming Carnival will be held on **Monday February 23rd**.

**Parent Information Evenings**
As part of our desire to forge strong links between home and school each of the teachers will be holding a Parent Information Evening. This is an excellent opportunity to...
Little Athletics

Little Aths will re-commence on Wednesday night the 11/02/09, normal time 4.30pm with assistance if possible setting up at 4pm.

Jenny Evans
President
Hamilton Little Athletic Club

Reading Support

As a school we are very keen to improve the reading ability of all our students. One of our strategies to have all students involved in reading activities between 8.45 and 9.00 every day. To do this really effectively we need as much help as possible from parents. If you are able to give up a little time for this venture it would be much appreciated. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to help.

Tissues

A reminder from teachers to please supply your child with tissues while they are at school as we do not provide them.

Entry to School

Just a reminder about our entry and exit doors for each grade. This is to avoid congestion in our administration area. Grade 2 / 3 and Grade 4 / 5/ 6 will enter school by the bottom door near Miss Mulder’s room. Grades Prep/One need to enter the school by the door near the canteen with easy access to their bag area. We would like all students to use these doors and avoid using the doors near the office. Doors are open for students to enter the school building at 8.45am.

Building Works

I am sure many of you will have seen the recent improvements to our school building. There are still a few finishing touches to be done but the work is almost complete. It will be great to have the integration room and sick bay operational.

Don Beaton
Acting Principal

Royal Childrens Hospital

A reminder that we are having another Garage Sale, due to an overwhelming response, on February 21st commencing at 8:00am. Out front of Hartwich’s Store. So if you have had your Christmas clean up, you can drop goods (no junk please) at Suzy Millard’s 55761210 or Sandra Addinsall’s 55761303 or we can pick it up for you. Once again we will be doing our annual collecting for the Good Friday Appeal, with help from some very special people. You all have been fantastic with donations & we hope you can continue with your support. As you know it’s a great hospital with many of our kids attending for treatment. All monies raised from any of our fundraising & donations given go to the hospital. So dig deep and thanks again.

Co-ordinator – Suzy Millard
IMPORTANT NOTICE: NEW EDUCATION TAX REFUND AVAILABLE
The Federal Government recently legislated introduction of the Education Tax Refund which will allow eligible families to claim a refund of up to $375 (for primary schools) or $750 (for secondary schools) for certain costs of educating their school children, during the 2008/09 year.
Refunds may be received in relation to the cost of purchases, including:
- Laptops;
- Home computers and associated costs;
- Home internet connection;
- Printers;
- Education software;
- Trade tools for use at school;
- School text books; and
- Stationery.

Sinclair Wilson has developed a resource kit which clearly sets out eligibility and what you need to do or keep, if you are eligible, in order to claim your refund.
Contact Leigh Marris at Sinclair Wilson on 55640555 if you wish to find out more. Initial discussion free.

SINCLAIR WILSON
Accountants & Business Advisors

Canteen

\[ \text{........} \text{......Can all families respond ...} \text{........} \text{........} \]

CANTEEN ROSTER Terms 1 & 2

The Canteen Roster for Terms 1 & 2 2009 is being organized.
Could you please fill in this form and send it back to school by Monday 9th February 2009. - Thankyou

(Please tick responses)

- I am able to do Canteen
  - I have a WWC Card
- I am unable to do Canteen

The Day(s) I would prefer:

- Monday
- Wednesday
- Friday

New parents are encouraged to do Canteen Duty and will be paired with another parent, for the first time.

The Canteen can only operate 3 days a week, if there is a good parent response.

Your name: ........................................ Signed: ........................................

I would like to apply for a WWC Card (The school will send home a form for you to complete)
**Calendar 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<td><strong>Feb 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>No school for preps</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Bowls Corp Cup</td>
<td><strong>MARC</strong></td>
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<td>- Swimming</td>
<td>- Swimming</td>
<td><strong>No school for preps</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Bowls Corp Cup</td>
<td><strong>Art</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Swimming</td>
<td><strong>Swimming</strong></td>
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<td>- Swimming</td>
<td>- Swimming</td>
<td><strong>No school for preps</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Bowls Corp Cup</td>
<td><strong>MARC</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Swimming</td>
<td>- Swimming</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td><strong>No school for preps</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Bowls Corp Cup</td>
<td><strong>Art</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mar 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MARC</strong>&lt;br&gt;- RE Starts</td>
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## 2009 Parent Contributions

The School Council approved a motion at its November 28, 2008 meeting that the Parent Contributions of $110 per student be used for Cultural & Arts Performances ($40); Technology/Internet ($10); Student Requisites ($40); and Swimming ($20).

The swimming program has been subsidized by a further $20 per student from CAP funding.

Parents are asked to pay the voluntary parent contributions of $110 per student as soon as possible.

If you would prefer to pay these contributions by regular instalments please see me in the Office.

*Sylvia Business Manager.*

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## Junior Netball—Pedrina Park

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Registration Evening – Pedrina Park 6.00pm Committee Meeting to follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Foundation Coaching Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Round 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6pm 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Umpire Theory Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Round 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Round 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Round 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Round 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
<td>Round 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
<td>Level 1 Umpiring Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
<td>Round 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6pm 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
<td>Umpire Theory Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
<td>Round 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
<td>Round 9</td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Round 10</td>
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<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Round 11</td>
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<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Round 12</td>
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<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Semi Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
<td>Preliminary Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September</td>
<td>Grand Final</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### If you are interested in any of the below mentioned courses please contact Jane Champness for further details and application forms.

- **Foundation Coaching Course**
  - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009
  - 10 am.
  - closing date 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009
  - Registration Night

- **Umpires Theory Exams**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> May
  - applications close 23<sup>rd</sup> March
  - 16<sup>th</sup> July
  - applications close 30<sup>th</sup> May

- **Level One Umpiring Course**
  - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009
  - 10 am.
  - closing date Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009

- **Assessment for “C” Badge**
  - please advise Jane Champness prior to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009

*Jane Champness*

*Ph 03 55724889*

Also – Miss Cunningham has more detailed information at hand.
Education Maintenance Allowance information for the school newsletter

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009 for the first instalment and 7 August 2009 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $221 for primary students and $443 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% ‘parent portion’ of the EMA payment directly into the parent’s nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary school*</th>
<th>Secondary school*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$  77.35</td>
<td>$ 155.05</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two</td>
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<td>$  66.45</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$  33.15</td>
<td>$  66.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 221.00</td>
<td>$ 443.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 27 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office.