

10 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe we are already in Week 8! With spring well and truly here, there is plenty happening across our school and preschool community as we head towards the end of Term 3.

Year 1 Phonics Check

The Year 1 Phonics Check will take place between 7–25 September. The Phonics Check is a short assessment that helps teachers understand how confidently students can use their knowledge of letters and sounds when reading. Students read a series of words to their teacher, including some made-up words. These are included so teachers can see whether students are applying their phonics knowledge to unfamiliar words, rather than simply recognising words they already know.

The check is completed individually with a teacher in a quiet and supportive environment and is not something students need to study or prepare for at home. The information helps teachers identify what students are doing well and whether any students would benefit from additional support with phonics and reading.

Speech Pathology Support in Term 4

We are excited to welcome speech pathology students from Australian Catholic University (ACU) to our school in Term 4. The students will work with selected students in targeted small groups to support communication and language development and will be supervised by qualified local speech pathologist Sarah Cording. We are really looking forward to this opportunity and the additional support it will provide for our students and staff.

Wonderful News from Our Preschool

We are very pleased to share some wonderful news from our preschool community. Our preschool recently received an unannounced compliance visit from the ACT Education and Care Regulatory Authority (CECA). These visits provide an opportunity for the regulatory authority to check that education and care services are meeting their legislative responsibilities and providing safe, high-quality environments for children. We are very proud to share that our preschool was deemed fully compliant.

The feedback from the visit also highlighted our wonderful indoor and outdoor program and the strong relationships educators have developed with children. This is a fantastic reflection of the care, professionalism and commitment of our preschool team, and we are incredibly proud of the work they do every day to provide a safe, engaging and nurturing environment for our youngest learners.

Preschool Information Session

We are looking forward to welcoming all preschool families – both current and new – to our **Preschool Information Session in Week 10**.

Wednesday 23 September

3:00pm

Richardson Primary School Preschool

This is a great opportunity to meet the preschool team, learn more about our program, connect with support services and meet families who will be joining our preschool community in 2027. Whether your family is already part of our preschool community or you are considering preschool for 2027, everyone is welcome. We would love to see you there.

PACE Parenting Workshop

Families are invited to attend our upcoming **PACE Parenting Workshop**, facilitated by our school social worker, **Sadhana**.

Tuesday 15 September

9:15am–11:15am

School Library

PACE is an attachment-based parenting approach that supports parents and carers to strengthen relationships with children, support emotional regulation and build emotional literacy. The workshop will provide families with practical strategies and ideas that can be used at home to support positive relationships and children's emotional development. We would love to see families there.

Spring Hats and Lost Property

Spring is here! As the weather warms up, please remember that students need to wear a sun-smart hat when they are outside. Please make sure your child brings a suitable hat to school each day and that it is clearly labelled with their name.

Our lost property collection is also getting very full, with lots of jumpers, jackets, drink bottles and other belongings waiting to be reunited with their owners. Please remember to label your child's clothing, lunchboxes, drink bottles and other belongings with their name. Labelling makes a huge difference and helps us return lost items much more easily.

Industrial Action Update

We continue to experience industrial action across ACT public schools while negotiations between the ACT Government and education unions continue. As part of the current industrial action, staff are not participating in meetings outside instructional hours, except where a meeting is required in relation to student safety. We have also temporarily paused some aspects of our school improvement work.

We appreciate that ongoing industrial action can create uncertainty for families. Our staff remain committed to providing high-quality teaching and learning for our students each day, and we look forward to recommencing our broader school improvement work and collaborative activities once an agreement has been reached.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school community. We are looking forward to a busy and positive few weeks as we finish Term 3.

Kind regards,

Brittany Herrington

Executive Teacher

Student Awards

**The following students will receive an award
Friday 11 September 2026**

NAMES	CLASS
Anastasia O'Brien	KT
Oliver Wilson-Dennis	KT
Maverick Byrne	1/2A
Phoebe Woods	1/2A
Antonio Macri	1/2D
Austin Walker	1/2D
Michael Byrne	3/4C
Jaxson Howe	3/4C
Ellie Wilding	3/4C
Jack Champness	3/4M
Clea Morosi	3/4M
Chloe Champness	5/6G
Kailahrose Kahuroah-Simpson	5/6G
Malakai Kelly-Higgins	5/6G
Luca Woods	5/6G
Leo Erett	K-6W

Have you registered an account to access the Parent Portal? - Changes to ACT Digital Account ID requirements

Parent Portal is a secure online platform used to share student information between you and your child's teachers. You'll be able to access a range of information and services about your child's school life using the Parent Portal. You can create your ACT Digital Account now if you don't have one already. Create an account and complete ID verification by visiting: <https://www.myaccount.act.gov.au/>. You now only need one form of accepted ID. If you want to read more about the Parent Portal, head to our website: <https://www.richardsonps.act.edu.au/>. You can contact the school on 6142 3630 or send an email to info@richardsonps.act.edu.au if you need your access key or have any questions.

Use Parent Portal to:

- notify us if your child is sick or explain an absence
- book parent/teacher interviews
- receive academic reports
- receive our school newsletter
- make payments - Families using Parent Portal will receive notifications through the platform and can pay through the app or online. Families that do not have Portal access we will send invoices and requests for contributions to you by email with a payment link. An automated receipt will be generated and sent to you following payment. We are no longer using the Westpac QuickWeb payment platform in ACT Public Schools
- access the school calendar

KENNY KOALA VISITS PRESCHOOL

We were very excited to welcome **Kenny Koala** to preschool this week as part of the *Stay OK on the Road* program.

Kenny talked with the children about some very important ways we can stay safe around roads and when travelling in the car. The children learnt about the importance of wearing a helmet when riding bikes, scooters and skateboards, as well as remembering to wear a seatbelt every time we travel in the car, and to always wait for that important “click!”

Kenny also helped the children learn how to cross the road safely by **looking both ways, listening for danger and holding an adult’s hand.**

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were especially excited to see Kenny turn on the **lights and sirens on his car!** It was a fun and engaging way to help our children learn some very important road safety messages.



Social Work Support for Richardson families 2026*

Sadhana Kunwar
Social Worker
Wellbeing in Schools (WinS)

Ph: 0421 727 202
E: sadhana.kunwar@ed.act.edu.au

Drop-in sessions available:

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
9:00 - 10:00am

Ask the front office when you arrive at the school.

Parents and carers are welcome to drop in for a chat, ask questions, or explore supports available for their child & family.

I can support with:

- NDIS support and service navigation;
- Linking families with community services and therapy supports;
- Parenting and family support;
- Children's wellbeing, emotions, and behaviour.

PACE Parent Workshop Richardson Primary

Playfulness
Acceptance
Curiosity
Empathy

PACE is an attachment-based parenting approach that helps parents and carers strengthen relationships with children, support emotional regulation, and build emotional literacy.

Workshop aims:

- Gain an understanding of the PACE model and some key concepts that underpin it.
- Scripting to start implementing PACE into your interactions with children.
- Meet and connect with other parents
- Share experiences and learn from one another.

Date : Tuesday 15 September 2026

Time: 9:15 am- 11:15 am

Location: Richardson Primary



Tea/coffee provided

BRING YOUR BILLS

FREE in person help with debt, energy, and cost of living stress

23 October
11am - 2pm

Gordon Community Centre
110 Lewis Luxton Avenue, Gordon

- A one-stop shop for free support, advice and information
- No booking required. No judgement. Drop in on the day
- We can help you understand and access available supports

Chat about:

Eligibility for \$100 Energy Support Payment
Managing debt and energy hardship
Consumer credit legal issues
Tenancy assistance and more!

Community Lunch
for everyone to enjoy



Lucky door prizes available!



MLYCC

Connecting With

Family Support Services

Did you know here at MLYCC we connect regularly with other family support services?

Reach out to one of our friendly staff members to learn more about these services and how you can connect:



Sandy and Lori
T25 Clinic

Thursdays 1-5pm
(No booking required)



DI
Care Financial

First Tuesday of each month (9am-1pm)



Jason
Menslink

Thursdays 1-5pm
(School Term Only)



Latoya
The Smith Family - Learning For Life

Tuesday mornings
(School Term Only)



Donna
Canberra PCYC

Thursday mornings
(School Term Only)



Services Australia

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday morning of each month (10-11am)



Gus
ACT Down Syndrome & Intellectual Disability Association
(General NDIS Support)

Every 2nd Thursday of each month (1-5pm)



Warm Connections

For more information, chat with staff or visit the YWCA website

MLYCC can also connect our clients with allied health specialist for a "chat" about any concerns you may have for your child's development regarding:

Speech Pathology,
Occupation Therapy &
Psychology

Ask us how!