



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE



Principal: Jennifer Hall

Preschool Term One, 2019 Walga, Guginya, Gudamang and Buru

At Macgregor Primary School's Preschool Unit, we view all children as unique, creative, capable and competent learners. We recognise that children learn through play, can make decisions to inform their own learning and have differing needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities.

This term we will be supporting the children in developing a sense of 'belonging' at preschool. We will achieve this by offering experiences that support each child in forming positive relationships with their peers and educators. The children and educators will explore literature that delves into the concepts of friendship, inclusivity and individuality. We will assist the children in developing their self-confidence and communication skills through provocations, investigations, explicit teaching, differentiated activities and whole group discussions.

Our teaching and learning this term will explore the following essential questions:

- *What do we do at preschool?*
- *What groups do I belong to?*
- *How can I be a good friend?*
- *How can I solve problems?*

An exciting part of preschool is discovering and celebrating each other's differences. We encourage the children to share their special memories, thoughts and family traditions with us and would love to have the support of our families in continuing this exploration throughout the year.

Our fortnightly learning program will be on display for families to read and contribute comments. We appreciate feedback and encourage families to share their thoughts and ideas with us. The children will have a personal portfolio that the teachers and children add to throughout the year; providing learning stories, art pieces, reflections and photographs that represent each child's journey at preschool.

Walk on Country

We will be exploring our local environment with an Indigenous lens through our *Walk on Country* Program. This involves exploring our environment and making connections to the land and its flora and fauna. We begin the walk with an Acknowledgement of Country for the traditional custodians of the land that we walk and learn upon.

Library

Throughout the year the children will visit the library on a weekly basis. During this time, the children will be immersed in literature with the intention of fostering a love for reading. We ask that the children bring their personalised library bag and return their books each week. This routine assists with the borrowing of books from our library.

Library days for Guginya and Gudamang groups - Tuesdays 9:30am.

Library days for Walga and Buru groups – Thursdays 9:30am.

Sun safety

Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morning before preschool starts. We encourage the children to use a roll-on sunscreen that they store in their bag. We will remind the children to reapply as needed throughout the day. As a sunsmart school, we also teach the children to wear their sunsmart hats and we model sunsmart behaviours.

Healthy Eating and Allergies

Macgregor Primary School encourages healthy eating and we are a *Fresh Tastes* school. At preschool we ask all children to bring at least one piece of fresh fruit (or some vegetables) to eat at fruit break. Each child also brings a water bottle each day, filled with water only.

Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff members with severe allergies to honey, nuts and nut products. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all, we ask that children do not bring any honey, nuts or nut products to school. We are a *Nut Aware* school.

We have found our preschoolers are very kind and like to share their food - we discourage the sharing of food due to allergies and the varied cultural backgrounds of the children. We encourage the sharing of cupcakes with the whole group if it's a special celebration.

School Hats and Library Bags

This year we have provided each student with a hat to keep at preschool (red hats for Guginya and Walga and green hats for Gudamang and Buru). We have also provided a library bag which each child has decorated. These personalised library bags will be used as a portfolio bag at the end of the year.

Belongings

Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled. Drink bottles, lunch bags, lunch boxes, forks, spoons, school bags, shoes, spare clothing etc. There are a few children with the same items and we like to be able to return lost items to the correct owner.

Preschool Equipment

As part of our W@M framework (Wellbeing at Macgregor), we encourage all of the children to care for their own, and each other's belongings. In addition, we develop routines and agreements at preschool regarding caring for the indoor and outdoor preschool equipment.

Note Pockets

Each child has been allocated a 'note pocket'. Your child's hat can be left in this pocket and families are encouraged to take home any important notes and artwork.

Wet Weather Gear and Spare Clothes

We have an 'all weather' program at Macgregor Preschool and we ask that parents provide a raincoat and pair of gumboots to keep at preschool for rainy days. We have a place to store them for each class. We also request that each child has a change of weather appropriate spare clothes in their school bag every day.

Volunteering at Preschool

At preschool we value the wonderful contribution of families to our program. In line with current legislation, those wanting to help out on a regular basis can apply for a *Working with Vulnerable People* card. This is available through the Access Canberra website. When the card has been received, please chat with our preschool educators.

Playground Supervision

At preschool we have duty of care for your children from 8:45am to 2:45pm. We ask that families stay with their child before preschool begins and then verbally 'hand over' the care of their child before leaving. The children can then be collected at 2:45pm. If you are playing with your child in our playground before or after school hours, we appreciate you supervising their play.

The National Quality Standard

We take pride in valuing each new and unique preschool community and we will be asking for your contribution to the creation of our *Preschool Philosophy* for 2019. Throughout the year we will also seek assistance with our program and in the ongoing development of our learning spaces. If you have expertise, time, materials or knowledge to support our teaching and learning, please let us know.

Dates for the Calendar

Bus Wash - We are hoping to have a bus wash excursion during term 1. This request can't be completed until the end of February. Details will follow as soon as they are available, including volunteers to assist.

Kenny Koala is making a visit to preschool during week 9.

Preschool photos

Tuesday 26 March Gudamang and Guginya

Thursday 28 March Walga and Buru

Excursions

Each term we aim to have at least one excursion or incursion. Information and permission notes will be distributed to families at least three weeks prior to each excursion. We kindly ask for volunteers to assist us during our excursions.

Wellbeing @Macgregor: W@M

You may have noticed posters around the school that describe Macgregor's expectations for positive behaviour in different areas. These posters are part of our *Wellbeing at Macgregor* framework – also known as **W@M**. If you would like further information – please ask us. We use these posters at preschool as an introduction to W@M. There are four 'Super Heroes' (called Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Learner) that we use to teach each child about our expected learning behaviours.

Kind regards,

Glennis Weatherston, Bek Stevenson, Kirstin Brown, Amanda Ferris, Danielle Jackson, Tracey Liddle, Heather Watt, Brenda Frew and Cecilia Wong