

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Hirschfeld Cres
MACGREGOR ACT 2615

PO Box 372
KIPPAX ACT 2615

www.macgregorps.act.edu.au
info@macgregorps.act.edu.au

Phone: 6142 1600
Fax: 6142 1624



Volume 43, Issue 24 Term 2 Week 8 22 June 2018

Dates to Remember

| | |
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| Thursday 28 June Athletic Carnival ribbons assembly, 2:10pm | Friday 29 June Assembly 2:20pm, hosted by year 2 |
| Friday 29 June Coffee and Chat with Jennifer, 9:15am | Friday 6 July Last day of term 2 |

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mid Semester Reports

Wow, we are more than half way through the term already! It has been a busy and productive fortnight at Macgregor. Teachers have finished writing their reports, and I have been so pleased to read about the exceptional progress students have made this semester. It is so wonderful to see that we are achieving our mission '*We will do whatever it takes to ensure that all students achieve success in their schooling*'.

Community Programs

Last Wednesday evening we hosted the first of our Lift Off programs *READY*, for our year 2 students and families at Macgregor Primary School. This was a fantastic event, attended by over 35 families. This program is an Australia wide initiative that provides strategies to strengthen the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and families. We received excellent feedback from the families who attended and are excited to offer the next program *SET*, for year 4 students and their families in term 3, and *GO*, for year 6 students and their families in term 4. For the remainder of this year we are also running Lift Off! - Family Connect, a program that contains information about strengthening families. Further information is detailed further in our newsletter.

Wellbeing at Macgregor

Students have been eagerly asking about the return of the W@M band this semester, and we are pleased to say that these will be back in action early next term. Students are already been receiving tickets for the W@M values; we are respectful, we are responsible, we are safe and we are learners. These points will contribute to their bands. For this rest of this term teachers have been focussing on the W@M value of respect, and in particular respect for our environment and speaking respectfully to each other. Please talk to your children about the values and how they can contribute to the W@M culture.

Staff Professional Learning

This week at Macgregor, teachers have been engaging in some very exciting professional learning. Louise Dempsey is a highly acknowledged international education author and consultant who facilitates professional learning in teaching. This week Louise has been working with staff across the school to build on our expertise in the effective teaching of the learning of writing. Louise has been working with our teachers in classrooms and afterschool. We are very excited to be involved in this amazing opportunity.

Parents and Community

A special thanks to Tara, the P&C fundraising committee and the Canteen staff for organising the first Macgregor Movie night in week 6. This was a great event with over 150 people in attendance. This raised almost \$1000 for the P&C and more importantly was a great opportunity for our community to get together and relax. The students really enjoyed the movie "Coco" as well the delicious treats provided by the canteen.

Yours in Education
Jennifer
Principal



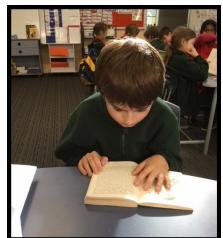
3/4SB Spotlight on Learning

Hello from 3/4SB

What a busy term we are having. In Literacy, we are focusing on narrative writing. We have been exploring characters and settings, using descriptive language and plotting stories that include complications and resolutions. To support our writing, we have made a 'Build It Up Wall'. This wall contains sentences that are boring and sentences that are interesting. The boring sentences have been placed on the 'rejection' arrow and the interesting sentences are on the 'acceptance' arrow. This relates to our conversations about how to become a published author in the real world!



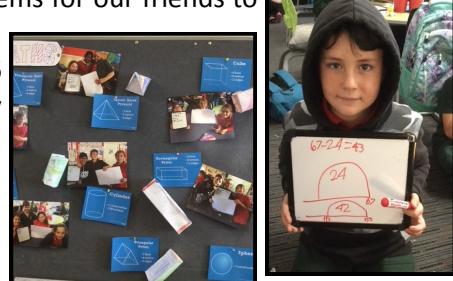
We are continuing our focus on reading each day, practising our strategies and reading in groups with Ms. S. Our fluency and expression has really improved this term. In spelling we learn new words each week which are taken from the Oxford Word List of high frequency words for years 3 and 4. We also have extension words for those students who already know the Oxford Word List.



Our inquiry this term has been FANTASTIC!!! We are learning about natural disasters, what causes them, how we can prevent them and how human activity has impacted on our natural world. One of the best parts has been the science experiments we have been doing, which we have loved. You may have noticed your child coming home with cornflour on their clothes and food dye on their hands. In week 10 we will invite all families to come into our classroom where we will present our learning about natural disasters. We are also hoping to have some science experiments set up for you to experience with your child.

Maths continues to focus on geometry, algebra and number. We have been exploring addition and subtraction strategies, as well as writing number problems for our friends to solve. Here are some examples. "If in 3 years I will be 7, and in 6 years I will be 10, how old am I?", "Mitchel has 1,256 apples. 1,130 are now rotten. How many are left?" and "My friend has \$146 but gives \$56 to her friend. How much money does she have left?".

Kind Regards
Ms. Sochacki, Ms. Butt and the 3/4's



Sporting Corner

Congratulations to Josh, Liam and Jasper. They all competed in the u12's Belconnen AFL schools competition.

They made it to the grand final and came 2nd. What a fantastic achievement. Well done boys!

They had a great day representing Belconnen.



5WM Spotlight on Learning

Hello everyone! We have been hard at work learning this term.

As part of our Reader's Workshop sessions, students are continuing to develop the skills needed to become life long readers. We are currently focusing on exploring how authors make a story interesting by describing what characters are thinking and feeling instead of simply stating an emotion. We call this activity 'Show, Don't Tell.' We have also been creating a Word Wall filled with descriptive nouns and adjectives found in our reading so that they can be used in our own writing. Have a read of some of the amazing descriptions written earlier this week. Can you infer how the character is feeling?

Matt crept across the creaky floor trembling. He stood and waited. When the zombie ran in to the room he jumped sky high.

-Maggie

As Donald looked at his geography work his smile slowly decayed into a frown.

-Grace

Jim tried to figure out the problem. It was hard. Jim looked again and the numbers swirled around.

-Aaron

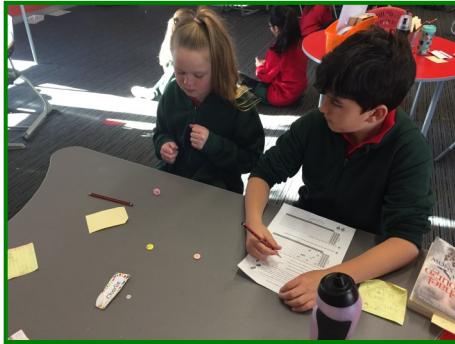
Katie ran through the field with her hands up and a smile as wide as the flowers.

-Michael

In mathematics we have been studying chance and probability. Students have enjoyed finding possible combinations and predicting how likely they are to occur. Check out the photos showing our experiment in progress.

During our health lessons, we have been discussing the changes and transitions associated with growing up and, more specifically, puberty. We have discussed identities, developmental changes, and resources and strategies to manage change. Be sure to look out for the collage your child has created exploring who they think the will become.

Ms McIntyre and 5WM



1 SA Spotlight on Learning

Welcome to the middle of term 2. The year is flying by. This term 1SA have been busy learning and exploring. The students in 1SA have been learning about procedural texts. We have written procedures for things that we are familiar with, such as bedtime routines and the steps we take to brush our teeth. Reading continues to be a daily focus and we are now getting into the routine of reading for 20 minutes at the start of each day. This is helping the students foster a love of reading for pleasure as well as helping to work on essential reading strategies such as reading for meaning and fluency. We have examined what a good fit book is and how to choose the right book to suit our needs.

We have been skip counting in maths, exploring shape and looking at probability and chance.

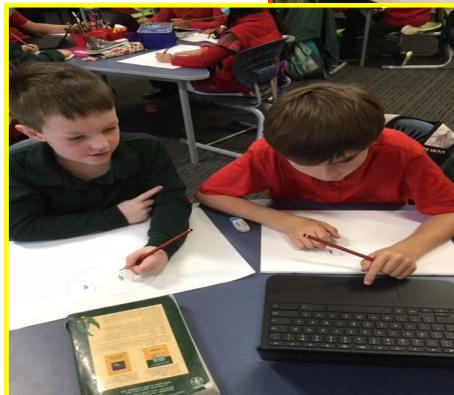
In science we have concluded our inquiry into sound waves and sight. Our history inquiry saw us venture beyond the school gate and into the wide world to visit the National Museum of Australia. The children and teachers enjoyed seeing artefacts from our past.

Closer to home we have been enjoying our weekly Buddy Time with the other Ms Sochacki's 3/4 class. During one of our buddy sessions we were learning to draw our favourite animal.

This term we have been fortunate to have Ms Sara Hill working with us, she is an education student in her final year of university. Ms Hill has taken over the teaching of our program. It has been wonderful to see her relationship with the students grow and develop over the course of her time with us. This has given me some valuable time to work more closely with every child.

Students have been busy choosing pieces that they are proud of to add to their portfolios. I know the students can't wait to share their learning with their families and carers. We have also been setting personal learning goals for literacy and numeracy. Some examples are remembering finger spaces when writing, working on more complex addition problems and subtraction sums. We are also adding social goals such as being kinder to each other. Once these individual goals are reached students will work with their teacher to negotiate new learning goals. The children will share their goals with their families next term at our learning journey.

Kind Regards
Renee Sochacki



Lift Off Family Connect



We believe that families who talk and listen together are stronger families. And that by providing children with good emotional skills we set them up for success and good mental health.

So this year Macgregor Primary School is participating in Family Connect. A fun program that teaches skills around: listening, appreciation, talking about feelings and taking responsibility. So join in on Family Connect.

We will be holding Family Connect conversations in the classroom then providing you with simple instructions so you can practice them at home. They are fun, empowering and connect you as a family. Most importantly it will support the development of your children and help them to be the best people they can be.

If you would like to find out how your family is going with providing a healthy emotional environment for your children, participate in the Aussie Family Check-in. www.aussiecheckin.com It's a simple online survey that will only take 7 minutes to complete.

"We have been holding Family Connect circles in my family for 10 years and I am profoundly grateful for the benefits we have experienced"

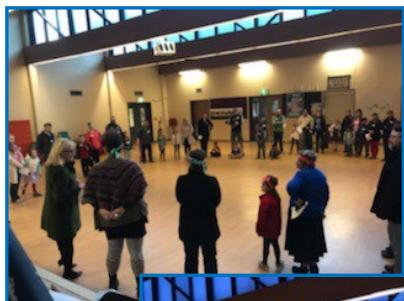
Garry Thomson

Family Connect – Conversation 1

Next week we are sending you instructions for your first Family Connect Conversation, *Listening*. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the family to share what is happening in their life. It teaches great listening skills. This fun family activity will be coming home with your child next week. Try it out and see how it goes.

"It feels fantastic to have that kind of special relationship and connection between us all."

Garry Thomson



Community Announcements

Parking patrols near schools

Parking Operations are now using a Licence Plate Recognition vehicle (or electronic chalking), which regularly patrols school environments to increase safety for children. Motorists that commit an offence will receive their infringement notice in the mail (rather than on their windscreen) 5-7 days after the offence.



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6B6PPgOC8I>)

While schools can become congested during the peak times, illegal parking cannot be tolerated as it creates an unsafe environment for children. Parents are welcome to park on side streets around schools, but please remember to park legally. Infringements for parking on nature strips, footpaths, verges, street corners and near children's crossings start from \$114.

If you need to drive, park a little further from the school and walk to meet your child, or arrange a meeting point so they can walk to meet you. It's a great way to avoid congestion and is also one of the most time efficient ways to ensure children receive the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

More information is available on the [Transport Canberra](#) website, including a range of information sheets to promote safe behaviours around schools. Please help to make school environments safe.

Reminders for Parents

Late to School

Students who arrive after 9:05am must report to the front office with their parent or carer to be signed in by a staff member. A student who signs in late without a parent/carer is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. If a note is provided the lateness is recorded as explained and approved.

Early Leavers

Parents/carers who need to collect their child earlier than 3:00pm are required to report to the front office and request for their child to be signed out.

Family Contact Details

It is important that the school maintain an accurate and up to date record of family/carers email, home addresses and telephone numbers for all children. Please notify the school immediately if there are changes to your contact details. To inform the school of any changes please send an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au, phone the front office on 61421600 or use the Macgregor Primary School App to inform the school of these changes.

Health

Children should not attend school when unwell. The most important way to break the chain of infection and stop spread of diseases are exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff. Your family doctor or the school can provide information regarding recommended exclusion periods for illnesses. Following these guidelines helps prevent contagious illnesses spreading to other children and staff.

P&C NEWS



Macgregor Primary School | Partners in Education

Week 8 Term 2 2018



Our volunteer-run services

The **Uniform Shop** is usually open on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. The email address uniform@macgregorpandc.org and orders through [Flexischools](#) are checked throughout the week and classroom deliveries are done on Mondays.

School Banking is on Wednesdays outside the library from 8:30 - 9:30. Kirsty Ross is always happy to welcome volunteers to assist. If you would like to help just visit Kirsty on Wednesday or send a message via [Facebook](#).

Fundraising activities are coordinated by Tara Robinson. We always need extra helping hands with these activities – send us a [Facebook](#) message, comment on Facebook posts about the events, or email tdrevents@hotmail.com if you would like to join in.

Next P&C meetings

Thursday 21 June 6pm

Thursday 16 August 6pm

Meetings run from 6-8 pm in the school library.

All parents, carers and their children are welcome!

A G-rated movie will be shown to entertain the kids while the meeting is on.



Positions vacant

Treasurer

P&C Council Representative

For more information about either of these positions, please contact

macgregorprimarypandcsecretary@gmail.com or send us a private message via [Facebook](#).

 Find us on
Facebook

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www.facebook.com/macgregorprimarypandc
(or search for Macgregor Primary P&C.)

MPS OSHC update

(Outside of School Hours Care)

We are having a major changeover this month due to the new system for childcare rebates. We are also changing over software programs.

Looking for donations of clean recycled paper and objects for craft.

We would also like to ask families if they have access to recycled paper to use for drawing, or other things that can be used for creative activities. Having these supplies donated can really cut costs for the service.

We are encouraging sustainability through this practice.

A policy review is now due. Policies are available at www.mpsoshc.com and community feedback is welcome.

Eileen and the rest of the MPSOSH team can be reached on mpsoshc@outlook.com or 0401 211 308.

Picture plate fundraiser

Picture plates are great gifts for family members or for use at home!

Notes and the drawing paper will be sent home shortly for each child - you will be able to use any texta or paint for the picture plate, you can do handprints, artwork or add photos. If you wish to do more than one style - there will be extra plate drawing paper kept at the front office.

Keep an eye out for them in your child's bag. Thank you for your support!

Tara – Fundraising Coordinator



5-cent fundraiser: collect now for Term 4

Which team will bring in the most 5 cent pieces this year? Will it be the Juniors again? The Seniors? Or will the Teachers win the day?

Keep on saving!





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ACT
Government

Education

P & C ASSOCIATION

Principal: Jennifer Hall

P & C President: Laura Horrell

Macgregor Primary School Fete – Saturday 20 October 2018, 11:00am – 3:00pm

Dear Macgregor Families,

The school fundraising team would like to hold a fete each year. For this to be possible we need the help and support of our wonderful families in the lead up to the fete and volunteers for stalls on the day.

Below is a list of items/stalls in which each year group has responsibility for. Items will need to be donated in order to run the fete and the stalls. Parent volunteers from each year group will be needed to run the stalls and help with the transaction of money. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we would really appreciate your help!

Preschool - Plant stall

We need donations of plants (including succulents, potting mix, and small pots etc.) to make this stall a success!

Kindergarten - Cake stall

Donations of cakes need to be dropped to school on Friday 19 October and before the fete begins on Saturday.

Suggested donations for this stall are cakes, slices, toffees, cupcakes, honey joys and chocolate crackles etc.

Year One – Tombola (lucky jars)

Jars are filled with assorted items such as tea bags, marbles, small toys, household items, kitchen items, seed packets, lollies/chocolates, art and craft supplies .etc.

Year Two - Pet Rock Stall

Create your own pet rock stall. Suggested donations for this stall are: rocks, pebbles, paint, glitter, smocks, old button up shirts, paint brushes, paint trays and post it notes etc.

Year Three - Chocolate Toss

We have the equipment needed; we will need donations of chocolate bars, blocks of chocolates and boxes of chocolate.

Year Four - Crazy Hair Stall

We will need all sorts of fun and crazy hair items for this stall to be successful. Items suggested are; coloured hair spray, glitter spray, hair jewelry, bows etc.

Year Five - Game Prizes

The year 5's will support the year 6 Sideshow Alley. We need small novelty toys, soft toys (like you see in the claw games), new colouring books etc. Having the same of one thing is more than ok!

Year Six - Sideshow Alley

You can get creative with this one! Suggestions are; ring toss game, hook the duck game, water pistol game, balloon pop etc.

LSG - Bubble wands and free craft stall

Donations of bubble wands, colouring in stencils or books, stickers and any other fun craft supplies are needed.

Thank you for all of your help and support. We truly appreciate our community joining together to make our fete a successful one!

Tara Robinson