

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Preschool Term One, 2020 **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 (which will be provided by the school and decorated by the children) and return their books each week. This routine assists with the borrowing of books from our library. These personalised library bags will be used as a portfolio bag at the end of the year.

Library days for Guginya and Gudamang groups - Tuesdays 10am.

Library days for Walga and Buru groups – Thursdays 10am.

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 nuts and nut products. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all, we ask that children do not bring any 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

This year we have provided each student with a hat to keep at preschool (red hats for Guginya and Buru and green hats for Gudamang and Walga).

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'. Families are encouraged to take home any important notes and artwork.

Hat Pockets

We kindly ask that all hats are left in the children's hat pockets and not to be taken home at the end of the day. We will wash them at the end of each term.

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.

Fresh Tastes

During our Fresh Tastes program this term, preschool children will learn to identify a range of healthy foods that help our bodies to GO, GLOW and GROW. We will also explore preparing and tasting some delicious and healthy snacks.

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.

If you are collecting your child/ren early please walk up from the main primary school building as the gates are locked between 9:30am – 2:30pm. There is a sign out book for you to write your child's name, date, time, who you are and your signature so we know if there is a lock down or fire drill who is still in preschool care.

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 2020. 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.

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.

Seesaw

This year the Preschool teachers will continue to use Seesaw to showcase your child's learning. Seesaw is an application available for electronic devices such as mobile phones and tablets. It is free to sign up and allows only you to access your child's profile. You will receive an invitation with a QR code and instructions on how to sign up. If you are having difficulties signing up or using the application, please see your child's teacher for assistance. It is important to note that Seesaw is for your child's classroom teacher to share their learning rather than a communication mode. If you wish to ask questions or enquire about other school information, please email or contact the front office via phone.

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 dispositions.

Kind regards,

Kirstin Brown, Bek Stevenson, Jessica Simpkins, Laura Horrell, Kylie Robertson, Tracey Liddle, Heather Watt and Cecilia Wong