Dear Macgregor Community,

I’d like to start this newsletter by sending a very happy Mother’s Day wish to all of the mums and grandmothers in the Macgregor Community. And of course, a special mention to the amazing women who have taken on the special job as carers and foster mums for those children who (for whatever reason) cannot be with their own mums at this stage of their lives. You are all very special ladies and we want you to know how much everything you do for your children is appreciated. “Happy Mothers’ Day.”

At Macgregor Primary, we are very proud of our whole school approach to continually improving the school, not just the way it looks, but most importantly, the way we function to continually improve the achievement levels of our students; your precious children. Macgregor is a Professional Learning Community, in every way. Our staff function collaboratively, working together to take a shared responsibility for your children succeeding. Our staff plan together, learn from each other and continually reflect on their own practice in order to improve. We are teaching your children to do the same.

We make sure that every child knows exactly what they are learning and exactly how they are going in the pursuit of success in each learning area. With your children, we use the terms ‘learning intentions’ and ‘success criteria’, for every lesson. Most importantly, we are committed to providing timely, constructive feedback to each child about how they are going. This helps them to set personal goals and set the next step in their learning. We call this formative assessment, and we make the learning ‘visible’ to the students…..there is no “secret teacher business” at Macgregor.

Our school is proudly a system leader, in the area of visible learning and formative feedback. Some examples of how this looks in your child’s classroom will begin to appear on Facebook and in the newsletter over the next few weeks.

We are about to head into a process of external validation; whereby a panel of three school leaders from outside of our school, validate our progress against the goals we set in our strategic plan, four years ago. We will be seeking input from our community (that means you) via surveys and discussion forums, over the next two months or so. Your feedback will not only help us validate our progress, but help us to set the goals and direction of the school for the next four year period. Keep a look out for the surveys and for invitations to join in our small group discussions.

Speaking of surveys, our wonderful (P&C run) school canteen, is sending home a survey (today) to gather information about how our families use the canteen. We want to know what you like about the canteen, and also what you might suggest that could make the canteen even better. We are extremely lucky to have a canteen committee that truly values health and nutrition, and we look forward to getting your feedback. The survey is in hard copy, with this newsletter, and is a web-link if you are reading this electronically. Please take the 5 minutes required to respond the survey, whether you regularly use the canteen or not….we’d like to hear from you either way.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WNDVDCS

Finally, as part of our commitment to community engagement and education, I remind you about our parent workshop around nutrition for kids, next week, on May 14. If you haven’t rsvp’d yet, please call the front office to let us know you will be there.

Yours in Education

Lana Read
Principal

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
LINKED BY LEARNING...EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE
Principal: Lana Read
40th Anniversary Year

Volume 41, Issue 7 TERM 2 WEEK 2 8 May 2014

Fri 9 May
- Senior assembly 9.10 am
- Mother’s day stall

Mon 12 May
Belconnen region X Country

Tue 13 May
- Aboretum excursion, Stars, Robots, KMS & KGW
- NAPLAN

Wed 14 May
- Parent Info session - Nutrition for Kids, 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
- NAPLAN

Thu 15 May
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- Aboretum excursion, Comets, Rockets, Astronauts, KGD & KJK

Fri 16 May
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- Photo comp entries due

Mon 19 May
School Community/Public Education week

Wed 21 May
Years 5/6 camp

Thu 22 May
P&C meeting, 7.00 pm

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Hirschfeld Cres
MACGREGOR ACT 2615
www.macgregorps.act.edu.au
info@macgregorps.act.edu.au

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Yours in Education

Lana Read
Principal
News from 5/6AE

A big welcome to Renee Waters who is teaching 5/6AE for the first three weeks of term.

During WIN sessions we are focusing on comprehension strategies and building comprehension when reading different text types. In our classroom we have displayed our data showing each student where they currently are and where they should be aiming to reach by the end of the year. Our aim is to ensure that our students know what they need to be successful and giving them the means and support to get there. As teachers, we are helping them achieve this by explicitly teaching comprehension strategies during these sessions.

During maths sessions we have completed a pre-assessment on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) for each student. Students have used this data to compile goals to achieve and are attending classes run by each of the three teachers in the 5/6 unit focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students attend the classes to fill their gaps and move on to the next challenge when they have achieved this. Students have enjoyed taking responsibility for their learning, seeing where they need to develop and moving on when they have achieved their goal.

We finished up our science unit at the end of last term on renewable energy and electricity. Students enjoyed creating static electricity and mining for coal and seeing the effects of the land. One example enjoyed by students was using a toothpick to mine the chocolate chips out of a cookie to help simulate the damage caused to a landscape. Check out the photos on the back page showing the students having a great time.

This term year 5 students will be continuing their history unit focusing on important events that shaped our country. Students have been researching what it was like being a miner for a day and will now move onto learning about the goldfields. This builds on our work from last term where students presented information about how our colonies developed over time and researched each state and territory and how they begun. This term our history unit will be taught as a three week block, then we will be moving into Music.

Students and the staff are looking forward to camp, which is during week four this term, just after NAPLAN (week three). All notes, medical and excursion, should be returned to school by now as they were due at the end of week one. If not, you should be receiving a phone from your child’s classroom teacher reminding you to bring it in ASAP as your child cannot attend if we have not received all the notes necessary.

Regards

Anne Esposito

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KGD Bears News

We are having a fabulous time learning new and exciting things. Students are encouraged to stretch their thinking by applying what they already know to new learning. All classes are enjoying PE rotations of yoga, ball skills, skipping and dance each Thursday afternoon. The Bears have enjoyed learning about dance and have come up with some great answers to some questions posed to them:

- **What is Dance?**
  - Ruby – You have to move your feet and legs and move, a bit like exercising.
  - Mohammed - Move your hands and body.

- **Why do people dance?**
  - Gagan – warm up your brains
  - Landon – it helps your blood. It gets your blood into your body.

We are looking forward to our excursion to the National Arboretum next week. Our adventure will give children from Preschool and Kindergarten opportunities to play on the Pod Playground, explore the cedars, paint what they see and share a picnic lunch with one another. In the days following we will use our memories, paintings and photographs of the excursion as a stimulus for our writing.

It is very exciting to see the new learning and ‘light-bulb’ moments of our students. They are keen to learn and love sharing their new knowledge. By asking open-ended questions about their learning at school you may be surprised by your child’s response! Open-ended questions include, ‘What did you enjoy most today? Tell me about your learning, or What did you discover today?’

Some parents have been asking what they can do to assist their child’s learning at home. Read, read, read with them! Discuss the storyline, talk about the illustrations and how they relate to the story. Re-read favourite books and talk about the characters, and why a particular book is a favourite. Use books to connect with real life situations and experiences, creating conversations and sparking interests.

If you are looking for practical ways to use maths at home, then cooking is a good option. Reading instructions, following directions, measuring, buying ingredients are all valuable activities to share with your child.

Yours in learning,

Mrs Dyer and the Kindy team

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**Excursion/Camp Notes & Money Procedures**

Notes and money for excursions/camps should be put in an envelope with your child’s name and class on it and sent into the class teacher before or on the due date. The correct money is needed as we do not carry change. Cheques can be made payable to Macgregor Primary School.

You can also pay at the front office via Eftpos or you are welcome to Direct Deposit into our school account:

- **Account name:** Macgregor Primary School Management Account
- **BSB number:** 032777
- **Account number:** 001578

Please be sure to put your child’s name and what the payment is for as a reference.

*Permission notes must be sent in to the class teacher by the due date to allow time to finalise numbers for the booking. No late notes can be accepted.*
Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome to Term 2 We are looking forward to a productive and exciting term.

It’s only week 2 and already the year 2s are hard at work creating, moving, reading, analysing, writing, calculating and having fun. We have begun looking at what makes a good narrative in preparation for writing their own stories. These creative stories will then be shared with the pre school students to provide an authentic audience for our budding young writers.

Reading for both enjoyment and pleasure remains a focus in class. We are continuing with our reader review rating of class books. This activity allows students to rate and recommend books they love to their friends in class. Students are encouraged to bring in any treasured books from home to share in class.

In math we have been looking at time and money, two essential life skills. We have had a class shop in which the students can buy pretend food and services with their allocated amount. We have been learning quarter to and quarter past the hour. We are beginning our music unit in which we will concentrate on beat, pulse and rhythm. Physical Education remains a strong focus this term and we will be learning simple skills such as striking a ball, bouncing and throwing. Once learnt, these skills will be used in related games. In addition we have started our weekly gross motor skills rotations on a Thursday morning. During this time students move through a series of activities that aim to develop and strengthen fundamental skills such as jumping, throwing and balance.

In Week 6 of this term we will welcome Ms Sarah Crawford a beginning teacher who will be completing her final year teaching practice with 2RS.

Finally to wrap up last terms history unit we created our own futuristic designs based on some common household and every day objects such as ovens, cars and watches. Our young designers came up with some fantastic and innovative designs. We hope you enjoy the photos of some of our creations.

From
2RS and 2KA

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**From 2SA**

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**Nutrition for Kids**

Being a parent is often a challenging role, and we’ve all heard so many times that it doesn’t come with a manual. Feeding our children is one of the great ongoing challenges. From the early days, when parents question whether their children should be breast fed or bottle fed, through the toddler years, when meal times can look like a war zone with tantrums and fussy eaters. Just when you think your child is old enough to eat like a ‘proper person’ and food should be easy, there is a whole new set of questions. Have you ever asked yourself;

- How much food does my child really need?
- Should my child still be drinking full cream milk?
- Does my child really need to be eating 5 serves of vegetables each day?
- What is a serve of vegetables/ fruit/ dairy/ meat?

Come along to ‘Nutrition for Kids’ next Wednesday evening to learn about the guidelines for healthy eating for children.

- Have your healthy eating questions answered
- Get ideas for recess and afternoon snacks.
- Explore what is in some of the popular pre-packaged snacks.
- Have input into this healthy eating section of the newsletter, by suggesting topics of interest.
- Share ideas with other parents

Jeanette Ryan
B Ed, Grad Dip Hum Nutr, Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, final year candidate.

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**Gifted and Talented Students in ACT Public Schools, Parent/Carer Fact Sheets**

On Friday 2 May 2014 Ms Joy Burch MLA Minister for Education and Training released a set of Gifted and Talented Parent Fact Sheets to assist parents and carers of gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

The fourteen fact sheets support the ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 and cover a range of topics including an Overview, Frequently Asked Questions, Giftedness & Talent, Identification, Social-Emotional Needs and Programs and Provisions. The ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 aims to ensure gifted and talented students are supported and have education programs tailored to meet their needs.

Under the ACT Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014, schools are required to nominate a school contact for parents for all enquiries regarding gifted and talented education. The front office staff at the school can provide details of the nominated school contact.

The Fact Sheets are also available for schools, parents and the community on the ACT Education and Training website at http://www.det.act.gov.au

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**OPEN NIGHT**

KINGSFORDSMITH SCHOOL
Years 6 - 10
13th May
6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

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**ALLERGY AWARENESS AT MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Macgregor Primary School has several students who are highly allergic to nuts. Such an allergic reaction can be life threatening within a few minutes. We aim to be ‘allergy friendly’, enabling us to provide a safer environment for all our students. You can assist by avoiding nut products in your child’s school lunches.

If you have any concerns or questions about this, please contact the school. More information is also available on the website – www.allergyfacts.org.au.
CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Calling all small business owners! Our school’s gala 40th Birthday Fete on 22 November 2014 will be a great opportunity to showcase your products, services and talents. We would love to have lots of stalls at the Fete involving businesses run by members of our community.

If a stall is not right for you, please consider donating an item or gift voucher to be raffled on the day, or displaying your – or your students’ – talents by joining our entertainment lineup.

Please email the P&C Fete Committee at macgregorfete@gmail.com to tell us how you would like to contribute.

Happy Mother’s Day!!!

A big thank you to all the helpers at the Mothers Day stall and the parents for supporting the stall. It was so lovely to see the kids excited about buying their Mums, Nanas or Grandmothers a special present!

BE THE CHANGE

In the news, in the papers and over social media, we sometimes see the worst of our society and often can feel too small, to busy or too overwhelmed to be able to make things better.

However, positive change can be as simple as offering a hand to someone in your community. Your community is your school, your children’s friendship network and their parents/carers, your workplace, your friends and family.

All these people make up this city and therefore we all can create positive social change if we just keep our eye’s open to those around us and offer help where we know we can.

Macgregor Primary school is made up of so many wonderful families, with extraordinary capacity to share, grow and strengthen. Let us be the change we want to see.

NEXT P&C MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE LIBRARY ON 22 MAY 2014 COMMENCING 7PM. SEE YOU THERE!

Buy a NEW 2014 | 2015 Canberra Entertainment™ Book or handy Entertainment Digital (smartphone) Membership for your Mum this Mother’s Day, and for only $60 she'll receive over $20,000 worth of valuable offers that can be used from now until 1 June 2015.

20% from every Entertainment™ Membership we sell contributes to new facilities for our school, so please encourage your family and friends to buy their Entertainment Membership through our fundraising page at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23972

Want to see this year’s Canberra offers for yourself? Check them out here: http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/about/Tell-me-More/Canberra#FLICKBOOK

For enquiries or to arrange collection of your book please contact Alex Hunter via email: alex.in.2615@gmail.com or phone: 0417912295.
Hello and welcome back to Term 2.

Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser
Guess how many Hot Cross Buns we sold? 151 packets. The canteen made $453.00 profit from all the hot cross buns we sold! A big THANK YOU to the Rayner Family from Bakers Delight Manuka.

Term 2 Menu
Have you received your pink copy of the latest canteen menu yet? If not, pop in and see us to get your copy.

Special Lunch
As the Term 2 menu has already come out, we have decided to have a special lunch to introduce two new menu items. There is a choice of Spaghetti Bolognais or Curry in a Hurry. Special Lunch Day is next Tuesday 13th May. Please note no other lunch orders will be made on that day.

Apple Slinky Army
We still need more recruits to help make apple slinkies in the morning from 9.30am till 10.30am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If you can spare an hour on any of the above days please pop in and see us.

Canteen Survey
We have created a survey that we would like you to complete so we can get ideas of how we can make changes in the canteen. We would like to encourage you to complete the survey and leave it in the box at the front office or complete it online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WNDVDCS

Thanks
A big thanks goes to our Fruit Couriers the Crowe and Cornish Family, we really appreciate your time in collecting the fresh fruit from the Belconnen Markets each week.

Sheryl, Jayne and the Canteen Committee
6254 4141

PICTURE PLATE FUNDRAISER!
A note regarding picture plates was sent home last week. You can purchase picture plates ($24 each), Mouse pads ($20 each) or a 2015 calendar ($15 each).

Once your payment is made, you can have your child design at home or do their artwork at school in the allotted times. You can even now put a photo on your design!!! Amazing! Although the hand drawn masterpieces are something we still laugh at now, “Why did I draw myself with spots on my face in Kindy?” Priceless memories.

Order forms and payment are due Friday 23/5/14. If you child will design the artwork at home, you can pick up a template from the front office once you have placed your order.

For any enquiries contact Belinda Clear on 0432 608 499. Thanks everyone for your support! The Fundraising Team!

SCHOOL BANKING IS ON THURSDAY

Come and join us in the Library on the 15th and 21st May to help cover library books. Come along between 9:30am to 2:45pm and help out for as long as you want.

Our preschool parents are thinking of holding a series of play dates throughout this term so that parents can meet their child’s friends. If you would like to join in, please write your name, number and the best time and day (Saturday or Sunday) on a piece of paper and place it in the suggestion box at the Preschool. Thanks!
Welcome back to term 2! I trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday and that the students are refreshed and ready for a busy but fun term ahead. If at any point you have any questions or concerns about our school PE/Sport program, please do not hesitate to contact me at school to discuss.

**Athletics Fun Day**
Our school athletics fun day is to be held on Friday 30 May. Students from preschool to year 1 will be participating in their very own fun athletics rotations at school while students in years 2-6 will travel to Charnwood Athletics Field for their day. A permission note detailing the excursion was sent home with all students in years 2-6 today and an information note for the juniors day will be sent home in the near future. Once again we will be assisted in organising and running the day by our good friends from Hawker College Sports Administration class. With our usual focus on maximum fun and participation by all, parents/carers, family and friends are invited and encouraged to come along to either school or Charnwood (or both) on the day to join in with the fun.

**Belconnen Region Cross Country**
The Belconnen Region Cross Country is to be held next Monday at Stromlo Park. Good luck to our school team: Erica C, Sienna J, Ena H, Declan S, Ryan L, Asher N, Chelsea M, Samantha C, Kara T, Spencer B, Kye B, Josh P, Charlotte J, Sienna T, Amanda-Jane, Cody S, Jordan V, Brennan K, Maddison G, Georgia J, Georgia D, Gurjant G, Ethan M, Jaxon B, Imogen M, Alicia J, Jessica P, Liam A, Jamie S, Alex K, and Daniel S. Pre-service teacher Jason Murray and myself will be accompanying the team on the day and I will provide a full report of our team’s performance in the next sport report. Go Macgregor!

**Interschool Sports Afternoon**
Last term’s interschool sports afternoon was postponed due to wet weather. It has been extremely difficult to find a new date that is suitable for all schools involved and as such, it has been decided to postpone the event until the end of this term. The 32 students who were selected to attend last term will be given first preference for the revised date. A new permission note will be sent home later in the term with these students.

**Do you want to be the next Canberra Milk Kid?**
Are you interested in entering the competition to be the next Canberra Milk Kid and win lots of prizes including, starring in a television commercial! The competition is open to Canberra Milk Kids of any age. For more information and to register go to canberramilk.com.au.

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**Want to play tennis?**
Elite Coaching Canberra (ECC), Holt, is enrolling new students now at Kippax Tennis Club. Head coach Adrian has been providing quality tennis clinics for our students for the last 3 years through the Kids Tennis Foundation and Hot Shots programs. Benefits of ECC include:
- Qualified Coaches, all holding a Working with Vulnerable People Card.
- Guaranteed small groups (3-6 children).
- Designed to teach the game in a fun & safe environment.
- Sessions run Monday-Saturday.
- Classes from 4yrs old – Adults, for all skill levels.
- Macgregor Primary School students special offer, **$140** per term for new students enrolling at ECC Tennis Academy.

**Contact Details:**
Kippax Tennis Club - corner of Southern Cross Drive and Moyes Crescent, Holt ACT
**Head Coach:** Adrian Z- 0424 772 113
**Office:** Eliza S - 0422 115 293
**Email:** office@ecctennis.com.au

Have a fantastic weekend...

Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

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**Congrats to Chelsea M, Gabrielle A-G and Jessica P** who represented our school and the Belconnen region at the ACT Swimming Carnival today at the AIS. We look forward to hearing all about how the girls went. Well done!

**Congrats to Melissa K** who graduated from Kings Swim School on Saturday 26 April. Well done Melissa on your great results!

**Congrats to Hayley L** who has been selected in the ACT girls’ cricket team. Hayley and the ACT team will be travelling to Darwin for the Nationals and we wish her all the very best. Well done Hayley!

If you, your child or someone you know have any achievements that our school community should read about, be they big or small, please email details to glen.ridley@ed.act.edu.au or drop a note into the front office with all the details.