Dear Macgregor Community,

We had a wonderful turnout for our preschool BBQ yesterday evening. Thank you to everyone who attended and also to the staff and P&C members who helped make it happen. Building strong community relationships is one of our key priorities here at Macgregor, and there certainly was a strong sense of that yesterday evening.

Tomorrow our year 6 students will attend a student leadership day, at the Raiders Club in Kippax. Facilitated by the year 6 staff, students will take a close look at what it means to be a leader, with a specific focus on ‘public leadership’. I have no doubt that our student body is in great hands this year, with all of year 6 already stepping up to the plate, in many ways.

I’d like to take a moment to give another reminder about some issues we are seeing and hearing of in and around our school streets and car parks. Yes, they are very busy places, at pick up and drop off times and this is unavoidable. I can’t stress enough the importance of a) driving slowly and b) parking appropriately. We are still seeing many parents double parking, parking on dangerous bends in the road and allowing children to run out from between parked cars to cross the road. Please be responsible drivers around our school. The safety of all children is at stake. I have requested that ACT Police patrol the area at key times, if they are able, to help remind us all of our responsibilities.

Lunch box food safety
Even though the weather is intermittently cooler now, it is important to think about food safety when packing children’s lunches. Food poisoning can strike anyone, but children are more susceptible to infection than adults. To help prevent bouts of food poisoning, the food in your child’s lunch box needs to be stored safely for 3 ½ to 4 hours until they eat their lunch at around 1.00 pm. This means keeping food out of the bacteria ‘danger zone’ by storing it below 5°C.

There are a number of simple tricks you can use to keep food cold, and keep food poisoning bugs out of your child’s lunch.

- Start the day with lunches already cold, by making sandwiches the night before and storing them in the fridge overnight.
- Use an insulated lunch box.
- Include an ice pack, or a frozen water bottle, in the lunch box. Putting the ice brick on top of the food will help it stay cooler than placing it in the bottom of the lunch box.
- Some food can be stored at room temperature quite safely, such as whole fruit, crackers, biscuits and sandwiches with fillings like vegemite.
- If perishable foods like meat and dairy, such as sandwiches or tubs of yoghurt, come home unneat they must be thrown out, and not reused the next day.

Yours in Education

Lana Read
Principal

Our Preschool Welcome BBQ
1NT News

It is with great pleasure to introduce 1NT, one of four year one classes. All students in 1NT have settled into their weekly timetable and are applying themselves into all areas of learning. They are particularly enjoying our literacy investigation time each morning, math activities, and science fun with our school yard and backyard animals. Staff collaboratively teach year one classes across the curriculum. This includes teaching the reading, science and WIN groups on a daily basis.

Literacy investigations are activities that promote reading and writing skills. They include making words with magnetic letters, playing up words, drawing, creating words with puzzles etc. Students are creative with their stories generated at the drawing table.

Students are particularly interested in using technology to motivate and engage in learning. This includes a Word Bingo App by ABCyca. This App allows students to practise their spelling, word and letter recognition skills. Recorded for each student is the time taken to complete an activity and number of correct responses enabling teaching staff to monitor their progress.

In maths, emphasis has been on students understanding of 2D shapes, capacity and length. All students are enjoying the hands on activities to promote and consolidate their understanding and knowledge. It will be interesting to hear if you can solve the mystery of what 2D shape they are thinking of when students provide only clues based on attributes of these shapes. For example, I’m thinking of a shape that has 7 sides and 7 corners – what could this be?

Our Mem Fox author study has provided students with the opportunity to learn about the author and the types of books they write. So far we have been for a trip around Australia with ‘Possum Magic’, have experienced Mother Bear putting her baby bears to bed in ‘Sleepy Bears’ and have thought about what we would use a magic hat for when we read ‘The Magic Hat’. Please ask your child what you would do if you have a magic hat.

It will be a fun year with emphasis on making learning fun.

Nicole and 1NT

Robots start their journey at Preschool

Robots have had a joyful beginning to preschool, and have settled in quickly to their new and exciting environment. The Robots relished in the opportunity to explore many integrated learning spaces, based on their interests. The children explored: bright blue play-dough, puppet shows, tea parties, puzzles, self drawings, sketching flowers, construction with nuts and bolts, dinosaur adventure lands, easel painting, water trough, sand pit and the tree house… and the list goes on! It was fantastic to see the strong connections of families as Robots became ‘experts’ in their learning and showed their special people around their environment inside and out.

Active discussions by children in the Robots.

Brendan: “I’m digging a hole, a big one!” “We’re putting water in to dig quicker, it’s quick like a race car, see”. “The sand dry’s up fast in this heat, I think we need lots of buckets of water”.

Yazen: “We need lots of water, like a swimming pool”.

Brooklyn: “I’m making jelly and eyeballs, sticky jelly delicious! “The people will buy it!” “Here’s the washing tub, you need to do that you know”. (Brooklyn referring to washing up)

Miki: “Where is your house?”
Charlotte: “In Macgregor, the same as my school”. Miki: “We both are Macgregors”.

In more investigative news, children have been observed talking about houses, homes, where people live, distance of where we all live, maps and asking each other about their families. We will continue to build on these inquires in the program and foster their curiosity.

So much deep learning is already occurring through the children’s play and discussion, and it’s exciting to observe. The possibilities are endless and the children are the ones driving their learning. In line with the Early Learning Years Framework (EYLF) we are investigating many questions relative to our power standard this term which is: Children are connected with and contribute to their world. (EYLF Outcome 2) Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.

As a part of this outcome we have been discussing ‘What makes a good friend?’ We have read Amy and Louis by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood and Lion and Mouse by Rand Burket & Nancy Ekholm Burket. We have also brainstormed what makes a good friend and began to make our own book of drawings showing our friends. This book will be added to our preschool library for the children to read throughout the year.

We have been introduced to some important people who will be a part of our dynamic program throughout the year. Jo is our Spanish teaching superstar, Mr Ridley our PE teaching extraordinaire and our passionate year 5/6 students will be running a buddy program with the preschoolers throughout the year. The Robots loved the preschool blast off BBQ and are looking forward to attending our first preschool excursion to the ACTION bus wash which is only a week away.

Yours in learning,
Mandy Thorpe, Lucy Konda and Linda Hanlon
Greetings from Year 5/6!

Welcome to a fantastic school year, we are pumped for amazing learning to happen this year. All students are settling in well and are all very enthusiastic about their cool new learning areas.

In Literacy, 5/6 have been revisiting reading strategies with the classes. Together we read the picture book the 'The Proper Fox' and predicted what might happen throughout the book. When the book was finished students worked with peers to write a blurb for a suggested sequel.

In 5/6KD, we have been reading 'Blabber mouth' by Morris Gleitzman. The students have been enjoying the book and find it amusing the amount of metaphors and similes that are used to help paint a picture. After reading a chapter from the novel, students had to choose a sentence or paragraph from the novel and create a picture. They then needed to explain why they had the image they created on paper in their head when they decided on that piece of text.

In Mathematics, we have placed a focus on the place value of numbers and introducing decimals and how they work alongside whole numbers.

We have also had extra teaching staff in the unit three times a week for What I Need (WIN) groups. This has enabled us to have five teaching groups for maths, mental computation at these times.

For History we will be splitting the cohort, year 5 students will be working with Ms Esposito on the first settlement and colonisation and year 6 will be learning about the importance of Federation to Australia. This week we did some brainstorming about what Federation means and why it might have been important for Australia to become a united nation.

Last week we started our unit on 'Electricity'. As a class we brainstormed where you may find electricity and the different types of electricity, such as man made or natural.

Year 6 Band started this week and notes for year 5 band will be sent home next week.

Year 6 will be attending a Leadership day at Belconnen Raiders Club Friday 28 February, please return medical and permission notes asap.

We will be going on year 5/6 camp next term to Lutanda the notes will be coming home very soon.

Kate Dooley

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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.

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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. A reaction can be started as simply as by touching a child who has handled a peanut butter sandwich. Children and families at risk have individual strategies in place but the school can also assist. 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. This is especially important to consider when providing food to share such as for class parties. Peanut butter and Nutella seem to be two common problem products and there are many alternatives in both cases. It is also helpful to stress the importance of hand washing after eating and disposing of rubbish in the correct bin.

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.

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Email Newsletter

Our newsletter is available via email.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email rather than hard copy, please send an email to: info@macgregorps.act.edu.au with the following information:

I would like to receive the Macgregor Primary School newsletter via email.

- Email address:
- Child's name:
- Class:
- Parents name:

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Legs Dance

Legs Dance will run a dance class of HipHop/Jazz at Macgregor Primary School. Dance classes will start Thursday 20 February. Classes are held in the hall at lunch time, 1.00 pm. Dance class is offered to students from Kindy to year 6. Children who wish to attend, will eat their lunch then take themselves to the hall.

Cost for 8 weeks will be $70.00. Payment is in advance. Single classes are $11.00 each.

For further information please phone Legs Dance on 62933212. Enrolment forms are available at the front office.
Robots
"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning" Fred Rogers

These two groups were working together to write a blurb for the sequel to the book 'The Proper Fox'.

Below are some examples of the imagery that the students have come up with after choosing a sentence.
Swimming Carnival and Fun Day
A reminder that our school swimming carnival and fun day is on next Thursday 6 March at Big Splash water park. The long term forecast shows 28 degrees on this day—beautiful! Permission notes and medical information and consent forms are due back to your child’s teacher by tomorrow. Due to bus bookings, no late notes can be accepted. Please note, the school is relocating for the day to Big Splash and as such, there will be no alternative program or supervision offered at school.

Our swimming carnival and fun day is based on maximum fun and participation and as such, activities and events will cater for both competitive and non-competitive swimmers. For the junior school this will involve a number of fun rotations that utilise both the small pools at Big Splash and the surrounding grass areas. For the senior students, they will be offered a mixture of novelty type races/relays and competitive races, followed by water and land based rotations planned and led by Hawker College students.

Today students from years 1 - 6 gathered in the hall after recess and were introduced to the swimming leadership team from the year 11 Hawker College Sports Admin class. We then witnessed the awesome Macgregor school spirit in full swing as our four house groups cheered their little hearts out in a “chant off” around the school. Students were also reminded to dress in their house colours and bring with them next Thursday a broadbrim or bucket style hat, sunscreen, swimmers, towel and food and water for the day. A canteen will be available selling some hot foods, snacks and drinks.

Parents/carers are encouraged and invited to come along and join in with the fun and our K-2 side of the carnival would love any and all assistance offered. Please note, an admission fee of $5 will be charged by Big Splash. Here’s looking forward to an awesome day at the pool…

Mal Meninga Cup and Laurie Daley Shield
Next Wednesday 5 March our year 3/4 and year 5/6 seven-a-side rugby league teams will be competing at the Mal Meninga Cup and Laurie Daley Shield gala days at Gold Creek Playing Fields. The seven-a-side event is a modified tackle competition that is fully funded and officiated by the Canberra Raiders and Macgregor has always done extremely well over the years on the field. A big thanks to Paul Reid (Year 3 dad) for volunteering his time to assist with training the year 3/4 team at lunchtimes and coaching them on the day. A full report of the day and the performances of our boys and girls on the field will be provided in the next sport report. Go Macgregor!

Ride or Walk to School Grant Parent Survey
As a pre-requisite to our school receiving 15 additional push bikes and a teachers bike as a part of this program, we are required to have as many parents/carers as possible complete an online survey about their families riding habits and preferences. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and provides us with some baseline data prior to the program being implemented. Thank you to those families who have already completed the survey. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/RWTS_Parent_Baseline. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Why not give hockey a go?
Old Canberran’s Hockey Club is holding their 2014 launch and registration day this Saturday 1 March at Lyneham Hockey Center from 10.30 am—1 pm. Children and their parents/carers can come along and have a hit, a run around and enjoy a sausage sizzle. If you can’t make it on Saturday, you can also register online at www.ochc.com.au.

Ice Hockey Come and Try Day
Cool off by playing the fastest team sport on Earth. Ice Hockey ACT is holding a FREE come and try day on 15 March 2014. Juniors 5yrs to 13yrs (PeeWee and Atoms) are invited to attend from 11.00am to 1.30pm. Register your interest at IHACT.ORG.AU.

Global Cricket Day
If you have never played cricket before or come from either an indigenous or multicultural background, you are invited to the Global Cricket Day on Sunday the 2nd of March 2014 from 10am at Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah. This is a FREE event where registered participants will receive a FREE cricket clinic, FREE cricket pack, FREE lunch and the chance to meet past and present cricket stars including Maximus Thunder! To register, 1) log onto www.in2CRICKET.com.au, 2) enter the postcode 2604 and 3) select Global Cricket Challenge. For more information, please contact Matthew on 0416 531 988 or matthew.william@cricket.com.au.

Have an awesome weekend my friends…
Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

HEROES CORNER

Congrats to Theo L who last December was awarded “Student of the Year” for 2013 from the Korean Martial Arts Academy where he’s been learning taekwondo for the past four years. Way to go Theo—we are very proud of you!

Congrats to all the Macgregor students (a lot of you) who participated in the Weetbix Tryathlon. Hopefully all those fitness activities in PE and the ol Beep Test paid off!

Theo and his “Student of the Year” taekwondo trophy.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW P&C TEAM!

We are very pleased to announce the following people/school parents have take on office bearing roles in our P&C. What an amazing community spirit we have at Macgregor Primary School!

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<tr>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Amanda Bichard</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Belinda Clear</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Rebecca Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Kailee Fisher</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rebecca Moroney</td>
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<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Nicole Hardy</td>
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<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>Convenor: Holley Noakes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Committee</td>
<td>Committee Members: Tracey Liddle, Mandy Lawrence, Belinda Clear, Michelle Crowe, Alex Hunter, Erin Swinsburg, Lyndal Keen, Melissa Neville</td>
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<td>Out of Hours School Care (OSHC) Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convenor: Kirsten Burns</td>
<td>Committee Members John Bauer, Julie Lines, Katie Lucus, Holley Noakes,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Banking</td>
<td>Convenor: Lyndal Keen</td>
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<td>Committee Members: Donna Stove</td>
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<td>Music Scheme</td>
<td>Convenor: Veronica Webster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Committee</td>
<td>Convenor: Sam Ellycienne</td>
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<td>Committee Members: Rebecca Adams (Thursday), Rebecca Moroney, Mandy Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen Committee</td>
<td>Convenor: Sheryl Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Members: Amanda Bichard, Kathy Martin, Jane Jones, Liz Gardner, Mandy Lawrence, Donna Sturtz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorships/Grants</td>
<td>Convenor:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Members:</td>
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<td>Health Work Safety Committee</td>
<td>Convenor: Justyn Murray</td>
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<td>Committee Members:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool Committee</td>
<td>Convenor:</td>
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<td>Committee Members: Roderick Saunders, Erin Swinsburg, Justyn Murray</td>
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<td>Fete Committee</td>
<td>Convenor: Lauren Cornish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Members: Bec Adams, Erin Swinsburg, Michelle Crowe, Alex Hunter.</td>
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<th>Other Positions Available:</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Board</td>
<td>Sheryl Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Council Delegate</td>
<td>Amanda Bichard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Officer</td>
<td>Matt Donlan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editor &quot;P&amp;C News&quot;</td>
<td>Kailee Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Members:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit Courier</td>
<td>Michelle Crowe, Lauren Cornish.</td>
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TUCKABOX

Welcome to the Tuckbox Chat.

Ideas and Feedback

We are always keen to find out what our families think of the school canteen and respond to any questions you have. Contact us on the number below or drop by if there is anything we can help you with.

Recruiting now for the Apple Slinky Army

Please come and help make Apple Slinkys from 9.45am to 10.45 am any day the canteen is open.

For your safety and health reasons please wear enclosed shoes and ensure long hair is tied back. We would love to see you!

Pantry Drive

Thanks to the many families who have donated goods to our pantry drive, if you would like to donate we are still seeking plastic cups, plastic forks and teaspoons.

Bakers Delight Manuka

Have you got your order form for the Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser yet?

Hot Cross Buns (Traditional, Choc Chip, Mocha and Fruityless) are available for $7 a pack of 6 buns and $3 dollars of that goes to the Canteen.

Special Lunch

Did your child/ren bring home a Special Lunch order note? Special Lunch is on Tuesday 4th March.

As this day is “Shrove Tuesday” Canteen is offering Pancakes and a popper for $6.

Please note no other lunch orders will be available on that day, spare notes available from the canteen.

Swimming Carnival

Swimming Carnival is on Thursday 6th March. As the whole school is involved and no students will be at school, Tuckabox will be shut on that day. Normal trading will resume on Friday 7th March.

Thanks,

Sheryl, Jayne and the Canteen Committee
Tuckabox Canteen
6254 4141

COULDN’T MAKE IT TO THE P&C MEETING?

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE CREW!

There are still a few vacancies left in the P&C team. If you would consider being our Preschool Sub-Committee Convenor, Softball Convenor or Sponsorship and Grants Convenor we would love to hear from you. Don’t want a management position? No worries...you can pick up a spot as a committee member for Health and Safety or Sponsorship and Grants (or any other committee you might be interested in), help provide contributions to the P&C Newsletter or help out in the Uniform Shop.

Don’t forget you can also simply rock-up to any P&C meeting just to find out what is going on. You don’t have to be attached to an official position to be there.

The notice board opposite the front office desk is where the P&C information is located i.e. the next meeting date and a copy of the last minutes with the P&C email address for people wanting to join the email list and or send ideas/requests.

OUR SCHOOL IS TURNING 40!

SCHOOL FETE

This year is the 40th anniversary of Macgregor Primary School and as a part of our birthday year we are intending to have a fete at the end of the year. To make this event the best it can be we need all hands on deck!

The To-Do List is extensive, from set-up/pack-up, manning stalls and many others. Many hands make light work and with enough volunteers, most of the helpers will only need to contribute an hour of their time.

If you are interested in pitching in, please email pandcmacgregorprimaryschool@gmail.com to express your interest.
UNIFORM SHOP

OPENING HOURS | MONDAY 8:45-9:30 & 2:45-3:30 | THURSDAYS 2:45-3:30

mpsuniformshop@gmail.com | 0403 020796 (Sam)

A big thank you from the uniform shop for your support during the first week back at school. Size 8 clothing has been very popular! We do still have some size 8 items remaining, and our next order of shirts, jumpers & shorts will arrive soon if you missed out.

OPENING HOURS If you are not able to make it in during opening hours, remember that you can order uniforms using our order form.

ORDER FORMS are available from the front office and the notice board outside the uniform shop. All you need to do is note the size, colour & styles you are after, put the order form and money in an envelope and drop it to the front office. Orders are processed on Mondays and can be delivered to your child's classroom, or picked up from the uniform shop in the afternoon. Remember that the price list is available from the school website and app!!

DONATIONS We have had some great donations of pre-loved uniforms - some in near-new condition - all for only $1 per item. If your child has outgrown uniforms and they are still in good condition, we'd love to accept your donations!

VOLUNTEERS Do you wish you had more opportunities to fold clothing? Do you like sorting, talking to new (& old) parents, using a calculator & writing receipts? Do you want to do something to help out? We are looking for a few parents/carers to help out in the uniform shop on a casual basis - anywhere from once a week or once a fortnight to assist in the shop and to occasionally fill-in when a regular is unwell or away. If you think this is you, please send us an email or give me a call. Thanks! ;)

HOT TIPS FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP - Label your child's uniforms! The "Lost Property Box" is just outside the uniform shop. Many items in there have names on them & can be easily recovered. There are already a number of unlabeled items there, many of which will end up on our shelves if they are not collected by the end of term.

Thanks,

Sam Ellycienne
Uniform Shop Coordinator

MUSIC SCHEME

The P&C runs a music scheme to give students the opportunity to learn piano or guitar during school hours with a private tutor. All levels and skills are catered for. For more details, or to enrol your child in music lessons, ask at the front office for an information sheet or email me at webster_veronica@hotmail.com.

Nicole Heins has done a brilliant job coordinating the P&C music scheme for over five years - thank you for your wonderful work in making this valuable scheme such a success!

I look forward to keeping the music scheme going and meeting all of the Macgregor musical families now that I have taken on the role of Music Coordinator.

Veronica Webster
Music Coordinator

FUNDRAISING

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to 2014 Fundraising!

I would like to thank the people that have put their hands up to be on the committee this year to help with the fundraising.

Mandy Lawrence, Erin Swinsburg, Lyndal Keen, Belinda Clear, Michelle Crowe, Alex Hunter, Melissa Neville and Tracey Liddell

We aim to have a successful year and raise some more money for the much wanted items for our school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any fundraising ideas or if you would like to run a certain venture yourself, just because you didn’t put your hand up to be on the committee at the meeting, doesn’t mean you’re not welcome to come and be a part of our committee.

Something I don’t think we say enough is that even an hour of your time is valuable to any school fundraising. You can run a stall for an hour at a disco (tattoos, hairspray, lollies, drinks, glow sticks etc.), organise a note for an event, or just help pack up some tables after an event... PLEASE, if you can spare some time, let me know!

See you at school,

Holley Noakes
Fundraising Coordinator