Dear Macgregor Community,

Beginning this week, Mr Shaddock and I will be sharing the role of producing the principal’s report for our school Newsletter, I think it is really important that Mr Shaddock’s voice is also heard within our community and that each of you see us as a united team when it comes to the leadership of our school.”

Yours in Education

Lana Read
Principal

Dear Macgregor Community,

It gives me great pleasure to write my first newsletter article as Macgregor's new deputy principal. I would like to start by thanking everyone for giving me such a warm welcome to the Macgregor school community. Since arriving, I have been impressed with the professionalism of Macgregor’s teachers and love the way they collaborate to get the best out of every child. I’ve been equally impressed with Macgregor’s students! As I visit classrooms across the school, I see happy engaged children who are focused on their learning.

Last week’s swimming carnival was a huge success and I was blown away by the team spirit and persistence demonstrated by our fabulous students. Thank you to Mr Ridley and Hawker College for organising such a wonderful event, but also to every member of the school community who pitched in and helped on the day. I would also like to thank the parents and children who worked together last Saturday to plant our new school garden.

Your commitment to enhancing our learning environment definitely highlights the immense pride the community have in our great school.

There are a number of structured play break activities offered at Macgregor that aim to engage students and promote positive relationships. This week our thirty well-trained and highly skilled year 6 peer mediators hit the junior playground supporting students to participate in positive play. They are already doing an amazing job and the vibe in the playground is extremely positive! Parents - please come and see me if you would like to volunteer your time to a run structured activity on the playground at recess or lunch. This could be as little as once a term or as often as once a week. The choice of activity is up to you, as long as it sparks student interest, promotes positive play or helps students develop a wider network of friends.

A child with many good friends is less likely to be bothered or harassed by other students than a child who is often alone or who has only one friend. Children who target others are careful to avoid those children who have assertive and supportive friends.

How can parents help their children to make friends?

- Make sure that your children play with other children at school, at home and in your neighbourhood.
- At home, encourage your children to talk and maintain contact with their extended family – uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents and to talk to adult family friends.
- Invite other children over for visits to show your children what to do to make their guests feel welcome.
- Help your children make new friends in different friendship groups by encouraging them to develop other interests and hobbies, such as sport, Scouts, dance, drama or music – outside their group of school friends.
- Take your children on holidays to places where there are other children who are a similar age.

Please see your child’s teacher or a member of the school executive if you feel your child is experiencing ongoing difficulties with other students at school. It is not appropriate for parents to approach other students (or the parents of other students) to address such issues. Keeping communication lines open with the school is the most effective way to resolve the issue.

One of Macgregor’s priorities is to strengthen communication between students, staff, families and the broader community. Macgregor newsletters, school calendars, latest notes and upcoming events are all outlined on our school website. To be exposed to additional modes of communication, please ‘like’ our Facebook page, and if you have a Smartphone, download our Macgregor School app. Please see the front office if you would like the newsletter emailed electronically or if your circumstances change and you require duplicate student reports.

Thank you again for a magnificent start to 2014. I will leave you with a logic problem to keep your brains ticking. Come see me when you think you have the answer...

Bye for now,

Chris Shaddock

Mr Shaddock’s Logic Problem

Two boys and a man need to cross a crocodile infested river. They can only use a canoe that holds either the weight of the man or the weight of the two boys. How can they cross?
2MM in Action!

I am delighted to be working again with some of the students I taught back in kindergarten. My, how they’ve grown and matured! We have been very busy already this year and there’s no slowing down in sight. Working in close collaboration with the four year 2 classes, and in particular with Ms Salmon’s class, we have been learning about mixtures in science. We have already made some ‘Goo’, but there are more science surprises ahead.

Drama has found us learning to use our bodies and facial expressions to make our ideas understood and has brought out the acting bug in some.

For history, students have compared objects from the past, present and future and will be evaluating how these changes have affected our lives. An excursion to Blundell’s Cottage, along with a panoramic view of Lake Burley Griffin and its significant buildings should serve to cement the importance of history in the lives of our young learners.

As part of our study of writing to socialise, you may have been asked to complete a student survey of your childhood memories as part of their homework. Please have your student return these ASAP so we can use them in our writing lessons.

In maths, we will begin the study of time next week, so be prepared that your child will be checking that you aren’t trying to send them to bed five minutes early!

Lastly, we are all enjoying rating books we read together according to a three star rating system in which the children are given the opportunity to verbalise their reasoning for giving a book one, two or three stars. If the book decidedly earns three stars, it then becomes a ‘Hot Pick’ for the week.

Kind Regards
Michelle McCarthy

Greetings from Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have had a very busy start to the year and it is hard to believe that we are already well into week six. We have all settled into our open plan learning environment and have been taking advantage of this flexible set-up with learning groupings across the whole cohort, various classes and also within individual year groups.

Year 3 have been exploring the social purpose of writing to persuade and have begun by eagerly writing letters to both Mrs Stedman and Miss Hicks to persuade them to get a class pet. We’ve been enjoying learning all about the structure and language features of persuasive texts and how to write a strong argument paragraph. So far we have seen some very convincing arguments to have a range of pets including garden worms, puppies, an electric eel and even a life-sized class pet Big Foot! Watch out parents, because your year 3 children might come home very soon ready to convince you to get that pet puppy they have always wanted!

In maths both year 3 and year 4 have been busy estimating, measuring and recording a variety of classroom items as we learn all about the properties of length, perimeter and area. We have so far discovered 23 different ways of drawing a shape with a perimeter of 20cm and have measured the perimeter of our classroom using both metres, centimetres and millimetres.

We have been focusing on developing our mental computation skills during our WIN (What I Need) sessions. Some groups have been enjoying playing games and various activities to learn their basic number facts such as the ten facts and double facts. Other groups have been working hard to develop even more strategies to mentally add two-digit numbers. All students have increased their speed and efficiency in recalling these facts and we encourage them to continue revisiting these skills at home.

It was wonderful to see so many students ‘having a go’ during our school swimming carnival last week in a variety fun and competitive activities and races. Everyone enjoyed cheering on their school house team and had a wonderful day.

The Year 3/4 Teachers
Sally Stedman, Alison Hicks, Willa McIntyre & Donna Lin

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.

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.
Macgregor Primary School’s 40th Celebration

Are you an ex-Macgregor student? Do you know any families who have connections with Macgregor Primary School over the last 40 years?
This year is Macgregor Primary School’s 40th Birthday. As part of our celebrations we will be setting up a Museum space and we desperately need any of the following items for our display:

- Photos, images, video footage, uniforms, anything you may have from previous school days at Macgregor Primary School
- Help us make this 40th birthday celebration unforgettable!!!
2MM works on specific spelling skills to support spelling in context.

Claudia, Ada, Hayden, Seth and Lakem play Short Vowel Bingo

Consonant Digraph Concentration
Keeps Taylor, Joshua, Kia and Ashley thinking.

Jamie and Jasmine have Fall Fun with there, their and they're.

Shridha and Desmond making Long Vowel Puzzles.

3/4 Name Art

K/6AC Swimming Carnival

Congratulations

Congratulations to Olivia M for winning Snap 100 - A child's eye view photograph competition Artist's Choice Prize.

What a talented young lady she is and we are very proud of her!
Swimming Carnival and Fun Day Wrap-up
I am not quite sure what all the fuss was about. I ordered fine weather for the swimming carnival and fun day last Thursday and it was definitely delivered despite the unfavourable forecasts. Thank you to all those parents who flicked through cheeky and amusing emails to me about my track record with weather and carnivals—a little bit of humour goes a long way!

Congratulations to all our students on yet another awesome carnival where our aim of maximum fun and participation for all was well and truly achieved. It was great to see the junior students fully participating and engaged in their rotations while their teachers jumped and splashed around as well—the smiles and laughter said it all! On the senior side of the carnival the day began with an "all in and get wet" novelty race followed by a mixture of noodle races, kickboard races and competitive races.

After lunch the senior students were treated to some fun rotations in and around the 50m and toddler pools.

As always, I would like to send out a huge thank you to our good friends from Hawker College Year 11 Sports Administration class and their teacher Hannah McFadden for assisting with organising and running the day. Thanks also to those parents and carers who were able to come along on the day and cheer the kids along.

Our swimming presentation assembly will be held this Friday 14 March at 1.45 pm in the school hall, where we will present ribbons to students who placed in the top four of the competitive races, age champion certificates, and of course, the hotly contested House Participation Trophy. As we have not had the assembly yet, I will announce our age champions and the winning house in my next sport report.

Good luck to our school swimming team who will compete at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival next Tuesday 18 March at the AIS.

Ride or Walk to School Program Launch
Last week we were informed that our awesome school had been selected to host the launch for the ACT Ride or Walk to School program. Yesterday we welcomed representatives from the Physical Activity Foundation, ACT Health and the many partners and suppliers of the program into our school at lunch to launch this wonderful initiative that we are very proud to be a part of. During the launch we were presented with 15 new bikes and helmets to add to our collection, bringing our total to 31 bikes—that’s easily one bike per student during our bike ed programs! We were also lucky enough to have Caroline Buchanan, five times BMX and Mountain Bike World Champion and London 2012 Olympic Games finalist, come along as our VIP guest speaker. Caroline was also our ambassador four years ago when we received 16 BMXs under the Changing Gears bike education program. And...to top it all off the students and teachers were treated to a stunning display of BMX freestyle riding by the boys from Backbone BMX. Head to our school Facebook page to check out some awesome photos of the Backbone boys jumping and flicking their bikes all over the place!

National Ride2School Day
Next Wednesday 19 March marks the eighth National Ride2School day. National Ride2School day is about creating an active travel culture within our school by celebrating active travel during the school day and encouraging those who haven’t started to give it a go. Active travel can include riding, walking, skating or scooting to school.

As a Ride or Walk to School school, Macgregor Primary has registered for National Ride2School day. As such, staff, students and their parents/carers are encouraged to join over 250,000 students across Australia and ride, walk, scoot or skate to school next Wednesday. So come on Macgregor, let’s get behind this great initiative and show the Ride2School team how awesome we are.

Mal Meninga Cup and Laurie Daley Shield
Last Wednesday our year 3/4 and year 5/6 seven-a-side rugby league teams competed at the Mal Meninga Cup and Laurie Daley Shield gala days at Nicholls’ Playing Fields. All students involved were positive ambassadors for our school, with both teams displaying excellent team work and playing some fantastic footy in their matches. Our year 5/6 team of six boys and four girls played their hearts out and just missed out on progressing through to the finals day. Our year 3/4 team played hard and executed set moves well to finish 2nd in their pool and qualify for the finals day. The finals day will be held at Raiders Belconnen, Kippax, on Wednesday 26 March. Well done boys and girls and go Macgregor! Once again, a big thanks to Paul Reid (Year 3 dad) for volunteering his time to assist with training the year 3/4 team at lunch times and coaching them on the day.

Dream Cricket Clinics
Next Wednesday our two LSG classes will be treated to a special one-off Dream Cricket clinic run by Cricket ACT and the Rotary Clubs. Dream Cricket is designed to maximise the sporting experience for primary school students with specific learning support needs and focuses on fun and participation - two things we are very big on at Macgregor.

Have an awesome weekend my friends and don’t forget our swimming presentation assembly this Friday at 1.45 pm in the hall and National Ride2School Day next Wednesday.

Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

HEROES CORNER

Congrats to all Macgregor students and staff for a great effort at the swimming carnival last week. Your enthusiasm and participation on the day was awesome!

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
External fence Macgregor Primary School

As the fence is now complete we have attached a map on the reverse, indicating which gates will be unlocked and locked and what times this will occur.

**Times of unlocking and locking of gates are listed below.**

**Morning Unlock**
1. Main car park Gates marked in blue will be unlocked at 7:00am
2. All other gates marked in green will be unlocked at 7:30am

**Morning Lock**
3. All gates marked green will be re-locked at 9:30am
4. The gate marked in orange will be closed but not locked

**Afternoon unlock**
5. All gates marked in green will be unlocked at 2:30pm

**Afternoon Lock**
6. All gates marked in green will be locked from 3:30pm
7. Main car park gates marked in blue will be locked at 6:00pm by last person to leave (e.g. After School Care, Cleaners).
FUNDRAISING
Our next five cent drive will occur in term 3. Start collecting your five cent coins now!

Macgregor Primary School P&C
*~*~* DISCO *~*~*

Thursday 3 April
$3 ENTRY
Junior Disco from 4.30pm to 6pm
Senior Disco from 6.30pm to 8pm
TATTOOS, SLAP BANDS, LOLLIES, DRINKS & HOT FOOD AVAILABLE!!
PIZZA TOAST & FRIED (VEGO) RICE
Get your favourite party clothes on and we’ll see you there!
NO entry until 4.30pm for juniors and 6.30pm for seniors.
ALL children must be dropped off and picked up INSIDE the hall.

TUCKBOX

Hello,
Last Tuesday was our special Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day. A BIG Thank you to Mandy Lawrence for doing such a special job and Kathie, Donna and Petrina for helping put all the pancakes together with the orders.

Pantry Drive
We have many many donations of pantry goods for our canteen pantry. Thanks very much to all the families who have donated to our pantry drive. If you would still like to donate we would like plastic cups.

Hot Cross Buns Fundraiser
We still have a Bakers Delight in Manuka “Hotcross Bun Fundraiser” going till the end of March. Traditional, Choc Chip, Mocha and Fruitless Hot cross Buns available. $7.00 for a pack of 6 Hot Cross Buns, of your choice. Orders need to be in 28th March to the Canteen, please collect an order form from the office.

Sheryl, Jayne and the Canteen Committee
Tuckbox Canteen
6254 4141

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
MONDAY 8.45-9.30 & 2.45-3.30
THURSDAYS 2.45-3.30
mpsuniformshop@gmail.com | 0403 020796 (Sam)

COULDN’T MAKE IT TO THE LAST 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 Convener, Softball Convener or Sponsorship and Grants Convener 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!

CANTEEN ACCOUNTS
If you have an existing account or would like to open a canteen account this year, please collect a new form from the Canteen.
All families need to have a 2014 Account Form this is to ensure that all contact details are correct.

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 assisting, please email pandcmacgregorprimaryschool@gmail.com to express your interest.
MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE
P & C ASSOCIATION
Principal: Lana Read
P & C President: Amanda Bichard

**LUNCH WALLET**

**Re-usable Lunch Order Bags**

**Lunch Wallet & Insulated All Rounder**

Available to order NOW

It is so simple to use:

- Print your FREE name/class & order tags from www.stickybeaks.com.au
- Place name & class tag in slip pocket.
- Place order tag & money in zippered pocket.
- Send to canteen with the bag folded down into the wallet shape.

Does your Child order their lunch?

Whether it is daily, once a week or once a month, most children will get the opportunity to order their lunch. If this is your child, we would like you to consider purchasing a Stickybeaks Lunch Wallet.

Not only will you help us raise much needed money for our school, you will also be rewarded with the ease of using the lunch wallet along with helping to reduce our paper waste.

Keep and reuse the lunch order slips. Most children like to order the same lunches over & over. Why not keep your order tags in a draw and simply place the relevant tag in the zippered pocket along with the money.

They are so easy to clean. Wipe clean with a damp cloth internally & externally after each use. For heavier soiling, hand wash in warm soapy water & hang out to dry.

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**RE-usable Lunch Bags - Order Form**

STUDENT NAME: ___________________________ CLASS: ___________________________

Black Lunch Bags available with Blue, Green, Pink, Purple, Yellow, Red & Grey trim.
Black Insulated Bags available with Grey, Blue or Red trim.

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TOTAL:

Due Date: 28 MARCH 2013

SAMPLES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE FRONT DESK