

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

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Term 1 Week 6

14 March 2019



Dates to Remember

Friday 15 March - Assembly 2.10 pm - National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Wednesday 20 March - Belconnen Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 26 March - Board Meeting 5.00 pm

Tuesday 26 March - Parent workshop (review MPS Communication Strategy) 6.00pm in the school library

Thursday 21 March - Harmony Day Assembly 9.15am - followed by morning tea for families

Thursday 21 March - P&C meeting 6.00 pm in the school library

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful meeting with so many families during our recent 'Parent Reading Workshop' series. So many parents and carers have provided me with very positive feedback. Thank you also to our Literacy Coordinator, Jo Pearce. Jo's expertise in this area assists us to progress some of our literacy focussed school improvement strategies.

During the week, you would have received by email an invitation to attend a variety of community workshops. The purpose of these events is to consult with our community members regarding the review of our communication strategy, Wellbeing at Macgregor, student behaviour and to receive general feedback. If you are unable to attend any or all of the sessions, please contribute by sending your suggestions or comments to Tracey Reis tracey.reis@ed.act.edu.au. As we are currently developing the new School Plan which will drive the strategic direction of the school over the next four years, it is a perfect time to work with our community members to reflect on our school Values, Mission and Vision. Over the next few weeks, I will also provide you with an invitation to connect as a school community and contribute to this work.

Thank you to Bethany Taylor and Millie Butt for organising a fantastic annual swimming carnival at the Dickson Pool today. The children demonstrated our W@M expectations so well, that some of the Dickson Pool staff members commented on the way in which the children followed instructions and spoke respectfully and kindly towards each other. I would also like to thank all the parents, carers, grandparents and family members who came along to assist or cheer the children on. Organising whole school events such as the carnival can be very time consuming as all details need to be considered. If you see Beth or Millie around the school, I am sure they would appreciate your thanks for providing the children with such a wonderful day out. With the Belconnen Swimming Carnival fast approaching, no doubt Bethany and Millie will be back into organising mode soon. Many thanks also to the Kindergarten team and families for organising a special water fun afternoon for the Kindergarten children. They loved it!



Over the coming week, we have a couple of opportunities to share some really important messages about who we are at Macgregor. Next week, we celebrate the strength of diversity in our Harmony Day celebrations with a special assembly and today is the 'National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence'. This national day of action, gives schools across Australia the chance to take action and empower young people to be part of the solution when addressing bullying in their school community. It provides an opportunity to focus on bullying and the big changes we can make to create safer communities for everyone. Last week, all our Macgregor children received a 'bullying no way' wrist band... we have encouraged every child to wear it to school today and throughout the year.

Yours in education, Jennifer



From the Deputy Principal

As you walk by our classrooms from preschool to year 1, you may hear and see the children busy reciting, singing (sometimes with guitar or ukulele accompaniment), rhyming and enjoying the rhythm of our language. Research in early literacy reveals that 'Jack and Jill', 'Hickory Dickory Dock', 'Humpty Dumpty,' 'BINGO' and a host of other nursery rhymes, fingerplays and simple songs can be instrumental in boosting a young child's ability to master reading skills. Songs and rhymes for young children have been passed down for generations. They are fun, children love them and they provide a warm, nurturing experience between adult and child. What we may not be aware of as we recite simple nursery rhymes or sing songs with children is their enormous educational value.

Nursery rhymes and songs can be used anywhere at any time. As such, they are one of our most transportable forms of play. As children recite rhymes and sing songs, they are learning new vocabulary as well as practising how to articulate words, modulate voices and experiment with sounds. They are simultaneously practising pitch, volume and voice inflection while experiencing the rhythm of language. Children learn to pronounce words easily by saying them over and over again and are exposed to new vocabulary (like when Jack and Jill 'fetched' a 'pail' of water and then home Jack 'trot' as fast as he could 'caper').



There is also sometimes frequent use of counting in these songs and rhymes in both a forward and backward direction. Children learn to add as they count forward and subtract as they count backward (like in the rhyme '5 little monkeys sitting in a tree'). When reciting a fingerplay, children practise isolating various muscles in their fingers to create the correct hand movement and shapes. As teachers, we observe the rhymes and songs providing great building blocks for creative dramatics. Children love to act out the rhymes as they say them, dramatising the actions of the characters confidently with their whole bodies or using their hands and fingers.

Nursery rhymes and songs are 'places' young children can retreat to for a variety of reasons including when they feel happy, connected, lonely, curious or bewildered by their world. We love sharing these oral language experiences in our early childhood classrooms every day... and we encourage all our families to rediscover and share their own childhood rhymes, songs and fingerplays.

Warm regards,
Catherine



Lost Property

Due to the large amount of lost property we are not able to store it for a long period of time. Please write your child's name on their belongings so they can be returned to them.

Unnamed Items will be placed in the lost property box and stored for a few weeks. Following this they will be donated to the school uniform shop.

ALLERGY AWARENESS AT MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

We aim to be 'allergy friendly' as we have several students and staff who are highly allergic to nuts. You can assist by avoiding nut products in your child's school food.



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Great for Schools ... Even Better For Parents

Preschool Spotlight on Learning

What a fantastic start to the year! Our preschool children are continuing to settle in well to Preschool.



We have been spending our first few weeks exploring the exciting preschool environment, both inside and outside. We have been very busy learning about routines at school, learning the names of our new friends and the children have loved *investigation* time. They have been enjoying the play based and open ended provocations set up in our classrooms, and the ones outside, to explore and develop.

The children have been learning to recognise their name when they arrive in our classrooms each morning and we are encouraging them to have a go at writing their name on all of their learning samples.



We have been lucky to start our weekly visits to the school library. The preschool groups Guginya and Gudamang visit on Tuesday mornings, while Walga and Buru visit on a Thursday morning. We have been exploring what a library is, where we can find and put away books, reading books and we have learnt how to borrow a book to take home for the week. It has been lots of fun!

In the coming weeks we will start our *Walk On Country* program where we will go for local walks and explore the local environment.

A huge thank you to a local landscape gardener who delivered some soil for our playground. Our children enjoyed watching the truck dump the dirt. We will be using this dirt throughout our garden, especially in the digging patch and mud kitchen.

It has been a great start to the term!

Glennis, Bek, Kirstin, Heather, Tracey, Brenda, Cecilia, Amanda and Danielle



Permission Notes and Payments Due

- ★ Stationery, Arts, ICT Levies 2019, \$75.00
- ★ Year 5 Band fee, \$395.00
- ★ School photos

Term 1 Calendar 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	4 February ✓ Kindergarten and Preschool (Gudamang & Guginya) commence ✓ School Board Nominations open	5 February ✓ Years 1-6 commence ✓ Welcome Assembly	6 February	7 February ✓ Preschool (Buru & Walga) commence	8 February
Wk 2	11 February	12 February	13 February ✓ Whole School Welcome BBQ 5:30 – 7:30pm	14 February	15 February
Wk 3	18 February ✓ School Board Nominations close 11am	19 February ✓ 'Get to Know You' Interviews 3:30-7pm	20 February	21 February ✓ P&C AGM 6:00pm	22 February ✓ Assembly @ 2:10pm
Wk 4	25 February ✓ School Board voting commences 11am	26 February	27 February	28 February ✓ Uruguay Carnivale break 1	1 March ✓ Kenny Koala visits yrs K, 1 & 2
Wk 5	4 March ✓ School Board voting closes 11am ✓ Kenny Koala visits yr 5	5 March	6 March ✓ Lift-Off Ready Yr 2	7 March ✓ Reading Information Session for Kindergarten parents 9:15am	8 March ✓ Coffee and Chat with Jennifer 9:15am
Wk 6	11 March Canberra Day Public Holiday	12 March	13 March ✓ Reading Information Session 5:30pm	14 March ✓ Swimming Carnival – Dickson Aquatic Centre	15 March ✓ Assembly @ 2:10pm - National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
Wk 7	18 March	19 March	20 March ✓ Belconnen Swimming Carnival	21 March ✓ Harmony Day ✓ P&C meeting 6:00pm in the Library	22 March
Wk 8	25 March	26 March ✓ Preschool Photos ✓ Board Meeting 5:00pm ✓ Review of the MPS Communication Strategy 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	27 March ✓ Evonne Goolagong Tennis Day	28 March ✓ School Photos ✓ Preschool Photos	29 March
Wk 9	1 April	2 April	3 April ✓ El dia de los libros (Spanish Readathon) ✓ Kenny Koala visits Preschool ✓ Wellbeing @ Macgregor Workshop 6:00 to 7:00pm	4 April	5 April ✓ Coffee and Chat with Jennifer 9:15am ✓ Kenny Koala visits yrs P, 1 & 2 ✓ Assembly 2:10pm Hosted by Yr 2
Wk 10	8 April ✓ Student behaviour workshop 5:30 to 6:30 pm	9 April ✓ Guginya & Gudamang bus wash excursion	10 April ✓ Cross Country Carnival ✓ Feedback workshop 5:30 to 6:30 pm	11 April ✓ Buru & Walga bus wash excursion	12 April



Over the next four weeks, we will be hosting collaborative working parties for parents and carers on the following four topics;

1. The review of the Macgregor Primary School Communication Strategy
2. Wellbeing at Macgregor
3. Student Behaviour
4. Feedback from our community

If you are interested in contributing, please participate by attending our working parties on:

- **Tuesday 26 March 6pm to 7pm** (Communication Strategy)
- **Wednesday 3 April 6pm to 7pm** (Wellbeing at Macgregor)
- **Monday 8 April 5:30pm to 6:30pm** (Student Behaviour)
- **Wednesday 10 April 5:30pm to 6:30pm** (Feedback from our community)

Time: *As a result of feedback from members of our community, please see above for changes to session times*

Location: School library

We are also currently working with our staff and students to review our Mission, Vision and BRICK Values. Over the next few weeks we will also be engaging with our school community to progress this work.

We are looking forward to working with you and listening to your ideas. For further information, please email Jennifer Hall jennifer.hall@ed.act.edu.au

If you are unable to attend one of these workshops and you would like to contribute, please email Tracey Reis tracey.reis@ed.act.edu.au



Macgregor Primary School
invites you to

HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Thursday 21 March
Assembly 9:15am

Followed by a community
morning tea

Contact the front office on 02 6142 1600 for more information

P&C NEWS



Macgregor Primary School | Partners in Education

Week 6 Term 1 2019



Our volunteer-run services

The **Uniform Shop** is open Monday 9-9.30am and Friday 2.30-3pm. To contact the Uniform shop please email uniform@macgregorpanc.org. Orders through [Flexischools](#) are checked through the week and delivered to classrooms on Mondays.

School Banking next week is on WEDNESDAY, 20th March outside the library. This term's rewards are taking us on a polar adventure. Thanks to **Kirsty and Martin Ross** and **Sri Peketi** for volunteering to keep school banking operating this year. We always look forward to students coming along and welcome any questions from anyone wanting to commence with school banking.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising events for this year will be discussed and agreed upon at our next P&C meeting.

If you have ideas, no matter how big or small, please bring them to our next P&C meeting. Many hands make light work

MPS OSHC

Please remember to sign your children in and out as you drop them off and collect them each day.



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SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Library is currently culling older books. If you have any books at home that are no longer used and are suitable for the school library please drop them to the front office.

Next P&C General Meeting 6pm Thursday 21 March 2019

Any member of the P&C (any parent or carer of a Macgregor Primary School student) can attend & participate in meetings. It's a great way to meet others within the school community and keep in the loop about happenings within the school.

Meetings are held in the school library and a movie will be shown to keep children entertained.

All parents, carers and their children are welcome!

Workshop – Bullying & Violence in Schools

You are invited to Workshop - Building Strong and Safe Communities for Learning

Please note that spaces are limited so RSVP early. In brief,

The Purpose is: To work with a range of people to help achieve our vision of building strong and safe communities for learning.

We need you: To share your invaluable experience and insights to co-create possible solutions.

Background: The attached invitation letter contains additional information from ACT Education (EDU) and the P&C Council for your reference.

Date: Wednesday 20 March **Time:** 8:30am – 4:30pm

Location: ThinkPlace, Level 5, 50 Blackall Street Barton, 2600 **Facilitator:** ThinkPlace

Catering: Fully catered **Parking:** Reimbursement available on receipt.

RSVP: 15 March with any dietary requirements to Ms Leanne Ballard, Assistant Director Strategic Policy on Leanne.ballard@act.gov.au or 62052912.

Macgregor Primary School Music Scheme

Would your child like to undertake private music lessons in 2019?

The P&C runs a music scheme to give students the opportunity to learn **piano, drums or guitar at school during school hours with a private tutor**. No running around after school to get your child to and from music lessons!

These half hour weekly lessons with specialist tutors from **Canberra Music Tuition** provide students with individual attention and students can be enrolled on a term by term basis. All levels and skills are catered for.

Cost: \$37 per half hour lesson (Canberra Music Tuition)
 \$10 per student P&C administration fee

For more information or to enrol your child please email Lyndall at lyn_dall@yahoo.co.uk.

Lyndall Visagie
P&C Music Scheme Coordinator

