Dear Macgregor Community,

The school is humming along nicely at the moment, with students working hard in their classes, and staff busy preparing mid-semester progress reports. These reports are brief in nature and provide a quick snapshot of how students in years 1-6 are progressing towards achievement standards for the semester.

Kindergarten do not receive this report, as they are still settling into the learning routines and teachers are doing a lot of assessment as to where each child is at, and where to focus their teaching program. Students in our Learning Support Centres are also exempt from the mid-semester progress report, as they have only recently locked in their personal goals on their individual learning plans.

The mid-semester progress report will be sent home at the end of week 10, and interviews with teachers will be at teacher request only. Full interviews will be conducted at the end of term 2. Having said that, you should remember that you may contact your child’s teacher to discuss any concerns, at any time throughout the year.

School Board:
I am pleased to announce that our school board vacancies have been filled, with current board chair, Mr Ben Naughton continuing for another two years, along with Mr Glen Ridley as a teacher representative. The other teacher rep is now Mrs Janine O’Keefe.

The board is currently considering 2 new policies, recently released by the Education and Training Directorate and developing school procedures around these.

- Enrolment Policy
- Gifted and Talented Policy

Both are available from the ETD website if you are interested in reading them. Go to: http://www.det.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policy_a-z

Our school approach to implementing these policies will be released during term 2. The board has also requested that we formulate guidelines for the way homework is implemented at the school and work is underway to create a draft paper. If you wish to contribute your ideas to the paper, we are happy to take them, in writing. Either drop them off at the front office or send via email to info@macgregors.act.edu.au

External Validation:
This year, our school comes to the end of a 4 year school improvement cycle. In July, our progress (against the Strategic Plan 2011-2014) will be validated by a panel of external educators. The board will play a role in this validation and results will be made public later in the year. The school has been on a huge journey over the past 4 years and we are looking forward to providing our evidence of success to the panel.

Minister’s Student Congress: Anti-bullying theme.
Last Friday, our student leadership team attended the Education Minister’s student congress, where they worked alongside student leaders from all 86 public schools in Canberra, to discuss the issue of combating bullying in schools. By all accounts, our leaders did us proud, contributing great ideas to the congress and representing our school with pride.

Harmony Day:
Finally, I’d like to thank all of the students for making our Harmony Day celebrations such a success. It was lovely to see so many of you wearing traditional dress or wearing the colour orange, as we shared our class ‘harmony’ projects and joined in the parade around the school grounds. We also welcomed many of our families to a special afternoon tea, which was well attended. Big thanks to Mrs Glasgow and Mrs Johnson for organising the event.
Spanish Corner

¡Hola todos!

Saludos a todos—Greetings everyone. Well, here we are in week 8. How the term is flying by!

This Friday we have some students of Spanish from Melba Copland, visiting our school. Melba is one high school in our area where there is the opportunity to continue with the study of Spanish right through to year 12. A group of year 8 students will be visiting to share with some 5/6 students their presentations on aspects of Spanish culture e.g., bullfighting. Students will have the opportunity to practice some of their Spanish and interact with me the Melba Copland students. This will be a good opportunity for students to see the level of Spanish that can be reached with the study of language in high school.

This year there will also be a Spanish speech competition. Students will have the opportunity to work on these during class. It is not compulsory for students to enter but they will certainly be encouraged. Entries aren’t due in until term 3, however it is better to start thinking about it early. 2 years ago Macgregor did very well in this competition. Hopefully, we can do this again. A video of students speeches are recorded and sent into a judging panel. They do not have to do it in front of an audience unless they win.

Students have been busy across the school during their weekly Spanish lesson. 3/4 students have been learning language about the body. They have been practising a dance where they are required to move their bodies according to the lyrics of the song. The song is called ‘Baila Con Tu Cuerpo’ – Dance With Your Body. The song can be found on Youtube if your child has the desire to practise it at home, perhaps even teach you some of the moves.

Year 1/2 have been busy focusing on classroom language. They have been working through rotations in order to help them practise newly learnt language. These include activities on the interactive whiteboard, games using flashcards, mini whiteboards for writing practice, snap and memory. The idea of these activities is to promote use of oral language and improve listening skills.

Year 5/6 students have been learning the names of places around town and how to follow simple directions. They have been learning a catchy song to assist them to remember key vocabulary and phrases. It is called ¿Dónde está el banco, por favor? - Where is the bank please?

A phrase to practice at home:
¡Cómo estas? - (How are you?, for somebody familiar) or ¿Cómo estás? - (How are you?, polite form)
Muy bien - very good, Asi-asi - ok, Estoy mal - not so good.

Gracias y hasta pronto,
Jo Dunbar (Spanish Teacher)

5/6JH News

Well, who can believe it is already week 8 of Term 1. This term has flown by for students in 5/6JH with lots of learning and events taking place.

Most students attended the swimming carnival and actively participated in events and different activities. This was a great day for the students and we all eagerly await the Cross Country Carnival on Wednesday of week 10. In preparation for the Cross Country students will be training with Mr Ridley during class time.

The year 5 band students have approached band with great enthusiasm and eagerly await their lessons each week. We look forward to their first band performance soon.

Many enthusiastic Year 6 students have also begun taking on greater responsibility around the school with Peer Mediators and the Sports shed duty.

In class, we have had a massive focus on reading, with students receiving over 30 minutes each day for independent reading. Some favourite authors at the moment include Andy Griffiths, Colin Thompson, Gary Paulsen, Liz Pichon and Morris Gleitzman. The students have been set a 1000 book class challenge and a 40 book personal challenge for the year, so are busily reading to achieve these goals. It would be fantastic if you could encourage your child to read each night at home and discuss the books they are reading to further consolidate the work being done in class.

Students have also been busy exploring persuasive texts and how we can influence others to agree with our opinions. The focus has been on structuring our arguments correctly using PEEL (point, elaboration, evidence and link), including persuasive devices (rhetorical questions, exaggeration, repetition etc.) and using strong or emotive vocabulary. Students should be aware of what they need to work on to extend and improve their writing, so test them out to find out the next step in their persuasive writing.

In maths, we have been investigating place value, estimating and rounding, mental computation, factors and multiples. The next step is to start working on our operations skills with a particular emphasis on using different problem solving strategies.

Thank you to all those families who returned camp notes. Another note will be coming in the next few weeks with a permission form, medical form and final payment form attached. If you have any questions regarding camp or any other issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jarryd Heywood

Macgregor Primary School Book Fair

Tuesday 29 April – Friday 2 May 2014
8.00 am - 8.55 am
3.05 pm - 4.00 pm
For the past eight weeks our young learners have been eagerly exploring and investigating the world of 'big school'. They have worn their new school uniforms with pride, been in awe of the children who can master the monkey bars at recess and lunch and enthusiastically started their learning journeys. When asked, "What is the best thing about big school?" responses included:

- "There are good things to play with." Imari
- "Getting to play with the big kids at recess and lunch." Amiee
- "The best thing about school is getting to do everything." Kai

As part of our science work, we have been keeping an eye to the sky in order to observe and monitor the weather. Last week the children had the opportunity to put their knowledge and skills into practice when they took on the challenge to become weather presenters for the morning. Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters, advised on the temperature, suitable clothing and activities. The kindergarten teachers were impressed by the confidence, knowledge and skills that were demonstrated. Watch out Channel Seven news and Sunrise, we have some upcoming weather presenting superstars at Macgregor.

This week we have started our introduction to Big Writing. Children were initially excited when they thought this would offer the opportunity to do some really big writing! However upon learning that this is not quite the case they have been excited to discover the different elements of the lesson, particularly kung-fu punctuation. This activity helps children to actively think about punctuation when they are writing. We are currently working towards our white belts but I am sure that within a few weeks we will have some black belt masters. Take on the kindergarten children if you dare!

We really enjoyed celebrating Harmony Day last Thursday and discovering that as a kindergarten team we come from over sixteen different countries. We made special friendship bracelets for one another and created a long handprint chain. When you are next near the kindergarten unit, pop by and see our amazing tapestry banner.

Regards,

Miss King and The Potato Kings

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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. 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.
Our year 3/4 Meninga Cup team!
UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
MONDAY 8:45-9:30 & 2:45-3:30 I THURSDAYS 2:45-3:30
mpsuniformshop@gmail.com | 0403 020796 (Sam)

Don’t forget to order your reusable lunchboxes. Sturdier than paper bags, environmentally friendly and ever so trendy.

Orders due 28th March.
DON’T MISS OUT!

Holiday Care is running from April 14th until 24th excluding the public holidays. Places are filling fast, so book now to secure a spot.

Cost: $55 per day, including morning and afternoon tea. Parents must provide lunch and any excursion costs will be extra.

Please contact Eileen on 62544141 for more information.

Do you like to surf the net? Do you like a bit of creative writing? Do you like to see your project through to the end?

Then we have the position for you! The role of Grants Officer is still available. Apply now!

In 2012, the Grants Officer was able to secure nearly $8000 of grants for Macgregor Primary School.

Please email pandc.macgregorprimaryschool@gmail.com if you are interested in helping in a big, big way!

TUCKABOX
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.

Thanks,
Sheryl, Jayne and the Canteen Committee
Tuckbox Canteen
6254 4141

SCHOOL FETE
22 NOVEMBER 2014
3PM - 7PM

A fete is a huge undertaking, and many hands truly do make light work. We need a lot of help, both in preparation and for those few hours on the day. If you can help, even in a small way, please email macgregorfete@gmail.com. As the date gets closer, we have lots of little jobs that need doing...some that can be done in front of the TV at night. There is always something you can do to help. Thankyou
Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.

Anthony J. D'Angelo

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The brown suitcase: a story of perplexity and intrigue...

Some time ago there was a brown suitcase. It lived in the dark corners of Macgregor Primary School and held stories, many stories and tales of the years gone by. It is the treasure box of pictures and memories, archives and history of the growth of our school. Within the walls where children grow, teachers thrive and communities shift and form, the brown suitcase stored it all. In varied locations, dismissed and revisited over the years, the brown suitcase would be sought for knowledge and memorabilia. In the course of many walls moving and reshaping to accommodate the wonderful growth of our school, brown suitcase, you can’t be found. We have looked in dark corners, under and over and around the hidden hollows of our magical school and yet still, brown suitcase, you elude us. Brown suitcase we seek you still, we need you to re-open bountiful on the anniversary of our school. Surrender your hiding place to a member of our community so we can relish in your memories, so well stored and protected over the years and never again will you be neglected to dusty corners.

P.S. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of this missing suitcase, please contact the school...

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Entertainment Books and brand new Entertainment Digital Memberships are coming!

Help raise funds for new facilities at Macgregor Primary School by purchasing your Entertainment™ Books and Entertainment™ Digital Memberships through this link: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23972y

Pre-purchase before 10th April and receive 6 vouchers valued at $240 FREE! Questions? Email Alex Hunter from the P&C Fundraising Committee at alex.ln.2615@gmail.com
STAY COOL AT SCHOOL

Win a CommBank Marquee for your school and $50 for a student just by depositing to your CommBank School Banking account in term 1.

The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of term 1 will win a marquee. There are 4 marquees to be won in the ACT Region. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their School Banking account. Competition opens 28/01/2014 and closes 11/04/2014. For full terms and conditions please visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.

Banking day at Macgregor Primary School is every Thursday.

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
1ST APRIL 2014
6PM START AT THE PRE-SCHOOL

Take this opportunity to come along and chat with one of the pre-school teachers and the Deputy Principal. Let them know your ideas on how to make Macgregor Pre-School even better!

TERM TWO PIANO AND GUITAR LESSONS

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 for term 2, ask at the front office for an information sheet or email me at webster_veronica@hotmail.com.

Veronica Webster
Music Coordinator

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.

*~DISCO PRICE LIST~*

Entry to disco $3.00
Vegetarian Fried Rice $2.50
Pizza Toasts $1.50
Cheese & Vegemite Toast $1.00
Water $1.00
Juice or Soft Drink $1.50
Easter Egg 50c
Gummy Bears (2) 50c
Fizzers (2) 50c
Pythons $1.00
Tattoos $1.00
Slap Bands $1.00
Swimming Carnival Age Champions
As promised last newsletter, congratulations to the following boys and girls who received age champion certificates at our swimming carnival presentation assembly last Friday:

8 yrs  Jonty R and Ena H
9 yrs  Theo L and Chelsea M
10 yrs  Brennan K and Amanda-Jayne U
11 yrs  Michael A and Hayley L
12 yrs  Kayden N and Jessica Pr

And...congratulations to KENNY who were the 2014 winners of the House Participation Trophy.

Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to our school swimming team who competed at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival last Tuesday at the AIS. All students were great ambassadors for our school and there were PBs galore in the pool with many swimmers knocking over 5 seconds off their PBs—must be the fast water at the AIS!

I would like to share with you a great little email I received from one of our parents who was at the carnival that I reckon sums up beautifully how awesome our kids are—"Dear Glen, Chris and Lana, I just wanted to write a quick email to commend all the Macgregor kids at the swimming carnival today. They were all a credit to the school with their (good) behaviour. I also really liked the school spirit they showed, cheering for their team mates."


Qualifiers for the ACT Swimming Carnival are to be announced over the coming week so I will share this with you all once I receive notification.

Meninga Cup Seven-a-Side Rugby League Finals
Congratulations to our year 3/4 rugby league team who very proudly represented our school at the finals day for the Meninga Cup yesterday at Kippax. The boys were absolutely stoked to be playing on the enclosed oval behind the Raiders Belconnen Club and should all be extremely proud of their efforts in the cold and wet conditions. The team had a narrow loss to Calwell PS in their first game and then came up against a tough opposition in Holy Family, Gowrie. Our third game was against Evatt PS (who narrowly defeated us two weeks ago in the round games) and the boys played outstanding footy in the pouring rain with great defence and a never say die attitude to run away winners 5 tries to 2. Check out the photo on the back of the newsletter of our very happy "drowned rats" after this game.

A big thanks again to Paul Reid for assisting with coaching the boys throughout the competition—the boys and I really appreciated Paul’s input.


Cross Country Carnival
Our school cross country carnival is to be held on Thursday 10 April from 9 am to 11 am on and around the school grounds. Over the next two weeks all students will be given a walk through of their course during Specialist PE lessons and will then have opportunities to practise with their classroom teachers. Distances that students will run are:

Kinder and Year 1—500m;
U8s (Year 2 and students born in 2006/2007) - 1km;
9 years—1.5km;
10 years—2km;
11 and 12 years—3km.

Last year I put out an invite for parents / carers and other family members and friends to join us on the day and run with their child(ren) and the response was nothing short of awesome—we even had a 60 odd year old grandpa run with his Kindergarten granddaughter! So...get out those running shoes and practise with your little runner over the next two weeks and then join us on Thursday of week 10 for some fun, a run, a little bit of dancing and a whole lot of cheering.

A special ribbon presentation assembly will be held in the hall after recess on this day to congratulate all our runners and to present place ribbons and the House Participation Trophy.

Have an awesome weekend...
Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

Congrats to Imogen M who competed at the ACT Little Athletics Carnival last Sunday at the AIS. Imogen achieved PBs in all events she competed in and her results included 1500m—Silver medal (10 sec PB), 800m—Gold medal (6 sec PB), 400m—Gold medal (5 sec PB). Awesome work Im—your training and commitment is really paying off!

Congrats to Jordan L who has been selected in the Belconnen Region Boys’ Cricket Team. The team is competing this week at the ACT carnival and we wish Jordan all the very best.

Congrats to Maddie T and Hayley L who were selected in the Belconnen Region Girls’ Cricket Team. The girls competed in the ACT carnival last week and played some good cricket. Well done ladies!

Good luck to those year 5/6 students who are trying out for Belconnen Region rep teams over the coming 3 weeks including touch, netball, basketball, soccer, rugby league and softball.
Lunchbox fillers for recess time

Snacks to send in the lunchbox for recess don't have to be high in fat and/or sugar, and come with the latest cartoon character on the wrapper, despite what the TV ads tell us. Starting healthy snacking habits in primary school, or earlier, is important to help children choose healthy snacks later in life.

Having something healthy and filling for recess is important, however, it isn't a long break and children need the time to run and play during recess as well. So limiting recess to one or two small items is ideal. Remember, they have fruit break at about 10:00 and eat lunch at around 1:00, so recess only needs to be a quick top up.

Sweet treats are broken down and released into the blood stream quickly. They leave tummies empty and children very hungry by lunch time. Choosing foods that are wholegrain, or have a source of protein will help to keep tummies fuller for longer, allowing children to concentrate on their work without worrying about how hungry they are getting.

Some ideas for healthy recess snacks:

♦ Three or four small cubes of cheese (low fat is best) and some crackers.
♦ A boiled egg (already peeled)
♦ Vegetable sticks with hommus
♦ Grissini (long, dry bread sticks) with cream cheese
♦ A handful of dried fruit
♦ A small tub or yoghurt
♦ Fruit pikelets (wholemeal is great) with a light spread of margarine

Kids love to get involved with food preparation, and they are often more likely to eat foods that they have helped prepare. Try this recipe with the kids as a snack to add at recess time.

Fruit Pikelets

½ cup wholemeal plain flour
½ cup white self-raising flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¾ cup sugar
½ cup sultanas
1 egg, lightly beaten
¾ cup lite milk
1 tablespoon margarine, melted

Method
♦ Sift flours and baking powder into a bowl, add sugar and sultanas.
♦ Combine egg, milk and margarine. Gradually beat liquid ingredients into dry ingredients, mixing until batter is smooth.
♦ Heat lightly greased frypan. Place tablespoonful of mixture in pan. Cook until bubbles appear on top, turn and cook other side.


Jeanette Ryan
B Ed, Grad Dip Hum Nutr, Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, final year candidate
SL@M FUNDRAISER

GOLD COIN DAY

TO HELP OUR FARMERS

BUY A BALE

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

DRESS UP - FARM THEME

All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

For receipts please include your name, address and contact number in a snap lock bag or envelope with your donation.