

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

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Volume 44, Issue 4

Term 1 Week 8

28 March 2019



Dates to Remember

Wednesday 3 April Wellbeing @ Macgregor community Workshop
6.00pm to 7.00pm
Mugga Lane Visit 4HA & 4MS 9:15am-12pm
Kenny Koala visit—preschool

Thursday 4 April-
Mugga Lane Visit 4CR & 4GS 9:15am-12pm

Friday 5 April - Coffee and Chat with Jennifer - 9.15 am
Kenny Koala visit preschool, years 1&2

Friday 5 April Assembly 2.10 pm - Hosted by Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers

As a learning organisation we are always grateful for feedback. Thank you to the family members who attended our first community workshop on Tuesday evening. We received some valuable feedback regarding the 2018 *communication strategy* that will inform our future practices. If you were unable to attend but would like to contribute some feedback, please email Tracey Reis tracey.reis@ed.act.edu.au. We hope to be able to meet up with as many parents as possible during one of our future collaborative workshops to be held on:

- * **Wednesday 3/4/19 at 6pm (W@M)**
- * **Monday 8/4/19 at 5:30pm (student behaviour)**
- * **Wednesday 10/4/19 at 5:30pm (general feedback)**

Developing ILPs and PLPs

Our parents and carers have comprehensive understandings of their children. Teachers like to work in partnership with families, host 'Get to Know You' interviews and stay connected over the term. Over the next few weeks we will be making contact with families to develop Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) for children as may be required. A letter about each of these processes will go home to some of our families today and tomorrow.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the fifteen children representing Macgregor Primary School at the Belconnen Zone Swimming Carnival today. We actively promote school sport opportunities for all our students as a pathway to become a representative for state and national events. Thank you to Bethany Taylor for coordinating the activities and preparing the children.

Being Sunsmart at Macgregor Primary School

The development of a national program targeting sun protection within our Australian schools is anticipated to have a major impact on the future incidence of skin cancer, primarily through strategies aimed at reducing children's sun exposure. As children are at school during the peak UV radiation times for five days each week, Macgregor Primary School's sunsmart processes play a major role in limiting each child's exposure. We ask that the children wear a sunsmart hat every day. Teachers will also be reminding students to apply sunscreen throughout the school day (we have sunscreen available for students who do not have any stored in their school bag). In addition, as an Occupational Health and Safety issue, staff also practise sunsmart behaviours during the school day wearing appropriate attire and a sunsmart hat. Levels of UVR are particularly high in Canberra due to our altitude, clean air and the high number of hours of sunshine. During the months of June and July in Canberra, the Cancer Council ACT recommends that schools have a 'hat's off' period which we will be observing for the eight weeks affecting parts of Term 2 and Term 3 – we will let you know when we are closer to the time. We are seeking the support of parents and carers to ensure that every child brings their sunsmart hat to school every day.

Death Cap Mushrooms – health alert

Death Cap mushrooms are one of the world's deadliest mushrooms and can be found across the Canberra region, usually in late summer and autumn. This deadly mushroom often grows near established oak trees in mild, moist weather. We ask you to remind your children not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms.

The P&C Association is hosting an Easter bun fundraiser. I hope you are able to support this initiative, Jennifer



From the Deputy Principal

Visible Learning at Macgregor Primary School

You may have noticed our school's continued focus on maintaining a professional learning community, establishing goal setting with your children, promoting growth mindset initiatives, displaying posters in classrooms about WALT, WILF, TIB learning intentions and creating success criteria. The big idea for teachers at Macgregor Primary School is to know their impact! Expert teachers are not tied to specific teaching strategies, rather they regularly focus on evaluating the impact they have on student learning and adjusting their teaching methods accordingly. When teaching and learning are 'visible', that is, when it is clear what teachers are teaching and what students are learning within a supportive environment with high expectations, student achievement increases.

Educationalist and author, John Hattie, made quite a splash with the publication of his book *Visible Learning* in 2009. This book is based on a huge 15 year research project to discover what works in schools. In fact, reviewers call it 'teaching's Holy Grail'. Hattie took the guesswork out of education by stating there are practices that we know are effective in the classroom and there are practices that we know are not. We know what works.

Hattie identified five major dimensions of excellent or 'expert' teachers;

1. Expert teachers identify the most important ways to represent the subjects they teach. The research in Visible Learning showed that a teacher's subject-matter knowledge did not improve student achievement! However, expert teachers know how to introduce new content knowledge in a way that integrates it with student prior knowledge, they can relate the current lesson to other subject areas, and they can adapt the lessons according to each student's needs.
2. Expert teachers create an optimal classroom climate for learning. The best climate for learning is one in which there is trust. Expert teachers create classrooms in which errors are welcome and learning is cool.
3. Expert teachers monitor learning and provide feedback. They are skilled at monitoring the current status of student understanding and are excellent seekers and users of feedback about their teaching – that is, they see student progress as feedback about the impact they are having on learning.
4. Expert teachers believe all students can reach the success criteria. This means that not only do teachers have a high respect for their students but that they show a passion that all students can succeed!
5. Expert teachers influence a wide range of student outcomes in a wide range of ways like encouraging children to come to school, helping our kids to develop deep and conceptual understandings, encouraging the children to take risks in their learning, helping each child to develop respect for themselves and others and very importantly, helping every child to develop into an active citizen.

Warm regards, Catherine Dillon



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





The importance of building respectful relationships at Macgregor

Developing and maintaining our positive school climate relies on each member of the school community taking responsibility for cooperative, caring and respectful relationships. Adults have a responsibility to positively model respectful relationships at all times. Students can reach their full educational potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe and when there is a positive school culture to support them. This interdependent relationship between student wellbeing and student learning is fundamental to each student's positive and successful engagement with their education. Macgregor Primary School aims to promote the link between wellbeing and learning in every aspect of the curriculum, school culture and environment – safe, respectful, responsible learners.

Respectful Relationships are fostered through actively developing quality relationships between teacher and teacher, teachers and students and staff and family members. We do this by listening to children's experiences, sharing understandings, modelling positive relationships, and using social emotional learning strategies like restorative practices, classroom agreements, Circle Time and 'Essential Teaching Skills' within our classrooms.

Our staff members at Macgregor Primary School are committed to understanding and focussing on the needs and experiences of all children. We believe this approach, coupled with fun yet secure and focussed learning environments, proactively encourages the development of quality relationships and a child's ability to manage these relationships in socially acceptable ways. We have an expectation that the children will demonstrate friendliness with each other. We explicitly teach these friendly behaviours and the difference between 'being a friend to someone' and 'being friendly to everyone'.

Assisting children to change behaviours which have a negative impact within our school community or within their relationships with others, is a key school priority. We understand that this takes time, encouragement, effort, explicit teaching and practice. Making mistakes, taking responsibility and restoring relationships is all a part of growing up.

Coming up in Volume 3:: W@M Signage

KMG Spotlight on Learning

KMG have had a pleasing start to the school year. We have been learning all about daily routines, whole school expectations and developed great friendships. We are looking forward to our learning in the last few weeks of term.

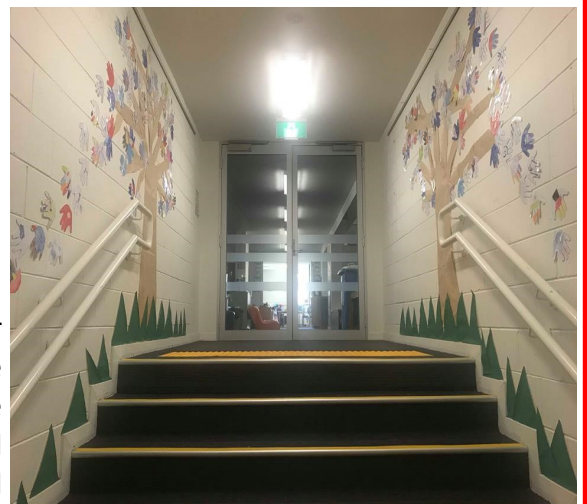
Each week our students participate in Fine Motor Friday sessions, where they interact with a variety of engaging hands on activities. These activities assist in developing muscle strength and finger dexterity. Finger dexterity is the coordination of small muscles in movements, usually involving the synchronisation of the hands, fingers and eyes. Being able to coordinate these muscles is vitally important for our young students for the development of writing, drawing and cutting skills.



Through the use of songs, quality literature and hands on experiences the students in KMG have been learning all about numbers to ten and different kinds of patterns found in the environment. Recently, we went on a hunt around the school and found lots of different numbers. We reflected on where we found the numbers and as a class discussed the different uses for numbers. For example, some numbers are used to tell the time, some to play games and others to tell us the location of a place. We found out that numbers play an important part in our daily routines at school and at home.



Last week was Harmony Day, a day where we come together as a school to celebrate the diversity of cultures that make up our school community. In class, we discussed the different countries our families come from and we created two hand prints; one to signify our cultural background and the other a self portrait. These hands are on display in the stairwell leading up to kindergarten. Be sure to check it out!



Thanks for reading,
Meagan Gordon and KMG

Community Announcements

PRESCHOOL 2020

If you have a child who turns 4 on or before 30 April 2020, then he/she is eligible to begin Preschool in February 2020.

Enrolments will open online on Monday 29 April 2019 at 6:00 am

To enrol your child, go to www.education.act.gov.au and complete the online enrolment form.

Preschool spots are limited, submit your child's enrolment from Monday 29 April 2019.

Proposed Dates For Camps 2019—TBC

The proposed dates for camps in 2019 are:

- Year 3 - Birrigai (via Tidbinbilla), Thursday 5, Friday 6 December
- Year 4 - Borrambola (via Wagga Wagga) Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 August
- Year 5 - Burrendong (between Dubbo and Orange) Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 June
- Year 6—Cooba (via Cooma) Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 November

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

Late to School

Students who arrive after 9:05am must report to the front office with their parent or carer to be signed in by a staff member. A student who signs in late without a parent/carers is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. If a note is provided the lateness is recorded as explained and approved.

Early Leavers

Parents/carers who need to collect their child earlier than 3:00pm are required to report to the front office and request for their child to be signed out.

Family Contact Details

It is important that the school maintain an accurate and up to date record of family/carers email, home addresses and telephone numbers for all children. Please notify the school immediately if there are changes to your contact details. To inform the school of any changes please send an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au, phone the front office on 61421600 or use the Macgregor Primary School App to inform the school of these changes.

Health

Children should not attend school when unwell. The most important way to break the chain of infection and stop spread of diseases are exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff. Your family doctor or the school can provide information regarding recommended exclusion periods for illnesses. Following these guidelines helps prevent contagious illnesses spreading to other children and staff.

Notes Sent Home

- ★ Stationery, Arts, ICT Levies 2019, \$75.00
- ★ Year 4 excursion note
- ★ Religious presentations 2019 note
- ★ Preschool Bus Wash excursion



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

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	21 March ✓ Harmony Day ✓ P&C meeting 6:00pm in the Library	22 March
Wk 8	25 March ✓ School Photos, year 2, 3MC, 3SM, 4GS, 4HA, 4MS, year 5 & year 6 ✓ Sibling photos for Belconnen Swimming participants	26 March ✓ Preschool Photos ✓ Board Meeting 5:00pm ✓ Review of the MPS Communication Strategy Workshop 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	27 March ✓ Evonne Goolagong Tennis Day	28 March ✓ School Photos, Kindergarten, LSG's, yr 1, 3LH, & 4CR ✓ Preschool Photos ✓ Belconnen Swimming Carnival ✓ Sibling photos	29 March
Wk 9	1 April	2 April	3 April ✓ El dia de los libros (Spanish Readathon) ✓ 4HA & 4MS @ Mugga Lane 9:15-12 ✓ Kenny Koala visits Preschool ✓ Wellbeing @ Macgregor Workshop 6:00 to 7:00pm	4 April ✓ 4CR & 4GS @ Mugga Lane 9:15-12	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 6:30pm	9 April ✓ Guginya & Gudamang bus wash excursion ✓ Religious Presentation 10:30am	10 April ✓ Cross Country Carnival ✓ Feedback workshop 5:30 to 6:30pm	11 April ✓ Buru & Walga bus wash excursion	12 April Swimming Ribbon Assembly 2:00pm



P&C NEWS

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Week 8 Term 1 2019



P&C Meeting

We had our last P&C meeting in the school library on Thursday 21st March. There were some key points covered including:

Seesaw will now be the primary form of communication between teachers and parents as to what children are learning about in the classroom. However, if you wish to discuss anything related to your child please email the teacher directly.

Sunsmart Policy- 1 August to 31 May is hats on and sunscreen on. Hats must be worn during outside play as per Cancer Council guidelines.

Teachers will be educating students around how to apply sunscreen to their arms, faces etc and also have available sunscreen where a student does not have their own. Parents are reminded that sunscreen be applied before arriving to school.

Vacation Care (OSHC)- Parents/carers will soon be surveyed regarding the need for Vacation Care again at Macgregor. Discussions are currently underway to ensure Vacation Care is included in the OSHC licence agreement.

The P&C committee and members passed a motion to provide \$10,000 toward new playground equipment which will be placed between the junior and senior playgrounds. The P&C has committed \$7000 and OSHC will provide \$3000. The equipment will be constantly supervised and students introduced to the equipment on a year by year basis.

FUNDRAISING

Mother's Day Stall

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the Mother's Day stall on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May. If you can help between 9am-1pm on any of the above dates please contact Tracey at trace1878@hotmail.com Any help, however big or small, is greatly appreciated!

Next P&C General Meeting 6pm, Thursday 16 May 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!



Our volunteer-run services

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

TEMPORARY CHANGE: The uniform shop will not open on Monday 1st April. It will however re-open Tuesday 2nd April

TRIAL: Commencing Thursday 4th April the Uniform Shop will be open each fortnight from 5pm to 6pm for purchasing. If this opening time proves popular over the next 2-3 months it will continue as a permanent arrangement.

School Banking next week is on **WEDNESDAY**, 3rd April outside the library. This term's rewards are taking us on a polar adventure. Thanks to **Kirsty and Martin Ross** 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. School banking is also open to preschool students and also younger siblings of school students.

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.



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 FETE

It's on again this year!! Mark your diaries for Saturday 16th November



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

