

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

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Volume 44, Issue 14

Term 3 Week 8

12 September 2019

Dates to Remember

Friday 13 September - Senior Assembly at 2:10 pm	Friday 13 September - LSG Kingswim lesson
Monday 16 to Friday 20 September - Book Fair	Wednesday 18 September - Learning Journeys K-6, Guginya and Gudamang
Thursday 19 September - Learning Journeys Buru and Walga	Friday 20 September - Coffee and Chat 9.15 am
Friday 20 September - Whole School Growth Awards 2:10 pm hosted by Year 2	Friday 20 September - P & C Bingo Night
Sunday 22 September - P&C Portrait Photo Fundraiser	Thursday 26 September - Year 5 Exhibition

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday our school celebrated the National Day of Uruguay culminating in a special assembly. The Ambassador of Uruguay in Australia, Mrs Victoria Francolini, was in attendance and addressed the children about the importance of Uruguay's connection to our school.

National Day of Uruguay celebrations

Thank you to Paula Charles, our Spanish language and culture teacher, for organising the celebratory day and providing the children with a tasting of choripan. During the assembly I provided the children with some educational research about the benefits of learning languages ... many children indicated that they could speak more than three languages! I also provided the children with a range of Spanish words that have been adopted by our English language. Words like avocado, chilli, chocolate, patio, taco, breeze, mosquito, cockroach, canyon, plaza, tomato, jade, cafeteria and cocoa.

Learning Journeys

Next week we will be welcoming parents and extended family members into our school for our annual 'Learning Journey'. This special time provides our parents and other significant adults with a wonderful opportunity to hear the story about their child's learning. The children are currently planning the morning with their teachers so as to provide all visiting adults with insight into the way in which the children are growing as analytical thinkers, collaborators, negotiators, problem solvers, self-managers, communicators and researchers. Visiting adults may also notice the ways that our expert teaching staff create learning environments to not only support our young people and cultivate curiosity, but also grow all of our children as confident, capable and creative inquirers.

ACT Track and Field Carnival

How proud we are of Landon from Year 5 (2nd place in discus in the ACT) and Lily-Rose from Year 6 (14th place in shot put in the ACT) who represented our school and the Belconnen zone at the ACT Track and Field Carnival on Monday. It is important for our teachers, that we provide swimming, track and field and cross country carnivals each year, so that our children have the opportunity to compete through School Sport ACT (SSACT) at regional, state and national representative opportunities and pathways.



From the Principal continued...

Instrumental Music Program System Music Ensembles – auditions open

As flagged in the last newsletter, representative music opportunities are available for students attending an ACT public high school in 2020, auditions applications for the Percussion Ensemble, Junior Concert Band (JCB), Senior Concert Band (SCB) and Senior Concert Choir (SCC) are now open. Here is the link for all of the above bands and choirs - <https://forms.gle/3qJZx4DJC3NbW17Z8>

Auditions for the Instrumental Music Program's 2020 primary groups - Primary Concert Bands (PCBs) and Primary Concert Choir (PCC) will open early Term 4. I will let families know as soon as the auditions are advertised.

School timetable feedback

Over the last eight weeks, we have been trialling a revised school timetable and although we are seeking a full ten weeks of comparison data, our initial analysis of five weeks of data is showing a significant positive shift. Our Team Coordinators are also reporting that learning sessions are significantly calmer and that teachers are playing handball or other games with students to develop positive relationships on play breaks, rather than being focused on mediating disputes or responding to negative incidents. In Week 10's newsletter, we will provide a full analysis.

School Review – a year later

Last week, the school leadership team met with our Director of School Improvement and two other principals from local primary schools, to present data and a narrative about the progress of our school improvement plan over the last twelve months. Highlights of this discussion included;

- The collection and analysis of student learning data and common assessment data to lay a foundation for demonstrating growth in student learning and learning growth data trends
- Our series of community consultation workshops and subsequent active responses. For example changes to the awards structure, assembly schedule, refreshing of shared spaces within the school, First Aid communication slips for parents, introduction of an end of year school concert
- The way we use a professional learning community model to align teaching practices and provide whole of school professional learning
- Our work this year in developing systematic curriculum delivery and reporting practices
- Our student wellbeing work including continued promotion and embedding of W@M and further developing the school's positive learning culture
- Providing evidence as to the way we are cultivating the school's professional learning culture to provide best practice in the teaching of writing and numeracy concepts.

Our continual focus on the school's explicit improvement agenda also demonstrates our commitment to the Education Directorate's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, particularly Strategic Goal number 3 (evidence informed decisions).

School Satisfaction Survey

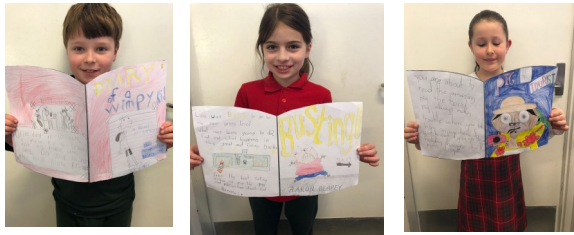
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent School Satisfaction Survey...these surveys provide evidence for us to support planning and programs for the coming year. If you missed the survey but would like to share any feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, we have some fun activities coming up in the last two weeks of the term including a Book Fair next week (to coincide with our Learning Journey), a 'Student Leaders @ Macgregor' (SLAM) led event and a special teacher led fun 'shout out' assembly at 2.10pm on Friday of week 10 – that is probably one not to miss! Warmest regards, Catherine



Spotlight on Learning on 2ER

We have had such a busy term in 2ER. We had book week in week 5 where we dressed up as princesses, dogs, soccer players and more. We did so many picture book based activities including recreating our favourite book's cover and a workshop with professional illustrator David Conley.



In week 6 we went swimming as part of the Aqua Safe program. We were all extremely tired after swimming for an hour everyday for a week.

We have had lots of fun learning safety skills in and around the water including how to call for help if we are having trouble, how to help someone else when they are in trouble, how to safely enter and exit the water, how to stay afloat and how to read and understand the warning signs around floodways, drains and other areas with water. We also built our team work skills learning how to help ourselves and others get back into a boat if we all fall out.



We have been studying *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl and have been loving it. We are now onto *The Twits* and are so excited to know what prank the characters will play on each other next. We have also been learning a lot about Roald Dahl himself. Here are some facts we researched ourselves: Roald Dahl wrote 32 books, he was a fighter pilot in World War 2, he started writing books because he loved to tell his own children stories.

We can't wait to find out more and read more of his books.

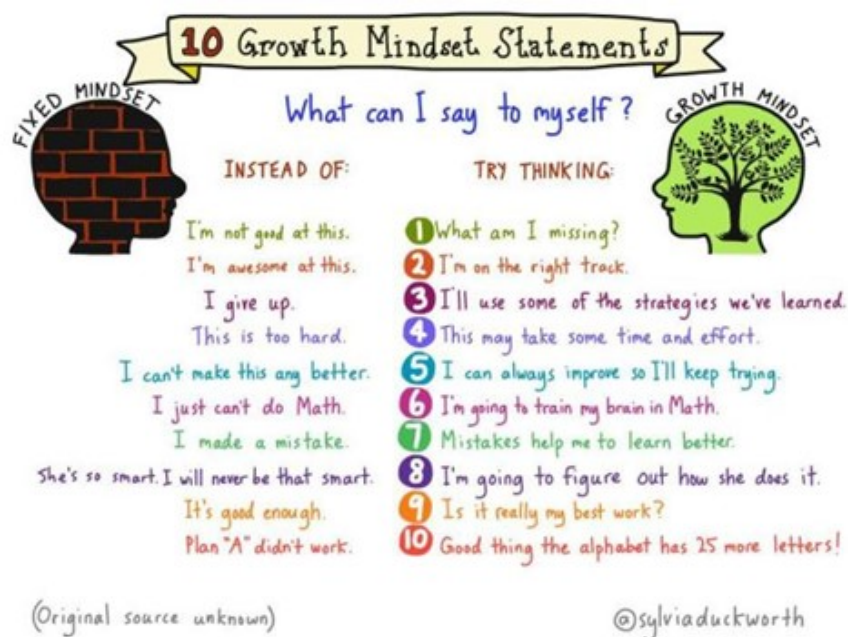
Bye for now,

Miss Robertson and 2ER



Volume 12: Cultivating a Growth Mindset

Recent advances in neuroscience shows that the brain is very malleable. Teachers encourage hard work and effort to cultivate a growth mindset. When students have a growth mindset, they take on challenges and learn from them, therefore increasing their abilities and achievement. Teachers establishing a culture of feedback for students, is an important element of nurturing a growth mindset culture across our school.



Macgregor Primary School Staff Snapshot

A snapshot of ... Ms Butt

What's your role at Macgregor Primary School? This is actually a surprisingly tricky question for me to answer. I have many roles throughout the school. Some of my roles include teaching Kitchen Garden and teaching a year 4 class with Ms Xirakis. I coordinate all the ICT devices, which entails making sure all the iPads, Chromebooks, laptops, computers and screens all continue to work correctly. I also mentor some early career teachers to help them to reflect and evolve their classroom practices. I am also currently acting as an executive teacher while Ms Pearce is away.

What's your background before coming to Macgregor? Macgregor Primary is the first school that I have ever taught at! Before I was teaching here, I was at University finishing my degree and working as a waitress. I moved from my family's farm to Canberra (the big city) to attend University and liked it so much that I decided to stay.

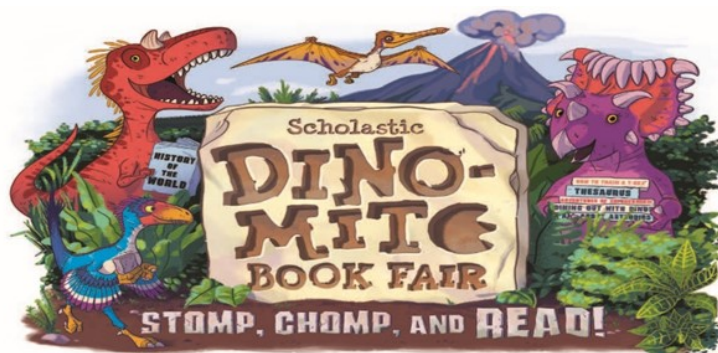
What makes Macgregor a great school? I really like the strong sense of community that exists between all the students, staff and families. Walking through the school and knowing the names of so many people and having them say hello is always such a great way to start the day.

What do you enjoy most about being a member of staff?

The staff at Macgregor are all so helpful. We share resources, knowledge and even food all the time. We do tend to act like a big family, helping out when someone is away or unwell. And our staff are fantastic at putting together morning tea !



Spotlight on Library



Book Fair is here!

The celebration of reading and books continues this term with our annual Book Fair. Books will be on sale every day for one week only; 8:00 am-9:00 am every day, lunchtimes and after school except for Wednesday and Friday.

Children will have the opportunity to fill out a wish list to take home. Each class has had discussions during library time that families do not have to buy from the Book Fair and that children are encouraged to be understanding in this instance. They will also have the chance to browse the books and stationery, put any books on the Library wish list to buy and take part by volunteering for student-led jobs.

Library has a roster made up for students, staff and parents to offer their time to assist with running of the Book Fair. We were hoping to have an adult volunteer at each opening session to help myself with the running of the cashier desk and supervising student volunteers. Please either telephone the front office or send me an email. It is promising to be another fabulous week in the Library. Keep on Reading!

Norma John
Teacher Librarian



Notes Sent Home

- ★ Learning Journey Information flyer

Notifying the school of your child's absences

The Macgregor Primary School App is no longer operational.

If your child is going to be absent from school (short term or extended leave), please notify the school front office by sending an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au (there is also a link on our school website <http://www.macgregorps.act.edu.au/>). You are also welcome to call the front office on **6142 1600**.

Term 3 Calendar 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Wk 1	22 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops	23 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Senior School Indigenous Dance Workshop	24 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops	25 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Senior School Indigenous Dance Workshop	26 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Junior Assembly 2:10	
Wk 2	29 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops	30 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Senior School Indigenous Dance Workshop	31 July ✓ NAIDOC Workshops	1 August ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Senior School Indigenous Dance Workshop	2 August ✓ NAIDOC Workshops ✓ Senior Assembly 2:10	
Wk 3	5 August	6 August ✓ Yr 6 Combined Band @ Macgregor ✓ School Board meeting 5pm	7 August	8 August	9 August ✓ Whole School Growth Awards Assembly 2:10pm hosted by Yr 5	
Wk 4	12 August ✓ Yr 4 Camp @ Borambola	13 August ✓ Yr 4 Camp @ Borambola ✓ Krispy Kreme orders due	14 August ✓ Yr 4 Camp @ Borambola	15 August ✓ Limelight dance rehearsal @ Ainslie ✓ P&C Meeting 6pm	16 August ✓ 'Coffee & Chat' with Jennifer 9:15am ✓ Kenny Koala @ Kindergarten 12:30-1:30pm ✓ Junior Assembly 2:10 ✓ OZTAG Gala Day Yr 5 & 6 ✓ Author Jack Heath visits yrs 4 - 6, 12:15pm – 1:00pm	
Wk 5	19 August ✓ Book Week ✓ Belconnen Athletics	20 August ✓ Book Week, Read Aloud & preschool book week parade for Gudamang & Guginya only	21 August ✓ Book Week	22 August ✓ Book Week	23 August ✓ Book Week Assembly & parade 9:15am ✓ Senior Assembly 2:10	
Wk 6	26 August ✓ Yr 2 Aquasafe @ CISAC	27 August ✓ Yr 2 Aquasafe @ CISAC ✓ Limelight tech rehearsal	28 August ✓ Yr 2 Aquasafe @ CISAC ✓ Yr 5 Combined Band ✓ Lift Off Go Yr 6	29 August ✓ Yr 2 Aquasafe @ CISAC ✓ Father's Day stalls ✓ Limelight performance	30 August ✓ Yr 2 Aquasafe @ CISAC ✓ Whole School Growth Awards Assembly 2:10pm hosted by Kindergarten ✓ Father's Day stalls ✓ Limelight rehearsal ✓ Limelight performance	
Wk 7	2 September	3 September ✓ ICAS Digital Technologies ✓ Guginya & Gudamang NGA excursion	4 September ✓ Cuban Embassy Year 6 Presentation Drawing Launch	5 September ✓ ICAS Science ✓ Buru & Walga NGA excursion	6 September ✓ Junior Assembly 2:10pm ✓ LSG Kingswim lesson	
Wk 8	9 September	10 September ✓ ICAS Writing ✓ ACT Athletics ✓ School Board meeting 5pm	11 September ✓ Uruguay National Day celebrations with special assembly 2:10	12 September ✓ ICAS Spelling Bee	13 September ✓ Senior Assembly 2:10 ✓ LSG Kingswim lesson	
Wk 9	16 September ✓ Book Fair ✓ ICAS Digital Technologies	17 September ✓ Book Fair ✓ ICAS English	18 September ✓ Book Fair ✓ Learning Journeys K-6, Guginya & Gudamang, 8:30am – 10:00am	19 September ✓ Book Fair ✓ ICAS Maths ✓ Learning Journeys Buru & Walga 8:30am – 10:00am ✓ P&C Meeting 6:00pm	20 September ✓ Book Fair ✓ 'Coffee & Chat' 9:15am ✓ Whole School Growth Awards Assembly 2:10pm hosted by Yr 2 ✓ P&C Bingo Night ✓ LSG Kingswim lesson	22 Sept ✓ P&C Portrait Fundraiser
Wk 10	23 September	24 September ✓ School Board meeting	25 September	26 September	27 September ✓ Whole School Shout Out Assembly 2:10pm ✓ LSG Kingswim lesson	



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING JOURNEYS

**GUGINYA &
GUDAMANG
WED 18
SEPTEMBER**

**FAMILIES ARE
INVITED TO
JOIN THEIR
CHILDREN FOR
LEARNING
JOURNEYS**

**BURU &
WALGA
THURS 19
SEPTEMBER**

**COME AND
DISCOVER THE
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS
AND
UNDERSTANDINGS
ACHIEVED BY OUR
STUDENTS**

8:30 - 10:00

**AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE
CHILDREN TO
GUIDE YOU
THROUGH THEIR
LEARNING**

**KINDERGARTEN
- YEAR 6
WED 18
SEPTEMBER**



ACT
Government
Education

Tuesday 17 September
7.00 - 8.30 pm

Centre for Teaching and Learning
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

Transition to School Parent Forum

Tips for parents and carers to support children who are starting school

This forum will provide tips and resources to support you and your child's successful transition to school. Hear from experienced educators, researchers and parents who will also be happy to answer your questions.

This is a free event.

Register via email earlylearning@actparents.org.au or phone 6241 5759
by 13 September 2019

This event will also be made available as a podcast.



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations