Dear Macgregor Community,

Welcome BBQ:
Let me start by saying how lovely it was to see so many students, families and friends of our community at the Welcome BBQ yesterday evening. The community spirit at Macgregor never ceases to inspire me. A big thank you to Amanda Bichard (our P&C President) and her helpers, for organising this event again in 2015. We look forward to welcoming new and returning families to our P&C meeting next Thursday in the school library.

5/6 Camp:
Our year 5/6 students returned from Camp Cooba, yesterday afternoon, exhausted, but exhilarated! I need to say a HUGE thank you to all of the teaching staff who gave up their personal time (and soooo much energy) to make this camp a success. The students really appreciate your commitment, more than you will ever know, as memories from school camps will last a lifetime.

Website Upgrade:
Earlier this month, the school launched our new website. In dire need of an upgrade for some time now, we are proud to say that the website is now far more reflective of current practices at the school, including a clear vision and mission statement and a detailed description of how we teach at Macgregor and why we do things this way. For those of you who have been a part of the school for a long time, you will know (and feel) how the culture of the school has grown and changed over the past few years, as we have focussed on building a professional learning community, with student outcomes at the core of all that we do. Our website also helps explain this and the site will continue to grow as we endeavour to further engage parents, carers and the wider community, in all that we do at Macgregor. Here is a web-link to the website if you want to jump on and take a quick look: http://www.macgregorps.act.edu.au/

Our Macgregor Primary School Values:
Belonging
Respect
Individuality
Cooperation
Kindness

These BRICK values are explicitly taught at the school and are implicit in all that we do and say. Please talk to your children about the values and what ways they live out these values in their lives, at school and at home. This year, each year level will be handing out special BRICK awards to deserving students during regular year group gatherings, within their units. Playground BRICK awards will be announced at our whole school assemblies. (Remember, these are now held on Fridays in weeks 3, 6 & 9 of term, at 2.20pm.)

Also at these assemblies, I will be acknowledging 3 students each month, who have demonstrated a commitment to improving their learning. These students will have showed their teachers that they are ‘growth minded’, focussing on improving their own learning through effort, attitude and using the feedback they get on their work, to achieve their goals.

Yours in Education
Lana Read
Principal

Our Macgregor Primary School Vision:
‘Linked by Learning ... Experience, Expression & Excellence’, students striving to develop to their full potential, learn respect for self, for others and the environment, whilst striving in harmony to prepare for a challenging future.

REMINDER: SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES
Board Nominations close Monday 16 February. Please drop into nomination box at front office.
Dear Parents and Carers,

For those of you who don’t already know me, my name is Lisa Kunkel and it is my pleasure to be the Library Technician at Macgregor Primary this year.

I'm really excited to continue to provide a positive and happy environment to support your children's love for books.

I welcome you to pop into the library and say hello.

Stay tuned for regular updates.

Lisa Kunkel

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**3OH NEWS**

Welcome to year 3!!! We have hit the ground running with the students returning to school settled and ready to learn.

We are starting the year by looking at our current reading and writing levels, setting achievement goals for the term, and thinking about how we can achieve our set goals. We are looking closely at persuasive writing and children have been able to recall their knowledge of this text type from last year to pull apart texts and decide the particular features that make a text persuasive. They have used this knowledge to write a text persuading a reader that ‘Books are better than TV for relaxation.’ Based on this piece of writing, children were able to decide on what their writing strengths are and what areas they need to concentrate on.

In reading, all students had a think about what level they are currently reading at, what level they would like to be reading at by the end of term one, and how they can reach that goal. These goals have been displayed visually so that children can measure their growth, note their successes and reset or create new goals accordingly.

We have decided to call the year 3 unit ‘The Avery’ and within the Avery we have ‘the Nest’ which is a quiet area that can be used for quiet reading or extension work, and ‘The Hollow’; and outdoor courtyard which we are able to enjoy for eating recess and lunch. Keeping in theme, we have named our classes. We (3OH) are the ‘Macaws’ and we have been working closely, and enjoying team building activities, with the ‘Owls’ (3MB) and the ‘Toucans’ (3DC).

Thank you to all of the parents who have popped in to say hello already. We look forward to meeting with you all at our parent/teacher interviews next week.

Jen Hearne, Janine O'Keefe (The Macaws)
And the Year 3 team...Millie Butt (The Owls) and David Combe (The Toucans)

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**KJB News**

KJB have had a very exciting start to kindergarten. They all look fantastic in their school uniforms and are so proud to belong at Macgregor.

They have settled in extremely well and are trying their best to follow the ‘big school’ rules.

During the morning session the whole Kindergarten unit have been exploring numerous activities during investigation time. They are very engaged in the hands on process and have surprised their teachers with their play, exploration and creativity. On the back of the newsletter you will find some photos of KJB during their investigation time.

Kindergarten have begun to learn about weather in science and had a great time talking about their own weather experiences. They brainstormed many words and are about to create a word wall with all of their fabulous ideas.

All the kindergarten teachers hope that the students are having a great start at Macgregor Primary. We are all certainly enjoying our time with our lovely classes and we are looking forward to a great year together.

Regards
Justine Byrne.

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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. Please try not to hand it in over the counter at the front office, as the teachers have the excursion note bags they go in. You are welcome to pay using Eftpos at the front office, just write on the note that payment has been made via Eftpos and send it in to their teacher.

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.*
PIPS for Kindy
In weeks 3 and 4, children in kindergarten will complete the PIPS assessment. PIPS is a computer based assessment program that can assist with:
- determining what kindergarten students know when they enter primary school
- assessing the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language)
- diagnosing individual student work and providing information to indicate what students are achieving or understanding
- predicting future performance and identifying students who might benefit from early intervention or enrichment

The assessment will be completed in a one on one situation with your child’s class teacher and you will receive feedback regarding your child’s performance. The assessment will be repeated in term 4 as an indication of the progress your child has made throughout their kindergarten year. If you have any questions about PIPS, please do not hesitate to come and see me or speak with your child’s teacher.

SAVE THE DATE - Parent Workshop – ‘Kindy Reading – Reading at Home’
We would like to invite all kindergarten parents to attend our reading workshop on Monday 23 February. It will be a very practical session providing you with skills and strategies to support your child with reading. Parents from other year levels are very welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

Tina Wilson

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN
In Kindergarten children are faced with many new challenges. They are expected to co-operate, share equipment, follow rules, take turns and consider others. They are encouraged to take care of themselves, and their belongings and keep themselves safe.
Parents can help by:
- sending them off with positive comments about having a good day.
- helping them be organised in the morning.
- expecting tiredness in the afternoon and even some irritability. It can be exhausting being ‘good’ for a whole day.
- having a quiet wind down time at the end of the day.
- spending time talking to your child about their day and any worries they may have. Share your own memories about being little at school.
- be on the lookout for normal signs of stress including tiredness, headaches, clinginess, poor sleeping, school refusal, baby talk or stomach aches.
- don’t promise that they will be able to things straight away eg reading as they can become very disappointed.
- prepare them by asking questions such as “What could you do if I am late one day?” etc
- remember to take lots of photos of this special time.

Most children will show one or more of these signs as they try to cope with the new environment and these will become less apparent after the first few weeks. Talk to your child’s teacher if you have continuing concerns.

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor/Psychologist
Mondays/Thursdays

STARTING SCHOOL
For most children starting back at school is a smooth process. For some children the new school year may start with tears and they may appear a little unsettled whilst they are adjusting to the changes. Try to remain calm yourself for your child to see that things will be ok and provide reassurance if needed. It can be helpful to talk about some of the differences from last year that your child is experiencing as well as some positive things about the new class. Many children are very quick to pick up their parent's concerns.

For some parents the question “What did you do at school today?” can elicit varying responses from “Nothing” to elaborate details. Some parents find it useful to ask questions about what was the best part of the day or about what went well for them. Some of the new tasks your child may be facing are new classroom routines, a new teacher, being with new children as well as some familiar friends, and a new classroom environment.

If there are tears try not to be too upset by them, as this is common particularly with some of the younger children, as starting school can be very tiring. Be encouraged that most children settle quickly into the new routines, and classroom teachers are experienced at handling any upsets. Keep an eye out for information about items your child needs to bring to school so that a written list or a pictorial list for students can be displayed at home and your child can learn to check this daily as part of their morning routine. Also remember that a good night’s sleep is important for your child to function well at school. Please let your child’s teacher know if you have any continuing concerns.

Sheri Bottomley
School Counsellor/Psychologist
Mon/ Thursdays

Student Injury Insurance and Ambulance Transport
The Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

At Macgregor Primary, we aim to be ‘allergy friendly’, enabling us to provide a safer environment for all our students who are highly allergic to nuts. Please avoid putting nuts/nut products in your child’s lunch box.
Books are Better than TV for Relaxation

Instead of watching TV or playing video games, you can read a book. Books are better than TV and video games because you can choose what to read and you can create your own story while reading.

Books can be taken wherever you go. You can read them on the bus, at school, at home, or even on a trip. If you like, you can even turn your favorite book into a video game.

Books are a great way to relax and unwind after a long day. So next time you feel like turning on the TV, grab a book instead and start reading!
A big welcome back to the sporting arena for 2015. A special welcome to all our new families – congratulations on choosing to send your children to such an awesome school! Each fortnight, as the school’s PE Specialist, I publish a detailed sport report in the school newsletter. The sport report is a means by which I can inform our school community of up and coming sporting events and days that we may be involved in, provide details of sporting opportunities that may be of interest to our students and share sporting highlights and accomplishments of our students, family members and teachers through “Heroes Corner”. It is also a valuable way for us to connect with community sports organisations and share what they have to offer our students. I encourage you to take the time to read through the Sport Report each fortnight with your child/children so that we are all shooting in the same direction. Our school’s open door policy very much extends to PE specialist lessons and I invite and encourage you to drop in and join in with the fun during your child(ren)’s PE lessons. No appointments are necessary – just turn up when you can with your sneakers on and enjoy. If at any time you have any questions or comments regarding our school PE / Sport program, please do not hesitate to contact me at school to discuss. On a similar note, should you have a particular area of expertise or passion in the world of PE and sport and are willing to share it with our staff and/or students, I would love to hear from you.

Swimming Carnival and Fun Day
Information and permission notes for our school swimming carnival and fun day were sent home last Thursday with each child from year 1 to year 6. Accompanying this note was the Medical Information and Consent Form that the Education and Training Directorate require us to have filled out for each student prior to them attending any off-site excursions. Please ensure you return your child’s notes to their classroom teacher by Friday 20 February so final numbers and buses can be confirmed. If your child did not receive the notes please speak to their classroom teacher.

This year our awesome kindergarten students and their teachers will be holding their very own water fun day at school on the same day as the other students head to Big Splash. A separate note detailing this exciting event will be sent home by the kindy team in the near future.

We are very fortunate to once again have on board our good friend Adrian from Elite Coaching Canberra, Kippax, to our school. Adrian will be running 45 minute tennis clinics with our year 6 students this term as a part of our Hot Shots tennis program. Years 3-5 will participate in these coaching sessions during terms 2 to 4.

Hot Shots Tennis Program
This term we again welcome our good friend Adrian from Elite Coaching Canberra, Kippax, to our school. Adrian will be running 45 minute tennis clinics with our year 6 students this term as a part of our Hot Shots tennis program. Years 3-5 will participate in these coaching sessions during terms 2 to 4.

Weetbix Tryathlon
Good luck to those students who are participating in the Weetbix Tryathlon this Sunday at the AIS. I will be out there with my daughter and look forward to cheering our students on as they swim, ride and run around the course.

West Belconnen Junior Rugby League Rego Days
West Belconnen Junior Rugby League Club are having their registration days this month and early March at the Raiders Club, Hardwick Cres Holt on:

**Sunday 22nd Feb:** 10am – 3pm (Free sausage and drink for players signing up on the day)

**Thursday 26th Feb:** 5.00pm – 7.00pm

**Sunday 1st March:** 10.00am – 2pm

Have an awesome weekend…
Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

Heroes Corner

Congrats to Jamie S, Daniel S, Saxon H and Cody S who competed in the Summer Touch Footy 5/6 competition. The boys and their team, the Snakes, finished second on the ladder. After playing some good footy in the finals they qualified for the Grand final against the Latham Lions, narrowly losing to claim the Runners-up trophy. Well done gentlemen!

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 office.
FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The Parents & Citizens group (P&C) would like to welcome everyone back for 2015.

Firstly we would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort with the Barnados Christmas giving tree. Lots of children benefited from the gifts provided to Barnados from Macgregor Primary school families.

We are looking forward to another great year and would like to extend an invitation to our parents and carers to join us. Our first meeting will be Thursday February 19th in the library at 7pm – 9pm, kids are welcome. We would love you to come along and find out more and support your school. With today's technology the role of an active P&C parent does not always require face to face involvement and can be done in many different ways.

There will be lots of areas that we will be needing parental assistance this year and as we know, many hands make light work. There will be book covering in the library, canteen support and time in the classroom supporting our teachers. We also have the uniform shop, school banking and community events that could do with a helping hand. I am also looking to have a list of helpers at the swimming carnival so that I can organise with the teachers where we can be best put to use.

If you would like to be involved please email us on pandcmacgregorprimaryschool@gmail.com or use this email to contact us if you would like any information regarding the P&C.

We aim to have a P&C newsletter every fortnight. If you have an article you would like to submit please forward to the above email.

Amanda Bichard

MACGREGOR MUSIC SCHEME

The P&C runs a music scheme to give students the opportunity to learn piano or guitar at school during school hours with a private tutor. All levels and skills are catered for.

These half hour weekly lessons with specialist tutors provide students with individual attention and students can be enrolled on a term by term basis.

It isn’t too late to enrol your child for Term 1, just contact me via email or phone!

Important news: Expressions of interest are being sought for a possible additional music program to come to the school!

The P&C has the opportunity to offer group music lessons in piano and guitar at the school in addition to the one-on-one lessons currently available. These would be weekly, half hour lessons in a group environment of 3 to 6 students. Guitars and keyboards would be provided to the students to use during their group lessons.

We need to know if parents would be interested in this type of music program, as minimum numbers are required. The cost per student to participate in these group lessons would be approximately $120 per term and, if there is interest from the school community, the P&C would look at setting this up to begin in Term 2.

Please contact me by 27 February 2015 if these group music lessons would be of interest to you.

Veronica Webster
Music Coordinator
0423 717 091
webster_veronica@hotmail.com

FIRST P&C OF THE YEAR!

The first P&C meeting will be in the Library on the 19th of Feb from 8pm.

All are welcome to the AGM which will be held at 7pm on the same night.

All positions in the P&C are vacant. If anyone has an enquiry about roles on the P&C or just general information, please contact Amanda Bichard.

SCHOOL BANKING 2015 ACCOUNT OPENING DAY

This year's School Banking program is taking your child on an intergalactic mission to learn smart savings habits with the Dollarmite. For more information on getting started, come to the Account Opening Day.

Date: 19 February 2015
Time: 8.30am
Location: Front Foyer
Welcome to 2015 in the Tuckabox.

Menu
The new Tuckabox Menu is inserted inside this week’s newsletter.
Prices on some menu items have gone up 10 cents. This is to keep in line with increased food costs.

Apple Slinky Volunteers
We need volunteers for the Apple Slinky Army, if you could spare ½ hour to 1 hour during a weekday morning from 10am - to 11am it would be a great help.

Tuckabox Family Accounts
New Family Account forms will be out soon in the next couple of weeks, keep an eye out for this form. Anyone can have an account with the canteen, just fill out the form available from the canteen and open the account with a $20 payment and top up the account regularly to keep in credit.

Canteen Committee
If you would like to be part of the canteen committee please come along to the P&C Meeting on Thursday 19th Feb 2015 and register your interest, we would love to have be a part of team in 2015.

Tuckabox Pantry Drive
The Pantry Drive note is in the newsletter too, any donations to our canteen are greatly appreciated. Any fresh vegetable, fruit or herb donations are always welcome too.

Jayne and Sheryl
Tuckabox Canteen
6254 4141

Thank you—to all the families of Macgregor Primary who donated gifts to our Barnados Giving Tree

CHILDREN’S VISION
Good vision is important for your child’s educational, physical and social development and to help them reach their full learning potential. Many children continue to experience undetected and unnecessary vision problems and often they assume that how they see is normal.

It is up to us, their teachers and parents, to be able to recognise the signs of a vision problem, and to help children look after their eyes.

We hope to help parents to detect potential vision problems in children early, and to teach children about their eyes and the importance of good vision.

Symptoms of eye problems include:
- complaints of blurred vision, headaches, or sore eyes
- delayed progress in reading ability
- a turned eye, red or watery eyes, and frequent blinking
- poor hand-eye coordination in sports
- losing their place or omitting words and skipping lines when reading

Contact us for a copy of the Children’s Vision Parent Guide or visit the website: www.optometrists.asn.au/childrensvision

Optometrists Association Australia recommends that children’s eyes be checked regularly throughout their school life, and immediately on observing any problems with their eyes or vision.

Behavioural Optometrist Dr Kunjam Vallam of Mackinley Optical is available for appointments - call 6248 9100 or 6251 3399 to book an eye exam today.

Thank You To All Our Barnados Gifts for Kids Supporters

Many of the severely abused and neglected children in our care are unaccustomed to any form of celebration, so you can only imagine just how excited and special they felt when Santa called their name and handed them their very own Christmas gift.

Thanks to your generosity, every child and young person in Barnados Australia’s care had the chance to feel the warmth and happiness of Christmas.

Over 10,000 toys and gift cards were donated across Australia - a testament to the support of our donors and a passion to help us provide futures for all children.
Please support the businesses that support our school.

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S GOLD BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNERS**

1. **Jessica Meyer Elders Real Estate Gungahlin**
   - Jessica.meyer@eldersrealestate.com.au
   - 62622777

2. **Canberra Carpentry & Roofing**
   - Jamin Everson: 0422 272 034
   - Andrew Niewenhouze: 0404 074 248
   - Canberracapentry.roofing@gmail.com

3. **Dynamic Events Presents**
   - **CANBERRA’S GET ACTIVE EXPO**
   - Jessica Read: 0421 250 040
   - info@getactiveexpo.com

4. **Premium Plus Automotive**
   - 103 Osburn Drive, Macgregor,
     - 62543412
   - Email premiumplus@ppcanberramechanic.com
   - www.premiumplusautomotive.com

5. **Elite Meats Kippax**
   - Butchers – Retail - Holt
   - Shop 12/ Hardwicke Cres, Holt
   - 62549338

6. **HAIR BY KELSEY JANE**
   - SHOP 7, KIPPAX FAIR
   - HARDWICKE CRES, HOLT
   - 62548605

7. **Jayson Hinder & Associates Solicitors**
   - Wills, Conveyancing and Business Law
   - 5 Kippax Pl
   - Holt ACT 2615
   - (02) 6247 6655
   - Email: jrh@actlaw.com.au

8. **Kippax Veterinary Hospital**
   - 82 Hardwick Crescent
   - Holt ACT 2615
   - (02) 62551242
   - Email: info@kippaxvet.com.au

9. **The Uniform Shop/That Party Place**
   - Luke Street
   - Holt ACT 2615
   - Phone: 6255-3876
   - Email: info@theuniformshop-canberra.com.au

10. **Onya Bike Belconnen**
    - 61 Lathlain St, Belconnen
    - 62532149 / 62514260
    - Email: belco@onyabikecanberra.com.au

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S PLATINUM BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER**

1. **IGA Holt**
   - Holt Place, Holt
   - 62544694

2. **EverLoch Electrical**
   - Lachlan Marris
   - 0423 309 833
   - 0401 816 530
   - Email: lachlan@everloh.com.au

3. **Kippax Dental Group**
   - Kippax Health Centre
   - Kippax Place Holt, ACT 2615
   - 62551544

**Spot Available**

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S PLATINUM BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER**

1. **Spot Available**

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S GOLD BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER**

1. **Spot Available**

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S GOLD BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER**

1. **Spot Available**

**MACGREGOR PRIMARY’S PLATINUM BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER**

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