



Term 1 Overview 2017 Kindergarten

8 February 2017

Dear Families

Welcome to Kindergarten at Macgregor Primary School. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and their families. The children have settled extremely well into their new classrooms and are confident, enthusiastic and excited about the year ahead.

You may have noticed some new posters around the school that describe Macgregor's expectations for different areas. These posters are part of our Wellbeing at Macgregor – also known as W@M. Look out in the school newsletter for more information as our implementation rollout continues.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide your children with enjoyable, motivating and purposeful learning experiences. Please read the attached information about our learning program for term one, special dates and housekeeping reminders.

'Get to Know You' Interviews

Each year, we hold 'Get to Know You' interviews with parents and carers during the first few weeks of term 1. This year, our interviews will be held on Thursday 16 February 3:30pm - 6:45pm in the school library. These interviews are a chance for you to meet with the teachers and provide them with any important information about your child. Please book in a time with your child's teacher tonight at the Welcome BBQ or call the front office to book an interview from 9:00am Thursday 9 February to 3:00pm Wednesday 15 February.

Investigations

During the first hour of our morning session children are engaged in investigations. Investigations provide a range of structured activities that are designed to reinforce classroom teaching across subject areas, extend student thinking and support cooperative social skills. Investigations place the child at the centre of the curriculum and ensure authentic personalised learning. Some of the many benefits of investigations include:

- Increased levels of engagement and motivation
- Increased oral language skills
- Increased levels of writing
- Increased social skills

English

Reading - In our rich literacy program children will take part in a range of reading activities related to all areas of the curriculum. We will be developing early reading strategies such as identifying initial sounds, tracking text and comprehension of the story and working as picture detectives.

Writing - This term we will be encouraging students to 'have a go' with their writing. We will use songs, actions, fine motor activities and games to teach the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make.

Maths

During our daily maths sessions, we will focus on students' number awareness. We will be concentrating on learning the names and symbols for numbers to 10 and beyond. Students will be learning to order numbers correctly. We will also be learning to identify, sort and describe 2D shapes and use different tools of measurement.

Integrated learning- history, geography and science

The big idea of our integrated learning is that we all have our place in the world and we learn about each other. Your child will be exploring their personal and family histories such as where they were born, where they were raised and the difference in clothing and their observable properties. The students are learning the skill of questioning and communicating. We will be starting with "Who lives in your house(es) with you?" in order to learn about their parents and grandparents history. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity to share your family history with your child.

Specialist classes

Every **Tuesday** afternoon the children will be attending specialist classes. This includes Physical Education (PE), Spanish and Art. Please see the specialist term letter for further details.

Library

This term the kindergarten students will have library on **Monday**. At this time, students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library. Later in this term we will be practising our ability to choose 'good fit' books.

Thank you for helping us to create a wonderful start to the year. We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Kind regards

The Kindergarten Team

Jodie Penyu

(Jodie.Penyu@ed.act.edu.au)

Justine Byrne

(Justine.Byrne@ed.act.edu.au)

Ashleigh Grey-Reitz

(Ashleigh.Grey-Reitz@ed.act.edu.au)

Nicole Curtis

(Nicole.Curtis@ed.act.edu.au)

Housekeeping

- We thank you for getting your child to school on time. This provides children with the best chance for a settled start to the day. Understandably some mornings don't run to plan. If your child arrives after 9:00am, they need to be accompanied by a carer to the front office first where they will sign in and receive a 'late slip' before coming into the classroom.
- We have a whiteboard outside the kindergarten unit, near the junior playground. Please check this regularly for any messages from the kinder teachers.
- If your child is absent from school please send a note, email or use the Macgregor School App to inform your class teacher.
- Morning assembly: Children are to meet under the senior COLA area at 8:55am for school messages.
- Children are to be collected at 3:00pm from the kindergarten sheltered area. In term one we ensure children are handed over to their parent/carer so please ensure your child's teacher knows that you have collected your child.

- Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:15pm will be taken to the front office so the parents can be called.
- Please remember to label all clothing and belongings. If things are lost there is a school lost property outside the uniform shop.
- All children require a broad brimmed hat. It is advisable that children also apply sunscreen before coming to school each morning.
- At Macgregor we promote healthy eating. We would ask that your child's drink bottle only has water in it.
- Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all our students and staff we ask that children do not bring any nuts or nut products to school.
- All toys should remain at home to avoid interruptions to learning time and items getting lost.
- We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns that you may have involving your child. Please make an appointment with us by either sending a note or by email.

Dates for the diary

- Week 2 - **Wednesday 8 February** - Blast off BBQ
- Week 3 – **Thursday 16 February** - 'Get to Know You' interviews with your child's teacher (3:30pm – 6:45pm)
- Week 3 – **Thursday 16 February** - P&C Annual General Meeting, all welcome (7:00pm in school library)
- Week 3 – **Friday 17 February** - Kindergarten Health Check envelopes due to be returned
- Week 6 - **Friday 10 March** - Kindergarten Water Fun day (more information about this day will be sent home closer to the date)
- Week 10 - **Thursday 6 April** - Cross Country

Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parent volunteers to help with reading in the kindergarten unit. Please keep an eye on the whiteboard for our parent volunteer timetable and add your name on the days/times that you can help out in our unit. Please make sure you have a current Working with Vulnerable People card (WWVP). If not, the appropriate paperwork can be filled in at the front office.

Eating Times

- **Fruit Break** - To provide children with a 'brain boost', we have fruit break each morning around 10:00am. Fruit and vegetables are a perfect snack for this time of our day. Please provide fruit or vegetables that are ready for your child to eat.
- **Break 1** - At 11:15am-11:30am we supervise children while they eat their lunch. Orders for the TuckaBox (the canteen is open Thursdays and Fridays) can be placed in the basket before morning assembly. The canteen offers an online ordering system. Please see the information on the TuckaBox menu or see the friendly canteen staff for more information.
- **Break 2** - At 1:30pm-1:50pm we supervise children whilst they eat their snack. Ideal items for this time of day include, cheese, yoghurt, fruit sticks, muesli bars and crackers.