

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Hirschfeld Cres
MACGREGOR ACT 2615

www.macgregorps.act.edu.au
info@macgregorps.act.edu.au

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PO Box 372
KIPPAX ACT 2615

Phone: 6142 1600
Fax: 6142 1624

Term 1 Week 10 11 April 2019



Dates to Remember

Last Day of Term 1—Friday 12 April 2019

Swimming Ribbon Assembly—Friday 12 April 2019 2.00 pm

Preschool 2019 Enrolments commence—Monday 29 April 2019

First Day of Term 2—Monday 29 April 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to our final newsletter for term 1, 2019! What an action packed term it has been....swimming and cross country carnivals plus our Spanish speaking Carnival and readathon, Harmony Day celebrations, National Day of Action activities, Kindergarten PIPS Assessments, information sessions for parents, Community Workshops, Kenny Koala visits, bus washes, recycling centre excursions, W@M Wednesday sessions, kitchen garden planting, harvesting and cooking as well as simply amazing learning happening in the classrooms.

2020 Enrolment Information (including preschool enrolment)

Enrolment applications for 2020 preschool, year 7 and year 11 opens on Monday 29 April 2019 from 6am and must be submitted online using the Education Directorate's [online application form](#). The closing date for 2020 enrolments is Friday 7 June at 5pm. Information about the enrolment assessment criteria and priority enrolment areas can be found at https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Online

NAPLAN Online is an assessment that adjusts questions to each student's achievement level. It also delivers more precise results to schools and parents more quickly and will occur in our school between 14 and 24 May 2019. This assessment provides information to schools and parents about literacy and numeracy achievement. It supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time, complementing school developed data collection and analysis processes and identifying areas of strength and development. Families are invited to visit the website www.nap.edu.au to see interactive versions of the assessment and for more information.

Community Volunteers

Macgregor Primary School values the many contributions of our parents, families and local neighbours. Thank you to Norma John, our Teacher Librarian for leading a growing team of volunteers who have contributed to the creation of our refurbished school library space. Thank you also to our Spanish Language and Culture Teacher, Paula Charles, for bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience through a range of volunteers as part of the Spanish Readathon last week. Spanish speakers from a range of generations enthralled the children with their fluent language skills. If you are interested in sharing skills or passions with our teachers and students, please do let us know.

Thank you to the families that joined us for our Cross Country Carnival yesterday – the autumn blue sky and warm sun made for excellent running weather.

Have a lovely break.

Yours in Education

Jennifer



From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am often asked *"Why isn't my child bringing home a hard or challenging home reading book each night?"*

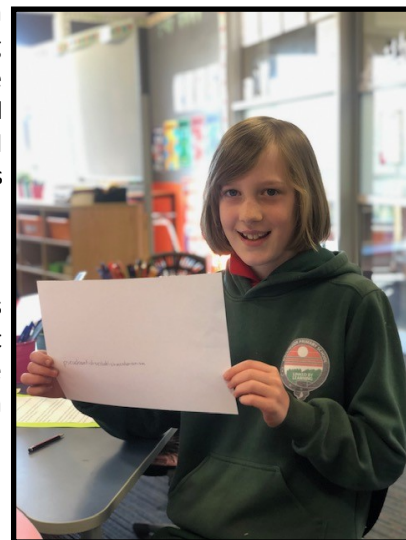
The simplest answer to this question is that the best learning takes place when we are experiencing a high degree of success and just have a few things to improve. Learning to read is similar to learning to drive a car. With practise some things that were once difficult... become easy... and then automatic. This is when children are then able to attend to other aspects of the reading process. Children also need a lot of practise at putting all the elements of reading together – at feeling successful and developing fluency. Home reading is a time to practise and experience the joy of books. We also feel positive about learning and reading when we are being acknowledged for the things that we do correctly - we feel successful. The reading process is about finding meaning. If the text is too challenging, the child may lose track of the meaning. If you have concerns about your child's reading, please do make contact with your child's teacher. Our literacy specialist teacher, Jo Pearce, has included some interesting information about reading with children later in this newsletter.

Yesterday during the Cross Country Carnival, I had a deep conversation with Isabella from Year 5 who chatted to me about her passion for writing and spelling. This morning I sat with Isabella again and she shared some of her writing with me. We discussed the spelling of a very long word 'pseudoantidisestablishmentarianism' that I remembered being curious about as a child. After just a cursory analysis of the word, Isabella could spell this word 100% correctly! Watch this space for a printing of one of Isabella's pieces of writing. If you get a chance, please do wander through our school corridors and admire the many displayed writing samples from classroom learning during term 1.

Please do check your child's schoolbag today for a copy of their mid semester progress report. The purpose of this report is to communicate with parents and carers about their child's achievements. This report plays a key role in developing productive partnerships with our families as we value and acknowledge parents and carers as a child's first teacher.

Wishing all our families a safe and restful school holiday break,

Catherine
Deputy Principal



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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Primary School and
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Available on the
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What Can You Do With It?

Newsletters	Sick Notes
Events Dates	Change of Details
Notes Due	Pop-Up Alerts
Venue Maps	Contact Us

active
SCHOOL APPS

Great for Schools ... Even Better For Parents



Volume 3: W@M Signage

You may have noticed the W@M signage across our school and chatted with your children about them...



These signs are strategically placed to remind our students of our shared expectations and agreements in different areas of our school. The aim is to build effective environments where positive behaviour is more effective than problem behaviour, create learning environments that encourage pro-social behaviour and clearly outline what is expected of everyone. These expectations are designed for both adults and students.

Why explicitly teach the expectations?

- everyone then knows the expectations and understands their responsibilities within the different areas of the school
- routines are established to allow students to demonstrate appropriate skills and minimise behaviours that are disruptive to our learning environment
- to establish a common language about the expected behaviours

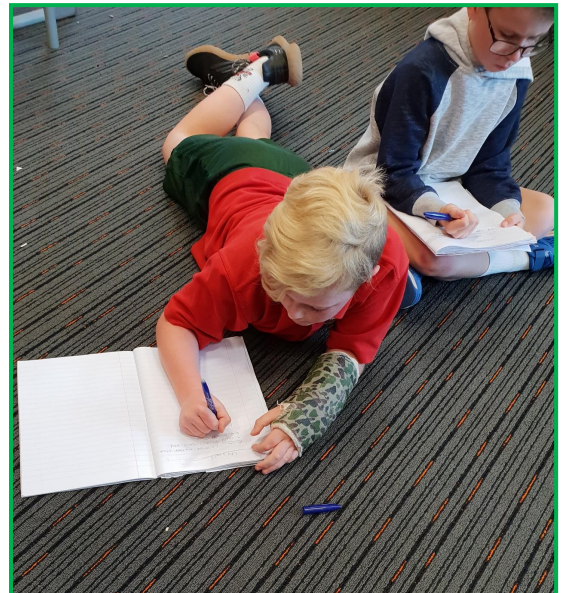
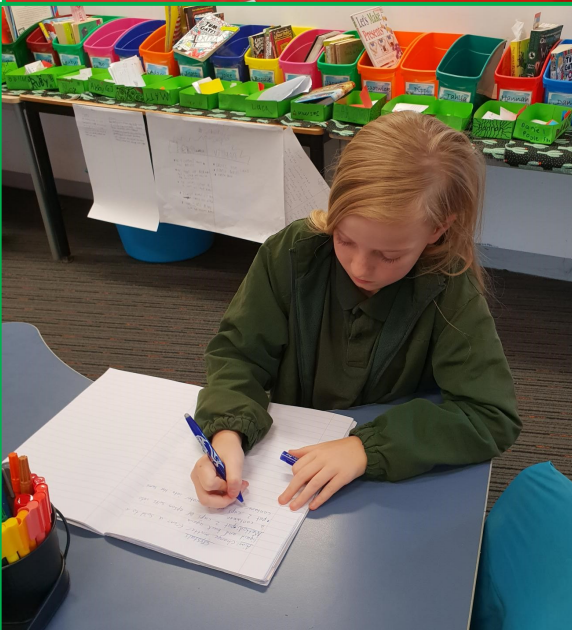
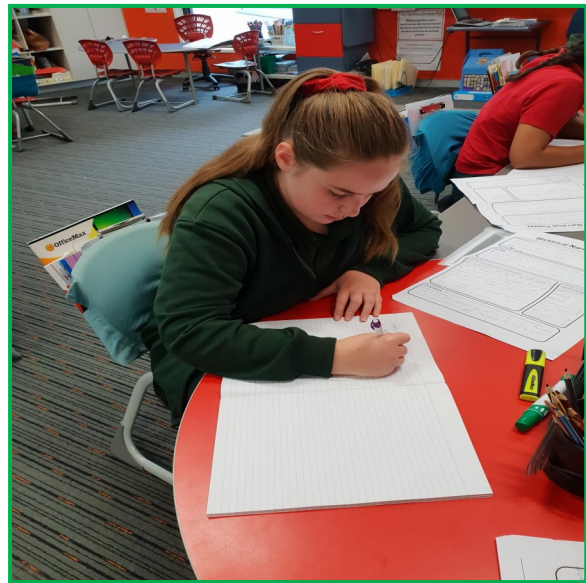
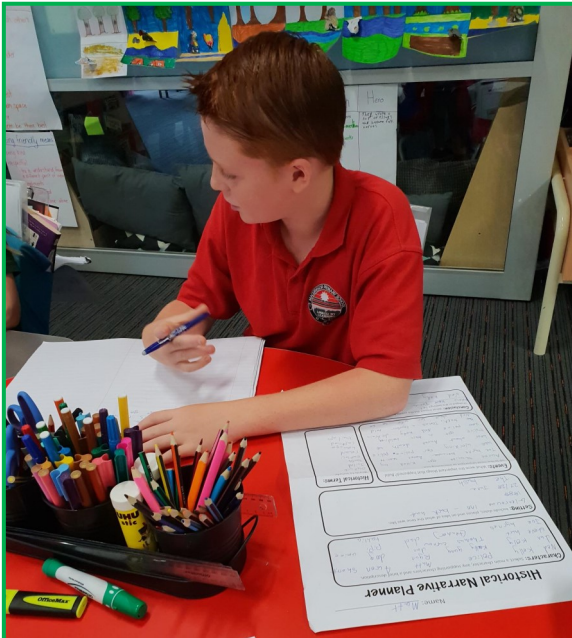
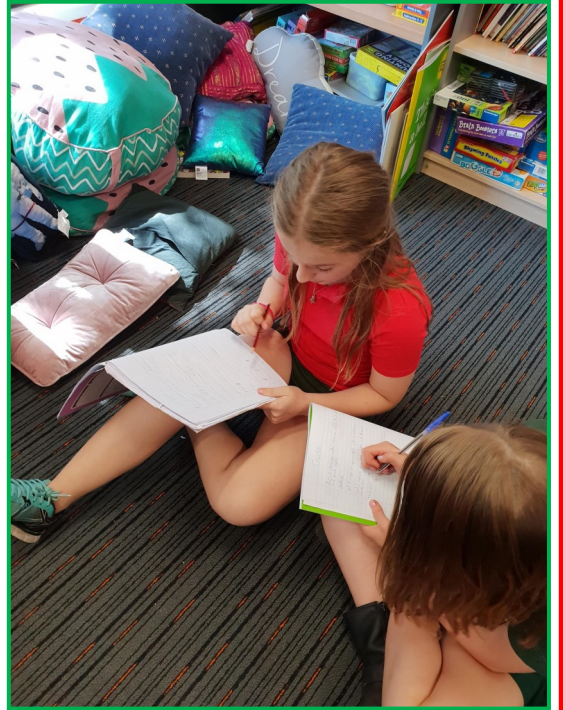
At the beginning of each term, teachers lead their class by walking respectfully around the school stopping at the large W@M signs in different areas. Discussions with the students occur regarding the behavioural expectations for that area. This may also involve role play scenarios or discussions about how students are expected to respond in particular areas of the school and how that is different from other areas.

Coming up in Volume 4: Positive Recognition Systems

5BN Spotlight on Learning

Week 10 already!

Firstly, congratulations to all year 5 students for taking up the learning challenge so well. We certainly hit the ground running and have achieved some amazing results. Year 5 have developed their understanding of persuasive texts, so watch out parents, you may find yourself under some pressure as we are great users of high modality words, such as 'definitely', 'absolutely', and 'most important'. We have also studied and written some fabulous historical narratives based on the Kelly gang at the Glenrowan Inn. Our inquiry unit 'Eureka!' has been a hit with the students and our exhibition of learning will demonstrate just how enthusiastically we have been working during Term 1. The next three terms of school will be equally as exciting and we are looking forward to camp at Lake Burrendong, and many other adventures in learning. Below are some of our students developing their ideas for their historical narratives.



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 [online application form](#) 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

These dates are yet to be confirmed.

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
- ★ Kindergarten National Arboretum Note
- ★ Year 5 camp Note

Term 2 Calendar 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	29 April ✓Preschool 2020 Enrolments commence	30 April ✓Dental Hygienist visits Yr 2	1 May	2 May	3 May
Wk 2	6 May ✓ACT Swimming Carnival	7 May ✓Mother's Day Stalls	8 May ✓Mother's Day Stalls ✓Menslink-Boys Wellbeing Yrs 5 & 6 boys	9 May ✓Mother's Day Stalls ✓Kindergarten Excursion – National Arboretum	10 May
Wk 3	13 May	14 May ✓NAPLAN ✓School Board Meeting 5pm	15 May ✓NAPLAN	16 May ✓NAPLAN ✓P&C Meeting	17 May ✓NAPLAN ✓First Aid ✓Assembly @ 2:10pm hosted by Yr 4
Wk 4	20 May ✓NAPLAN ✓First Aid	21 May ✓NAPLAN ✓First Aid	22 May ✓NAPLAN ✓First Aid	23 May ✓NAPLAN ✓First Aid ✓Disco jnr P-2 4:30-5:45 snr 6-7:30pm	24 May ✓NAPLAN ✓Track & Field Carnival
Wk 5	27 May Reconciliation Day Public Holiday	28 May ✓National Reconciliation Week ✓National Reconciliation Week Assembly	29 May ✓National Reconciliation Week	30 May ✓National Reconciliation Week ✓Belconnen Cross Country ✓Futsal Day (Sister School Program)	31 May ✓National Reconciliation Week ✓Coffee and Chat with Jennifer from 9:15-10am.
Wk 6	3 June ✓Mabo Day	4 June	5 June ✓Lift-Off Steady Yr 4	6 June	7 June ✓Assembly @ 2:10pm hosted by Yr 6
Wk 7	10 June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	11 June ✓Kindergarten Health Checks	12 June ✓Kindergarten Health Checks ✓ACT Cross Country	13 June ✓Kindergarten Health Checks	14 June
Wk 8	17 June	18 June ✓School Board Meeting 5pm	19 June ✓Yr 5 @ Camp Burrendong	20 June ✓Yr 5 @ Camp Burrendong ✓P&C Meeting	21 June ✓Yr 5 @ Camp Burrendong
Wk 9	24 June	25 June ✓Reports & Portfolios go home	26 June	27 June	28 June ✓Coffee and Chat with Jennifer from 9:15-10am. ✓Assembly @ 2:10pm hosted by Yr 1
Wk 10	1 July	2 July ✓El día de los libros (Day of the Books)	3 July ✓Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30-7pm	4 July	5 July

Reading a book at home

If you're able to listen to your child read at home, there are a few points to consider:

- Set aside a usual time for reading because routine helps to develop a readiness to read.
- Let your child choose the place for reading. Successful reading can happen on the floor, out the back, and in the cubby house!
- Encourage your child to hold the book so he or she becomes familiar with handling it (turning the pages and so on). In the case of an e-book that is displayed on a tablet device or computer, give your child time to become familiar with how to navigate through the e-book and interact with it.

WHAT IF MY CHILD REFUSES TO READ?

What should you do if your child doesn't want to read the take-home book?

You may hear comments such as:

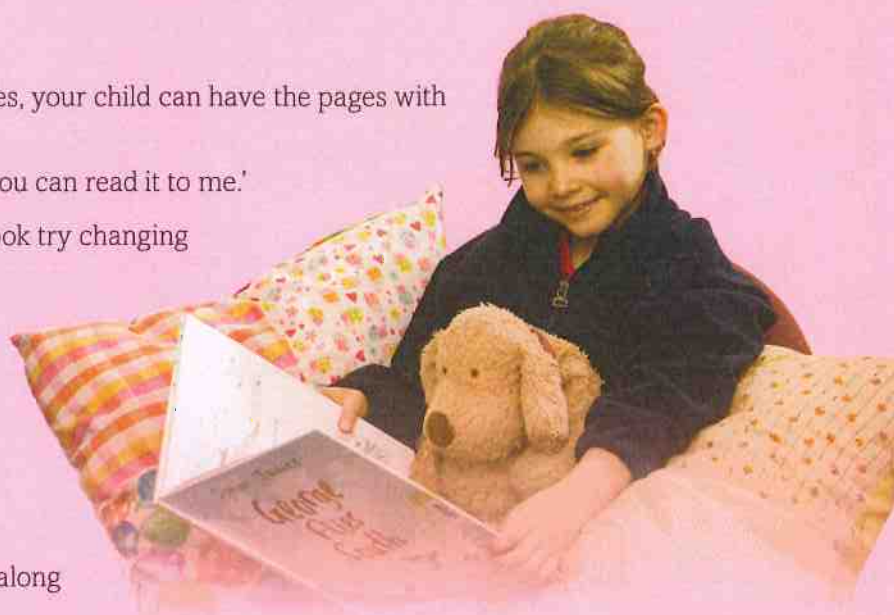
- *Do I have to?*
- *I'm too tired.*
- *The teacher didn't say I had to.* (Check with the teacher so you know what is expected.)
- *I forgot to bring it home.* (Check your child's school bag.)
- *But I'm playing with...*
- *Can't I just finish...?*
- *That book's boring/dumb/stupid...*

It's at this point that you may like to use one of the following strategies – because *some* reading practice is better than *no* reading practice.

- Use a timer (kitchen, sport) so your child understands that the reading practice will be for a short period.
- Read the book aloud to your child.
- Read the book aloud to your child but have your child read words that you know he or she can already read.
- Have your child point to the words while you read the words aloud.
- Read the book aloud together.
- Read half the book each.
- Put a sticky note a few pages ahead and tell your child they just need to read to the sticky note.



- Read left page/right page (and yes, your child can have the pages with fewer words).
- Say, 'I'll read it to you and then you can read it to me.'
- When reading a story (fiction) book try changing the names of characters to your family's names!
- If the book is available as an audio book, have your child read along with the narrator.
- Download audio books onto a computer, smart phone or tablet device and have your child read along with the narrator.
- Suggest that your child reads the book into a voice recorder or into a microphone (even if the microphone doesn't work).
- Ask your child to read to a stuffed toy, for example, a favourite teddy bear. (The author has seen this work very successfully with a number of children.) Your child could also read to a willing sibling or placid pet.
- Encourage your child to read to a relative or friend via a video call.
- Have your child use a puppet to do the reading.
- Have your child read the book using a different voice.
- Give your child a special pointer, for example a magic wand or laser pointer.
- Give your child a reading cape or reading hat to wear.
- Have your child read while wearing swimming goggles or novelty glasses, or using a magnifying glass.
- Let your child read using a handheld torch, booklight or head torch.
- Let your child play his or her favourite music while reading.
- Have your child stand and read, read while walking around, or sit in an unusual place, for example, under a table, on the bench or under a blanket.
- Link reading the book with after-school or after-meal snacks.
- Take the book with you to appointments so it can be read while waiting (e.g. at the doctor's).
- If your child wants to start staying up later (as she or he gets older) tell him or her that when the book has been read they can read other books in bed. If they don't want to read then they can turn out the light.



After reading the book, it is essential that both of you talk about the author's message. This is for you to confirm that your child understands that reading is for enjoyment and learning and isn't just about correctly naming the words (although this is certainly important).



P&C NEWS

Macgregor Primary School | Partners in Education

Week 10 Term 1 2019



Fundraising



Thank you to everyone that has supported our **Easter raffle**, it has been a great start to our fundraising year and we look forward to reading all of the new books in the library! Good luck to everyone who has purchased a ticket!



We will be kicking next term off with our much loved **Mother's Day stall** on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May. We are still looking for volunteers to assist – if you are free any time between 9 and 1 on any or all of these days please contact Tracey (trace1878@hotmail.com).



Get your dancing shoes ready for our **Term 2 disco** – more details to come!

BUILDING STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING

What is the Building Strong and Safe Communities for Learning project about? The Education Directorate is working in partnership with the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations to respond to the key question How might we reduce and respond to violence in schools and co-create strong and safe communities for learning? The partnership is exploring ways of achieving thriving and inclusive education communities where all students, staff and families feel welcome, safe and valued.

The first workshop, held on 28 February opened this conversation with 39 participants representing EDU, government services, parents and community. This valuable workshop established a shared understanding of the challenges associated with building and maintaining safe and inclusive environments. It highlighted our joint commitment to the pathway forward and ownership of the solutions to address and better responding to incidents of violence and bullying that occur in schools.

Your participation will add valuable insight in this process and you are invited to the 9 May workshop. This workshop will build on ideas captured in our earlier conversations.

Details: Building Strong and Safe Communities for Learning Workshop Facilitator: ThinkPlace Date: 9 May 2019 Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm Location: ThinkPlace, Level 5, 50 Blackall Street Barton, 2600 Catering: Fully catered Parking: Details attached. Reimbursement available on receipt.

Please RSVP with any dietary requirements to Ms Leanne Ballard, Assistant Director Strategic Policy on Leanne.ballard@act.gov.au or 62052912 by 3 May. If you require any further information relating to the workshops, please don't hesitate to contact Leanne.



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@macgregorprimarypandc.org. Orders through [Flexischools](#) are checked through the week and delivered to classrooms on Mondays.

School Banking next week is on WEDNESDAY'S, 3rd 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.

MPS OSHC

Please remember to sign your children in and out as you drop them off and collect them each day.

OSHC now have a private facebook group for parents to follow what students are doing of a morning and afternoon. Search MPS OSHC or contact Eileen or Stacey if you have any problems finding the page.

Vacation Care at Macgregor

OSHC are interested in hearing from parent's/carers who would be interested in utilising vacation care at the school. Please contact them with your thoughts at mpsoshc@outlook.com

NEXT P&C MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 May 2019, 6:00pm in the School Library.

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.



Proudly brought to you by Macgregor Primary School P&C

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SCHOOL FETE

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

