

**Principal: Jennifer Hall**

## Term 2 Overview 2018 Kindergarten

23 May, 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome back to term 2 Kindergarten at Macgregor Primary School. We trust you had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting term ahead.

We continue to look forward to working in partnership with you to provide your children with enjoyable, motivating and purposeful learning experiences. The following information outlines our learning program for term two special dates and housekeeping reminders.

### Investigations

During the morning session children will spend time engaged in investigations. These 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 engagement and motivation
- Increased oral language skills
- Increased writing skills
- 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, understanding concepts of print and comprehending what has been read. We have now extended our reading program to nightly home reading. Your child will now have the opportunity to daily swap their home reading books. Nightly reading will help reinforce reading strategies learned at school. Your child should be bringing home each day a small book that is aimed at helping them learn to read (formally called a reader) and a picture book for you to read to your child. It is acceptable for your child to keep these books to enjoy for more than one night if they choose. During literacy lessons we are exploring the purpose of imaginative texts through a variety of quality literature in our "Fantasy Unit".

Writing- This term we are continuing to encourage students to 'have a go' with their writing using the sounds and high frequency words that they know. We will continue to use songs, actions, fine motor activities and games to teach the letters and sounds of the alphabet and further develop literacy skills

### Mathematics

This term, daily maths sessions will focus on number awareness where we will explore the names, quantities, symbols and order of numbers to 10 and beyond. We will also be learning to identify, sort and describe 3D objects by their features and explore how to create repeating patterns. We are investigating different combinations of numbers that make 10 and we love to play the game "bunny ears" which teaches us 'friends of ten' or combinations to 10.

### Integrated inquiry learning- dance, geography and science

The big idea of our integrated inquiry learning is that we all have our place in the world and we learn about each other. During geography we are building knowledge of the different places people live, their familiar features and why they are important. Our science unit is called 'What's it made of'. During this unit we will investigate different materials and categorise these into natural and man-made. In dance this term we are becoming aware of our bodies and learning about the different elements of dance.

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## Specialist classes

Every **Wednesday** morning the children will be attending specialist classes. These include Physical Education (PE), Spanish, Kitchen Garden and Art. Please see the specialist term letter for further details.

## Library

This term the kindergarten students will continue explicit library lessons each week. During 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. We continue to practise our ability to choose a 'good fit' book, a book that is just right for them. We ask that each child has a dedicated library bag to protect these valuable resources. This bag is different to the Home Reading bag that transports their nightly home reading materials

## General Reminders

- 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 the morning assembly please ensure they are accompanied by a carer to the front office to sign in prior to coming to class.
- If your child is absent from school please call the Front Office, email [info@macgregorps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@macgregorps.act.edu.au) or use the Macgregor School App and your class teacher will be informed.
- Morning assembly: Kindergarten children are to meet under the senior COLA area at 8:55am for school messages.
- Children are to be collected at 3:00pm from their kindergarten classrooms. For the safety of all children we ensure that they are handed over to their parent/carer. Children are to remain seated on the carpet in their room until the teacher has seen you and called your child's name. Please do not take your child without the teacher knowing they are leaving.
- Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:10pm will be taken to the front office so parents/carers can be contacted.
- Please remember to label all clothing and belongings. Any named lost property will be returned to the child. Unnamed items will be held at the front office for two weeks.
- All children require a broad brimmed hat until the end of May. It is advisable that children also apply sunscreen before coming to school each morning.
- At Macgregor we promote healthy eating. Please provide a piece of fruit or vegetables to be eaten at morning fruit break.
- We ask that your child's drink bottle only contains water.
- The TuckaBox (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Wednesdays Flexischools orders only, no cash).
- Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. To create 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. If your child has a cuddly toy that they are particularly attached to and they cannot make it through the day without it, please talk to your class teacher about this and arrangements can be made to support your child.
- We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns that you may have involving your child. We are available some afternoons after class to chat, otherwise please make an appointment with us by either sending a note or emailing the front office.
- The whiteboard outside the kindergarten unit, near the junior playground, will regularly have messages from the kindergarten teachers and copies of notes that have been sent home.



## Dates for the diary

- Week 3 – **Friday 18 May** - Kindergarten and Year 1 sports day.
- Week 4 – **Wednesday 23 May** – Canteen special lunch
- Week 5 – **Monday 28 May** – Reconciliation Day Public Holiday
- Week 7 – **Monday 11 June** – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- Week 7 – **Tuesday 12 June** - El dia de los libros – Spanish day of books in the library
- Week 7 – **Wednesday to Friday (13-15 June)** – Kindergarten health checks
- Week 9 – **Tuesday 26 June** – reports and portfolios go home
- Week 10 – **Wednesday 4 July** – Parent/Teacher interviews 3.30 – 7pm

## Parent Volunteers

We appreciate that parents are busy people and thank those who have been able to spend some time in our classrooms. If you would like to volunteer in our kindergarten unit we would appreciate your help. Please keep an eye on the whiteboard outside the unit for our Parent Volunteer timetable and add your name on the days/times that you would like help out. The ACT Education Directorate requires volunteers to have a current Working with Vulnerable People card (WWVP). If you do not have one and would like to apply, the appropriate paperwork can be filled in at the front office.

Kind regards

The Kindergarten Team

Meagan Gordon, Lyndsey Orchard, Nicole Terry and Gaye Yates