Dear Macgregor Community,

Welcome back after what I hope was a very relaxing school holiday period. Thank you to all the parents who attended parent teacher interviews. These opportunities support parents to interpret their child’s report and enable them to help with the next steps of their learning journey. The police have informed the school that they’ll be patrolling our school zones over the next few weeks with a focus on illegal parking. Please park appropriately and ensure the safety of your children by having them exit the car towards the curb (not the road). I remind families that students will need to have their broad brim, legionnaire or bucket hats back on tomorrow (1 August) in accordance with our SunSmart policy.

Validation

This term our school is coming to the end of our four year school improvement cycle and our progress against our 2011-2014 strategic plan is being validated by a panel of external educators. The panel is in the school this week and early next week reviewing evidence outlined in our school summative report and using this to help us set our strategic direction for the next four years. I would like to formally thank all members of the school community who contributed to the validation process. This includes teachers, students and parents who have offered the school feedback, filled out surveys, collected evidence, analysed data and/or contributed their time to help make Macgregor such a fantastic school. The school has made immense progress over the life of the plan and I’m extremely excited to be a part of the next phase of the journey.

Macgregor’s Business School Partners

Macgregor Primary School is looking to connect with the community and we’re seeking ‘Business School Partners’ to support our school. We are seeking no more than twelve small businesses and up to three larger businesses to sponsor our school for as little as one term or for an entire year. Every cent raised will go directly to the school. The funds will help us purchase additional IT equipment; enhance the school environment and support the canteen to provide Macgregor’s students with healthy food options at a reasonable cost. We are offering small business owners the chance to buy one of twelve $125 Gold memberships and become one of Macgregor’s ‘Business School Partners’ for a term. That cost is reduced to $100 per term if businesses sign up for annual membership (4 x $100 instalments). We are also looking to secure three Platinum members who will purchase a $625 term membership or pay $500 per term (4 x $500 instalments) for an annual membership. A business can purchase all three of the Platinum membership positions and be our sole Platinum Partner for $1250 a term or $1000 a term if they commit to one year’s membership. Macgregor will not accept membership from competing businesses (i.e. one electrician, gym, dentist, real estate agent, coffee shop, supermarket etc.) and those who contact the school first will secure the their position for the life of their membership. Each ‘Business School Partner’ member will have an A4 (Gold members) or A3 (Platinum members) framed plaque displayed in the school foyer which highlights their business, the services they offer and their contact details. The businesses will also be advertised on a one page attachment in every school newsletter, on our Macgregor App and promoted at school and P&C events. By becoming a member, businesses are actually purchasing our school community’s good will. Our job as a school community is to support and invest in the businesses that are supporting and investing in our school. If our members’ prices are competitive, we can do this easily by using their services or buying their products instead of their competitors. Most importantly, we need to say thank you for supporting our school when we use their products or see them in the community.

Macgregor’s first term’s membership will run from the beginning of term 3 week 3 to term 4 week 3. Our annual membership will run from the beginning of term 3 week 3 to the same time the following year. If you (or a business you know) would like to sign up or learn more about ‘Business School Partners’ please email me at christopher.shaddock@ed.act.edu.au

Engaging all Students Grant

Macgregor primary has won a grant to engage our students on the playground. This week students leading the project (Jayden W and Mia N) have surveyed all students from year 2 to 6 to find out the types of scooters and push bikes they would like to use during play breaks. I’m meeting with Mr Camilleri and the student leaders tomorrow to analyse the results and we’ll purchase some scooters and bikes ready to be used on the playground by at the beginning of week 3. If you would like your child to be involved in this program, please return the note accompanying the newsletter.

Logic Problem Answer

Congratulations to the members of the school community who were able to give me the answer to my last logic problem which was: “Mary’s father had five daughters 1) Nana 2) Nene 3) Nini 4) Nono. What was the name of the fifth daughter?”. I was hoping to trick people into giving me the answer ‘Nunu’ because ‘U’ is the only vowel that wasn’t used in the names; however, the correct answer is actually ‘Mary’. Mary is the fifth daughter and the other four are her sisters.

I look forward to seeing you around the school.

Bye for now,

Chris Shaddock
Deputy Principal
News from Year One

Here we are in week two and the year ones are already working hard and are very engaged in their learning. They are now well used to working in various groupings (across the unit) according to their needs or timetable and should be very proud of how flexible and cooperative they are with their learning and each other.

In literacy, we have begun learning how to write instructions and the students are learning the important features that need to be included, such as: headings, list of what is needed and steps in sequential order. As with previous terms, we will continue to work on spelling and reading skills.

In maths, we continue to use lots of materials in a hands-on approach to learn more about or to revisit fractions, addition and subtraction, length, capacity, 3D shapes and money.

Science and geography will be integrated this term. We will be looking at the features of natural, managed and man-made environments and the changes that can occur within them. We will be creating dioramas towards the end of the term and would appreciate any shoeboxes you may have (a good excuse for new shoes!).

Last week we celebrated NAIDOC week. The students had fun learning a song - Ridge-i-didge to sing at the NAIDOC assembly. They made Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and learnt what the colours represented on each. After assembly the students listened to the story Why I Love Australia by Bronwyn Bancroft and enjoyed looking at her amazing artwork. We then tried to replicate one of her beautiful paintings of a coral reef. All the students enthusiastically drew, coloured and painted their versions and were very proud of their efforts. We hope you enjoy looking at them too.

The year one team look forward to a rewarding term working with the students. See you in the classroom!

Regards
Norah Cullerne

Voluntary Contribution Reminder

Voluntary Contributions are going towards purchasing IT equipment for all students to use. As of this newsletter issue we have 22% of families who have paid for this year. Thank you to those families who have paid. Without these funds we are limited to what we are able to purchase for the children.

Family statements will be sent home today. Payment of these will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any further questions in regards to this please contact Sue Aveyard on 62057511.

Claim the Date
Saturday 20 September
1pm-4pm
40th Anniversary: Macgregor Primary Reunion!!

All ex-students, ex-teachers and parents of Macgregor are invited to a reunion BBQ and school tour.

If you know anyone who fits this bill, please help us out by passing on this information. They should LIKE our Facebook Page for future updates.

Chess Club News – Term 3

I am so proud to report that 18 of our students represented our school at the ACT Junior Chess League Open Primary (Belconnen Zone) Chess Championships held at our school on Monday 23/06/2014. Our team members were: Hugo C, Stephen C, Ved G, Kian H, Brennan K, Theo L, Hoacheng L, Joshua P, Jessica P, Jonty R, Jaxon R, George R, Liam S, Connor S, Williams T and Jordan V. Also, thank you to our two Reserves: Vincent B and Max S, as they both played in mixed teams which allowed children from visiting schools to play. All of the participating students received a special medal at the Awards Assembly on Friday 04/07/14 for their Courage, Respect, Resilience, Stamina, Empathy, and for taking Pride in themselves and their school. A special congratulations to Joshua P who won a very well deserved trophy for winning all 7 of his games.

I would like to thank parents/grandparents and visiting teachers for their support on the day and to our wonderful Janitor Allan Mewburn his partner Cristina, Les Kovacs and my family for giving up their Saturday morning to help set up the new 5/6 building for the day.

I would like to remind all students that Chess Club will continue this term and all Macgregor Primary students are welcome. Every Monday lunch time is ‘Play Day’ and every second Wednesday lunchtime is Lesson Day.

Also, Cameron Day from the ‘Sydney Academy of Chess’ holds Chess Lessons here in the Library every Monday between 3:10 – 4:10pm. If you are interested in your child attending these lessons, please contact Jason Michael at the Academy on 02 9745 1170.

Thank you,

Leah Shelley

Time to Talk - your thoughts about partnerships between families and schools

Parent engagement in learning and education is all about how families and schools talk to each other, how to bring together learning at home and learning at school, and how families and schools can work together to help our children be the best they can be.

There is very strong evidence that children do better and learn more when families and schools work together as partners.

The ACT Government has partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) to research parent engagement in the ACT and develop a strategy to strengthen parent engagement into the future. An important aspect of this research is talking with families about what parent engagement means to them.

ARACY would like to hear from parents about what they think makes for a good partnership with their child’s school and the things they do to help their children learn.

ARACY has developed a short online survey to gather parental views, beliefs and understandings about parental engagement in schools. The survey will be available on the ACT Government Time to Talk website from 21 July 2014 to 26 September 2014. www.timetotalk.act.gov.au
Welcome back to term 3. I trust the children were able to relax and recharge the batteries over the school holiday period and that they are ready for another busy term. The last few months have been absolutely awesome as far as sporting events go. Firstly, we were treated to a fantastic World Cup from Brazil, which in my household included many early morning sessions on the couch with my girls watching some very competitive games of soccer. And I hope you are all currently enjoying the Commonwealth Games from Glasgow. It has been great to watch the Aussies strive for gold across all fields but how good has the swimming been - especially the two clean sweeps on Monday, including Mitch Larkin being the first Aussie to win gold in 200m backstroke in 40 years! I hope you children have been as inspired and motivated by these two major sporting events as my kids have been.

Fitness Testing
Last week years 3-6 and NRG completed their term 3 fitness test in the form of the famous and much loved Beep Test. At the beginning of each beep test I give each student their current personal best (PB) for the year and have them set a goal before they begin the test. Last week we had approximately 90% of students who completed the test achieve a PB! One of those PBs included Imogen M (year 5) smashing the old school record with a score of 13.8! The beep test is implemented in PE for three main reasons. Firstly, as a personal challenge that not only measures cardio fitness, but also effort and determination - I use the statement "It is a competition between you and yourself" with the students. Secondly, it is an opportunity for all students to set personal fitness goals and think about and discuss strategies to work towards achieving those goals. And finally, we put on our maths hats in term 4 and I have students graph their results from the year to visually represent their beep test "journey". The exciting news for you all is, the beep test is easily obtained as an app for your phone, iPod etc and makes a very fun family activity. My daughter is pushing for a weekly test in our house!

Belconnen Region Track and Field Carnival
A reminder that permission notes for the Belconnen Region Track and Field carnival should have already been returned to school for selected students. The carnival is due to be held on Thursday 14 August at the AIS. By taking a permission note home last term the students made a commitment to filling their spot on the school team and as such, are expected to attend the carnival. Failure to attend means other students miss out on representing our school.

Interschool Sports Arvo
On the last day of term 2 Miss Johnson, Ben Naughton (parent), ASBA Ronnie, ASBA Nick, WEX Carie and I accompanied 32 of our year 3-6 students to Latham for a friendly afternoon of soccer matches with other schools from our cluster. All students were once again great ambassadors for our school, displaying awesome sportsmanship and manners throughout the excursion. Without doubt though, one of the biggest highlights of the afternoon was the fun ride to and from Latham on our bikes with some mighty fine music blasting out of Mr Ridley’s backpack to keep us all entertained. Thank you to all those who assisted us on the afternoon and to those parents/carers who were able to come along and cheer our teams on.

High Vis Vest Program
Throughout term 2 our school was participating in Constable Kenny’s high-visibility vest pilot program. ACT Policing and Constable Kenny would like to seek your feedback about the program and what impact you feel it has had on your child’s road safety. A quick online survey has been developed that will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The information provided is anonymous and will go towards helping ACT Policing evaluate how successful the pilot was, and the most effective program implementation in other schools. You can access the online survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/25JKNMQ

While the pilot program has ended we are still encouraging all children to wear their vests to and from school to help increase their visibility and keep students safe on our roads.

Have an awesome weekend my friends... AUSSIE! AUSSIE! AUSSIE!
Glen Ridley
PE Teacher

Congrats to Charlotte Jackson who travelled to Melbourne with the ACT Calisthenics Rep team from the 8th to the 13th of July. She performed in the national Calisthenics competition held at Hamer Hall and the ACT came 4th in her age group! Congratulations Charlotte on this fantastic achievement!!

If someone you know has 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 with all the details.
Eating with our eyes first?

For anyone who has been watching Masterchef this season, we have heard many times that we eat with our eyes first. Children are particularly affected by the way foods look. Making foods look fun and colourful can help children to try new foods for the first time. Changing the shape of a fruit or vegetable may just encourage a child to take some bites.

Some simple tricks for making foods look inviting to young children are;

- Making apples and pears into slinkies (the canteen does a wonderful job of this during fruit break, making fruit a little bit fun, and easy to eat).
- Using cookie cutters to create fruit shapes – this works really well by cutting shapes out of slices of watermelon.
- Little balls fruit salad – using a melon baller to make balls from melons and adding other ‘round’ fruits like grapes.
- Use cookie cutters to increase variety in sandwiches, or change the shapes you cut, from square, triangles, soldiers and three long fingers.
- Decorate fruit or vegetable muffins with faces. Start with a muffin like the recipe below then add decorations such as sliced olives for eyes, strips of capsicum for mouths.

**Makes 12**  
**Prep time:** 15 minutes  
**Cooking time:** 30 minutes

**Ingredients**  
2 cups self raising flour  
3 cups vegetables (grated carrot, grated zucchini, grated onions, corn kernels, chopped spinach, chopped shallots, fresh herbs are some suggestions)  
1 1/3 cups grated low fat tasty cheese  
½ cup low fat milk  
3 eggs  
60g canola margarine, melted

**Method**  
Preheat oven 180°C (160°C fan forced) and grease a 12-hole (1/3 cup) muffin pan with cooking spray. Place flour into a large mixing bowl and stir in grated vegetables and cheese. Mix well. Whisk milk and eggs together and add cooled melted butter. Pour into the flour mixture and stir gently until just incorporated. Divide evenly amongst muffin pan and bake 25-30 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. A skewer inserted into the middle should come out clean. Cool in the tin before turning onto a wire rack to cool completely. Wrap in single serves and freeze in a sealed container for up to three months.

Recipe modified from Julie Goodwin’s ‘Julie’s Place’.  

Jeanette Ryan  
B Ed, Grad Dip Hum Nutr, Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, final year candidate.
The School Fete is coming! Volunteer Now!

22 November 2014

Below is the link to the volunteer signup page for our Fete in November.
www.volunteersignup.org/C3KFQ

Thank you to those who have volunteered so far! If there is anything you would like to volunteer for please go to the volunteer signup website by following the link above and fill in your details.

If you know anyone who would like to volunteer please give them our link to the signup page or alternatively email Belinda Clear beecleear@hotmail.com

FUNDRAISING

Family Portraits will be taking place at the school on Sunday 3 August in the Spanish room. Please call Holley on: 0409 919 997 if you have any questions at all or you need to confirm your booking. Thank you to all of the families taking part, we have currently raised $495 from this event!

Our Loom band Fundraiser was very successful with a total of $566 banked! YAY!!

Our Father’s Day stall will be held at school on Tuesday 2 & Wednesday 3 September, notes will be sent home in the coming weeks.

I hope you have started collecting your 5 cent pieces, we will be sending notes home soon about the 5 cent fundraiser and collection day will be on Friday 12 September. Please note: No money can be accepted before the collection day!

We have the next school disco coming up on Thursday 18 September, please keep this date on your calendar!

Thank you all for your ongoing support. The Fundraising Team
Free 7-day trial of the new Entertainment™ Book Digital Membership!

Macgregor Primary School Parents & Citizens are excited to be able to offer you an opportunity to trial the new Entertainment Book Digital Membership for 7 days for FREE!

These free trials are active 3-10 August. Please take this opportunity to try the new digital membership so you can see first hand the fantastic offers available and the hundreds of dollars you can save.

It’s super easy to use and it’s so convenient because you always have it with you on your smartphone.

To access the free trial, go to: [http://prod.au.entbooks.webcoda.net.au/trial/23550_1901](http://prod.au.entbooks.webcoda.net.au/trial/23550_1901)
(If you use an email address that has previously been associated with an Entertainment Book, but have forgotten the password, simply click on the “forgot password” link.)

If you would like to purchase a digital membership or buy a traditional (paper) Entertainment™ Book online now, you can do so by visiting [https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23972](https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23972)

$12 from each membership purchased goes directly towards our fundraising. We thank you and appreciate your support.

For more information or to arrange delivery, collection or in-person purchase of your book please contact Alex Hunter via email: alex.in.2615@gmail.com or phone: 0417912295.

---

**Macgregor Primary School Out of School Hours Care**

Welcome back to MPSOSHC for Term 3.

The Productivity Commission is presently looking into Childcare availability and affordability and asking for feedback from the sector and families. This could impact on the fees structure and availability of staff working in Childcare in the future. If you would like to look at the draft report and comment please go to [http://pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/childcare/draft](http://pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/childcare/draft)

As numbers increase, parents wishing to have care for their children in 2015 should confirm their bookings now to secure a place. Limited casual vacancies are available. Priority will be given to parents with children already permanently enrolled and who have confirmed enrolment for 2015.

**Active Afters**

Active Afters is a program provided by the Australian Institute of sports at no extra cost to parents of enrolled children to encourage children’s ongoing participation in local sports. This term we have Callisthenics on Mondays and Frisbees on Thursdays. Children need to be enrolled at ASC on those days and a parent consent form must be signed. For more information please call Eileen on 62544141 after 2pm.

**Collection of children.**

Only those authorised by parents can collect children from after school care. In an emergency, we can authorise collection of a child via the phone, but best practice is to make sure you have recorded adequate names and information on the contacts section of the enrolment form and updated them as required.

PLEASE NOTE: When collecting your child, the front doors should be used to enter and exit the building and entry into classrooms without a member of staff is prohibited. In emergencies, a staff member may escort you to the classroom if necessary.

Thanks for your support and cooperation.

The MPSOSHC Team