



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall



Term Two Overview 2019 Guginya, Gudamang, Walga and Buru

May 2019

Dear Families

This term we will be supporting the children in developing a deeper understanding of diversity. We will achieve this by offering experiences that support your child in recognising, and responding respectfully, to diversity in the world around them. We will explore literature that delves into the concepts of diversity, inclusivity and individuality. We will assist the children in developing their knowledge of diversity through provocations, investigations, intentional teaching, differentiated activities and whole class discussions.

Our teaching and learning this term is based on EYLF Outcome 2: *Children are connected with and contribute to their world; Children respond to diversity with respect.* We will explore the following essential questions:

- What is diversity?
- How are we different?
- How are we the same?

If you would like to share something cultural (food, dance, art, stories, celebrations) with the preschool children, please contact us - we would love to have you come and help us extend our children's understanding and knowledge of their world.

Fortnightly Planned Program

Our fortnightly program is on display at the entrance to each room for families to look at and make comments and suggestions that may assist us with planning for all children. We appreciate feedback and encourage families to share their thoughts and ideas with us. Please come in and look through your child's portfolio to see some of the wonderful learning they are doing at preschool.

Library visits and borrowing

The children visit the library on a weekly basis (Tuesdays and Thursdays). During this time they are immersed in a range of high quality picture books with the intention of fostering a love for reading. Please assist your child to be responsible and care for the books and return them each week.

Home Reading

It is important for a child's reading development that they hear an adult modelling reading. At Preschool we have baskets of quality picture books for the reading pleasure of our families and have enough books in these baskets for the children to be able to borrow a new one every day. Please remind your child to swap their Home Reading books every day. If English is not your first language, please remember that it is also important for your child to hear you read in your first language. We have a selection of bilingual books at Preschool for families to borrow, share, enjoy and return.



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Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program

This term we have started the children on ELLA. ELLA is a digital, play-based language learning program for preschool children. There was an information flier placed in your parent pockets that provided you with information about the implementation of this Spanish program at preschool. The ELLA journey includes seven apps that focus on different Spanish topics. We are currently using the first 2 Apps. In the first App: *The Polyglots in the Playroom* - the children meet playful Polyglots characters, and learn greetings, introductions, farewells, likes and dislikes. In the second app: *The Polyglots at the Beach*, the children explore the language of colours and greetings in the fun setting of the beach. The beach is a familiar and iconic place for most Australian children. While playing above and below the water, children are encouraged to interact with the language of colours, sea creatures and expressions of preference.

This is the first time we have implemented this program and we look forward to your feedback on this program as the year progresses.

Wet Weather Gear

Don't forget to pack (or to leave at preschool) wet weather gear for your child. A raincoat and a pair of gumboots are great for exploring puddles on wet days! Please remember to label all of your child's belongings.

Clothing for various Weather Conditions

Please make sure at this time of year that you layer your child in clothes each day or provide a wide selection of both warm and cool weather clothes. They can quickly get too hot or cold with the change of weather. We have some spare clothes but these are really meant for emergencies if a child has a toileting mishap.

Sun Safety

Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morning. Sunscreen is provided and will be reapplied as needed. If your child has sunscreen sensitivity, please consider purchasing sunscreen to leave at school.

Healthy Eating and Allergies

Macgregor Primary School encourages healthy eating and we are a *Fresh Tastes* school. At preschool we ask all the children to bring at least one piece of fresh fruit or some vegetables to eat at fruit break. Your child must bring a water bottle each day, filled with **water only**, and we will refill them during the day as needed. We ask that you save treats such as chocolate, lollies and juice for home. Macgregor Primary School is an *Allergy Aware* school. We have several students and staff with severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis to **nuts, nut products and honey**. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all, we ask that children and families **do not bring any nuts, nut products or honey to preschool**.

Volunteering in Preschool

At Preschool we value the wonderful contribution of families to our program. In line with current legislation those wanting to help out on a regular basis are asked to complete a *Working with Vulnerable Peoples* form and hand this into the front office. Your help is always appreciated. We have placed a roster on the parent noticeboard if you have time to come along and help for a while.



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Excursions and Incursions

This term we have not planned any external preschool excursions. The children will be involved in some cultural dancing and music provided by parents from the primary school. We also have the 'Blue Suitcase' coming from Canberra Museum and Art Gallery (CMAG) to explore and appreciate a variety of art pieces from other cultures. The items in the suitcase will provide provocations for our children to explore and use a variety of art materials, learn about different art techniques and hear about the artists practices.

Wellbeing at Macgregor (W@M)

At Macgregor Primary School we have four main behaviour expectations; that our students, teachers and families are **Safe, Responsible, Respectful** and **Learners**. W@M is used across the whole school from preschool to year six and provides a positive focus for us all.

Staffing changes

This term there will be a few staffing changes. Amanda takes will be at Macgregor Preschool each Thursday and Friday. We welcome Ferzana Shaik who will see teaching in preschool on Wednesdays over the next few weeks. Heather has returned to her position and we thank Diane for being such a wonderful help while Heather was away. We will miss seeing her around every day.

Seesaw

Lots of great photos, information and messages are placed on seesaw – if you haven't joined up already please see your child's teacher for information about how to connect to this great App.

Surveys

Over the next few weeks we will be asking you to participate in a survey about preschool. This is part of our ongoing participation in the National Quality Framework (NQF). This framework provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care. We hope you are able to help us by responding to the survey. Thank you to families who responded to our quick survey regarding before and after school care. We have passed the data onto the Director of the Out of School Hours program.

If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to email us at the addresses below.

Kind regards

Catherine Dillon, Glennis Weatherstone, Bek Stevenson, Kirstin Brown, Danielle Jackson, Amanda Ferris, Tracey Liddle, Heather Watt, Brenda Frew and Cecilia Wong.

catherine.dillon@ed.act.edu.au

glennis.weatherstone@ed.act.edu.au

rebecca.stevenson@ed.act.edu.au

kirstin.brown@ed.act.edu.au