



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE



Principal: Belinda Andrews

Preschool Term One, 2021

Walga, Guginya, Gudamang and Buru Preschool Classes

At Macgregor Primary School's Preschool Unit, we view all children as unique, creative, capable and competent learners. We recognise that children learn through play, can make decisions to inform their own learning and have differing needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities.

This term we will be supporting the children in developing a sense of 'belonging' at preschool. We will achieve this by offering experiences that support each child in forming positive relationships with their peers and educators. The children and educators will explore literature that delves into the concepts of friendship, inclusivity and individuality. We will assist the children in developing their self-confidence and communication skills through provocations, investigations, explicit teaching, differentiated activities and whole group discussions.

Our teaching and learning this term will explore the following essential questions:

- *What do we do at preschool?*
- *What groups do I belong to?*
- *How can I be a good friend?*
- *How can I solve problems?*

An exciting part of preschool is discovering and celebrating each other's differences. We encourage the children to share their special memories, thoughts and family traditions with us and would love to have the support of our families in continuing this exploration throughout the year.

Our learning program will be on display for families to read and contribute comments. We appreciate feedback and encourage families to share their thoughts and ideas with us. Our preschool will be using the *Seesaw* Online App to showcase your child's learning. Teachers will provide group and individual learning stories, reflections photographs and videos that represent each child's journey at preschool.

Walk on Country

We will be exploring our local environment with an Indigenous lens through our *Walk on Country* Program. This involves exploring our environment and making connections to the land and its flora and fauna. We begin the walk with an Acknowledgement of Country for the traditional custodians of the land that we walk and learn upon.

Library

Throughout the year the children will visit the library on a weekly basis. During this time, the children will be immersed in literature with the intention of fostering a love for reading. We ask that the children bring their personalised library bag and return their books each week. This routine assists with the borrowing of books from our library.

Library days for Guginya and Gudamang groups - Tuesdays 10am

Library days for Walga and Buru groups – Thursdays 10am

Sun safety

Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morning before preschool starts. We will supervise and assist children to reapply sunscreen at 12pm. As a sunsmart school, we also teach the children to wear their sunsmart hats and we model sunsmart behaviours.

Healthy Eating and Allergies

Macgregor Primary School encourages healthy eating and we are a *Fresh Tastes* school. At preschool we ask all children to bring at least one piece of fresh fruit (or some vegetables) to eat at fruit break. Each child also brings a water bottle each day, filled with water only.

During our Fresh Tastes program this term, preschool children will learn to identify a range of healthy foods that help our bodies to GO, GLOW and GROW. We will also explore preparing and tasting some delicious and healthy snacks.

Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff members with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all, we ask that children do not bring any nuts or nut products to school. We are a *Nut Aware* school.

We have found our preschoolers are very kind and like to share their food - we discourage the sharing of food due to allergies and the varied cultural backgrounds of the children. We encourage the sharing of shop purchased and packaged cupcakes with the whole group, if it's a special celebration.

School Hats

This year we have provided each student with a hat to keep at preschool. Hats will stay at preschool and be washed by staff at the end of each school term.

Belongings

Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled. Drink bottles, lunch bags, lunch boxes, forks, spoons, school bags, shoes, spare clothing etc. There are a few children with the same items and we like to be able to return lost items to the correct owner.

Preschool Equipment

As part of our W@M framework (Wellbeing at Macgregor), we encourage all of the children to care for their own, and each other's belongings. In addition, we develop routines and agreements at preschool regarding caring for the indoor and outdoor preschool equipment.

Wet Weather Gear and Spare Clothes

We have an 'all weather' program at Macgregor Preschool and ask that parents pack clothing appropriate to the weather forecast. We also request that each child has a change of weather appropriate spare clothes in their school bag every day.

Volunteering at Preschool

At preschool we value the wonderful contribution of families to our program. Unfortunately, due to COVID we cannot have parent helpers in the classrooms at present. We will advise families when these health guidelines change.

Playground Supervision

At preschool we have duty of care for your children from 8:45am to 2:45pm. We ask that families stay with their child before preschool begins and then verbally 'hand over' the care of their child before leaving. The children can then be collected at 2:45pm. Due to COVID-19 safety processes, we ask that families arrive at

8:45am and leave the school premises at 2:45pm. We thank you for your understanding during these tricky times.

If you are collecting your child/ren early, please walk up to the preschool through the main primary school carpark as the gates are locked between 9:30am – 2:30pm. There is a sign out book for you to write your child's name, date, time, relationship to the child and signature so we know who is in the preschool educator's care.

The National Quality Standard

We take pride in valuing each new and unique preschool community and we will be asking for your contribution to the creation of our *Preschool Philosophy* for 2021. Throughout the year we will also seek assistance with our program and in the ongoing development of our learning spaces. If you have expertise, time, materials or knowledge to support our teaching and learning, please let us know.

Excursions

Each term we aim to have at least one excursion or incursion. Information and permission notes will be distributed to families at least three weeks prior to each excursion.

Wellbeing @Macgregor: W@M

You may have noticed posters around the school that describe Macgregor's expectations for positive 'getting along' behaviours in different areas. These posters are part of our *Wellbeing at Macgregor* framework – also known as **W@M**. If you would like further information – please ask us. We use these posters at preschool as an introduction to W@M. There are four 'Super Heroes' (called Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Learner) that we use to teach each child about our learning behaviours at Macgregor.

Kind regards,

Kirstin Brown, Kylie Macdonald, Jessica Simpkins, Kylie Robertson, Tracey Liddle, Heather Watt, Brenda Frew and Cecilia Wong

kylie.macdonald@ed.act.edu.au kirstin.brown@ed.act.edu.au jessica.simpkins@ed.act.edu.au

kylie.robertson@ed.act.edu.au