

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Hirschfeld Cres
MACGREGOR ACT 2615

PO Box 372
KIPPAX ACT 2615

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

Phone: 6142 1600
Fax: 6142 1624

Volume 44, Issue 8

Term 2 Week 6

6 June 2019



ACT
Government
Education



Dates to Remember

Friday 7 June - Assembly Hosted by Year 6, 2:20 pm	Wednesday 12 June - ACT Cross Country
Monday 10 June - Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	Friday 14 June - Cross Country Ribbon Assembly, 2:10 pm
Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 June - Kindergarten Health Checks	Monday 17 June - Online Bookings open for Parent Teacher interview on SOBS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Not sure how we have hit the half way point to term 2 so quickly...but it has happened! Thank you to the family members who attended one of our community consultation evenings. We are currently collating our discussion points to identify key themes using a 'solutions focused' mindset as part of our school improvement journey. We are always keen to hear your views and I am very happy for you to email me directly with any ideas you may have about this wonderful learning community catherine.dillon@ed.act.edu.au.

I also intend to chat to the children at our assembly tomorrow, about a new way that they can suggest improvements so that we are also able to support the children to have their ideas captured more regularly. This philosophy supports an element of the ACT Education Directorate's Strategic Plan - to combine student agency, professional expertise, and the best evidence to make decisions. For example, Milad is currently repainting the lines on the netball court, as Mikayla from Year 4 wrote to me to let me know that netball practice has been becoming increasingly difficult on the court, due to line markings being faded. Thank you to Mikayla for letting me know.

ACT Education Directorate's Step Into The Limelight Showcase

Our children are going to be well presented in this annual arts showcase called 'Step Into the Limelight' which is now in its twelfth year. This evening event happens at the end of August and provides an opportunity for our students to share their talents, alongside other ACT Public Schools students, in the area of Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Drama. This year we have entered our students in massed choral singing and massed dance. We have also been invited to prepare a mainstage performance that will be performed at the beginning of the show on both nights – this is a very honourable invitation. If you have skills and would like to be involved in supporting our students for the event, please let us know.

Official 'Hats off' period

From last Monday the 3 June, children have not been required to wear their sunsmart hat at school. This arrangement will continue until the beginning of August. Cancer Council ACT recommends Canberra primary schools and early childhood services (and the general public) adopt a combination of sensible sun protection behaviours when spending time outdoors when UV levels are 3 and above. For this reason, sun protection behaviour like wearing a hat and applying sunscreen is not generally required around the June and July winter period in Canberra because daily UV levels drop and stay low (under 3). However, sun protection may still be required if travelling North, spending time in Alpine regions or extended time outdoors during this period. This 'Hats Off' period may assist Canberra children with their winter vitamin D requirements. For more information on UV exposure and vitamin D, the Cancer Council ACT website has freely available resources <https://actcancer.org/prevention/sunsmart/act-schools-and-early-childhood-services/> Members of our School Board, will be shortly reviewing the school's Sunsmart policy as our very important 'Sunsmart School' accreditation will be renewed in November.

Principal's page continued

Year 4 Lift Off

Last night, it was our Year 4 students and their parents, who were involved in the latest 'Lift Off' program. The children and their parents participated in structured activities that were not only fun but supported meaningful connection. The activities introduced parents to ideas and strategies that support a child's social development and nurture emotional wellbeing. There are three different versions of the program, one for each stage in primary school. Each version has a distinct developmental focus and a unique set of activities relevant to the age group. Thank you to James Orr who coordinates the implementation of this visiting program to our school, and to our Year 4 teachers (Mark, Georgia, Cam and Hope) for implementing parts of the program with the visiting 'Lift Off' facilitator well into the evening.

Peer mediation

Our Year 6 students are wearing their blue hi-vis vests and assisting our smaller people on the playgrounds and shared areas. Peer mediation, not only provides our most senior students with a leadership role, but also supports our smaller children within the school by Year 6 students actively leading games and assisting to offer a structured dispute resolution process. It is a strategy which many schools find to be very effective. Our peer mediation program is coordinated by Willa McIntyre (one of our highly experienced Year 6 teachers) who provides ongoing supervision and support to our Year 6 student mediators.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year. The NCCD is a collection that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability and the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students. Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. Our teachers are currently completing online professional learning so that they confidently identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. Next Month, we will provide our families with further information about the process.

Staff Profile

We have highly experienced and qualified staff at Macgregor Primary School. I know what great work our team does, day in and day out, and the value they bring. So that you can become more familiar with our backgrounds, passions and intentions as teachers and support staff, this week's newsletter includes a staff profile section highlighting Melissah Cook (one of our Year 3 teachers) as our inaugural staff member for this section. Over the remainder of the year, we will continue to profile our staff members as they bring value and benefit to our learning community.

First Aid

If your child presents to our Sick Bay room throughout the school day, our supportive Front Office staff will let you know by contacting you directly for urgent matters, or through issuing your child with a newly developed 'communication slip' for your child to take home. At one of our community consultation evenings, parents talked about valuing this approach so that they can take the opportunity to chat with their child about a minor ailment, or even about the reason why a new band-aid has appeared on their child's knee. Caring for our children, whilst they are being educated, is a high priority for us at Macgregor Primary. We want you to feel confident about our level of care.

Update – Jennifer Hall

Jennifer remains unwell and has extended her leave until the end of this term. Millie Butt is currently working within the executive teacher role, with James Orr and Jo Pearce providing support as Deputy Principals. Please do make contact with me in Jennifer's absence. We send Jennifer our good wishes for her continued recovery.

The disco was a blast, thank you to our wonderful P&C Team and the teachers who assisted on the night.

At this school we certainly...share the love, share the fun and share the learning,

Catherine Dillon

Acting Principal



Teacher Snapshot . . .



A snapshot of ... Melissah Cook

What's your role at Macgregor Primary School? I'm a Year 3 teacher and team coordinator.

What's your background before coming to Macgregor? Before starting at Macgregor I was a teacher at two other Canberra schools and before that lived in Coffs Harbour.

What makes Macgregor a great school? What makes Macgregor a great school is the support parents give us teachers. When we work together as a team our children shine.

What do you enjoy most about being a teacher? The kids. They make me laugh. They make me cry. But at the end of the day the joy they give me every single day makes every day worth it.

Spotlight on Learning 1RS

Welcome to term 2,

1RS have had a busy and exciting start to the term. In literacy we have been writing procedure texts. As part of our unit we made fruit kebabs and wrote about the procedure involved in making these. YUM. As part of our daily literacy lessons we also took part in the simultaneous story time. The book 'Alpacas with Maracas' was read to thousands of primary school children across Australia at the same time. See our photos below, featuring Jimmy Giggle!

We have been learning about medicine and how to keep ourselves safe in health. This coincided with a visit from John who was from the St John Ambulance. During our lesson with John, we learnt some basic first aid skills. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Kenny Koala from ACT Policing. It was lots of fun and we were taught about keeping ourselves safe when we are out and about.

In science we have been exploring sight and sound. We spoke into balloons to feel the vibration of our voices. In other happenings we are working hard in mathematics to tell the time to the half hour, subtract by counting back and collecting data to create class graphs. WOW! What a busy term we have had already. I look forward to sharing your child's progress and achievements when the end of semester reports come home to you soon.

Happy learning
Renee and 1RS





Volume 6: Restorative Practices

The focus of the restorative process is about reconnecting and nurturing relationships within the school community. The conference process provides a way for individuals to be accountable for their behaviour through opportunities to repair harm, have harm repaired, and find a way forward. Students learn about the restorative process by participating in conferences and Circle Time social skills sessions. During W@M Wednesdays, students have the opportunity to learn the skills of listening and responding thoughtfully when seeking solutions to social problems as they develop an understanding of, and empathy for, others. They acquire skills that assist them to participate successfully in restorative conferences and develop a sense of belonging to the school community.

We all have rights and responsibilities and we are all responsible for our behaviour. Our right to learn and right to teach underpin our basic premise that students choose appropriate behaviour so that teaching and learning can occur without disruption. Staff and children work together so that the children learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour and accept that agreed consequences occur when they disrupt other students and staff. Staff are trained in Restorative Practices.

Questions such as the following are designed to allow the student to take responsibility for their actions.

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What are you thinking now?
4. Who was, or could have been, affected?
5. What could you do differently next time?
6. What could happen to make things right?



Coming up in Volume 7: Responding to Inappropriate Behaviours

Reminder Student Stationery/Consumable purchases & Voluntary Contributions

Our voluntary contribution and consumable payment goes directly towards supporting your child's classroom stationery supplies. These supplies were purchased in bulk in January in preparation for the school year, in lieu of stationery pack lists being provided to families for private purchase. To date the school has spent \$32 000 on consumables for our students in 2019. Thank you to the families who have already made a contribution. We will always gratefully receive any further voluntary contributions or instalments throughout the remainder of this year. The photos show some of the items purchased this year.

Families with students:

- 1 child \$100
- 2 children \$130
- 3 or more children \$155

Stationery, ICT and ART contribution:

- \$65 per student—stationery/consumables
- \$5 per student—ART
- \$5 per student—ICT

Payment can be made by:

- Direct Deposit BSB: 032-777 Account 001578 –
Remember to enter your child's surname & VolCo
- EFTPOS at front office
- Quickweb on our website
- Cash at front office

All contributions are voluntary.



Thank you for your support

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

Late to School

It is important that children who arrive after 9:05am 'check-in' to the front office with their parent or carer, and our friendly staff will sign children into our database called 'Sentral'. A student who signs in late without parent/carer permission is recorded as an unexplained partial absence.

Early Leavers

Parents/carers who need to collect their child earlier than 3:00pm are required to request for their child to be signed out at the front office.

Family Contact Details

It is important that the school maintains 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, or phone the front office on 61421600 to inform the school of these changes.

Health

Please care for your child at home if they are unwell. The most important way to break the chain of infection and stop the spread of diseases is exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff. Your doctor or the school can provide information regarding recommended exclusion periods for illnesses. Following these guidelines helps prevent the spread of illnesses.

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.

- Round 1 preschool enrolments opened online on Monday 29 April 2019 at 6:00 am. Round 1 enrolments will **close on Friday 7 June** at 5:00pm.
- Round 2 enrolment applications commence at 5:01pm on Friday 7 June 2019.

To enrol your child, go to [online application form](#) and complete the online enrolment form.

2019 pre-schoolers who live in area (Macgregor) or have siblings who attend Macgregor Primary School, will automatically continue their enrolment into Kindergarten for 2020 at Macgregor Primary School. Families do **NOT** need to complete an online enrolment form.



With winter upon us, it's important to remember that Canberra has lots of health options that don't involve a trip to a hospital emergency department. Many of these are free and available after hours.

Walk-in Centres provide free, one-off treatment of minor injury and illness, including colds and flu. They're a great choice for children over 2 years of age – children under 2 should see their GP.

Walk-in Centres are open from 7.30am to 10pm, every day of the year. They are staffed by highly skilled nurses who can provide you with a sick certificate and in some cases, medication, saving you time and money.

The service is free and no appointments are necessary.

Walk-in Centres are located in Tuggeranong, Belconnen and Gungahlin.

To find out more about getting the right health care for your symptoms, visit www.act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions

Notes Sent Home

- ★ Hoyts excursion, year 6
- ★ Optional 800m running event
- ★ Tea Towel fundraiser order form
- ★ MSP Photography special group order form for year 5 & 6 band, school leaders (available at the front office)

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.



Stay connected.
Search for Macgregor
Primary School and click on
Like

We have 950 likes





Upcoming Ideas X Change on how we can all help reduce violence and bullying in schools *Building Strong and Safe Communities for Learning* is a partnership project between the ACT Education Directorate and the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations (P&C Council). Parents, students, principals and teachers are working together to reduce violence and bullying in schools. Initial workshops received amazing feedback, join us to have your say. Details: www.education.act.gov.au/ideas-xchange



You are invited to the Ideas Xchange..A Different Conversation
We've heard your ideas about reducing violence and increasing safety in schools, help us make it happen, join us for an Ideas Xchange...

Purpose: Help us build strong and safe communities for learning.
We need you: experience and insights to test and provide feedback on the suggestions and ideas to reduce and better respond to violence in our schools.

Time	Date
6:45 - 8:30 pm	Wed 12 June
8:00 – 9:30 am	Thurs 13 June
3:45 – 5:30 pm	Thurs 13 June
9:45 – 11:30 am	Fri 14 June
6:45 – 8:30 pm	Mon 17 June

Location: Meeting room 11, Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive Stirling, 2611
Hosts: P&C Council and Education Directorate
Catering: Light refreshments post event
Parking: Free Onsite
RSVP/Bookings: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/ideas-xchange>
If you require any further information relating to the Ideas XChange, please don't hesitate to contact Ms Leanne Ballard, Assistant Director Strategic Policy on Leanne.ballard@act.gov.au or 62052912.
We look forward to working with you to build strong and safe communities for learning.

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 ✓ ANZAC Day Assembly 9.15 am
Wk 2	6 May ✓ ACT Swimming Carnival	7 May ✓ Mother's Day Stalls ✓ UC Kaleen open night 6-8pm	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 ✓ DO IT FOR KINDNESS DAY – Gold Coin donation- Dress in Blue
Wk 3	13 May	14 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ School Board Meeting 5.00pm	15 May ✓ NAPLAN	16 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ P&C Meeting 6pm	17 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ First Aid ✓ Assembly @ 2:10pm hosted by Yr 4
Wk 4	20 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ First Aid ✓ Yr 6 combined band @ Fraser ✓ KSS open night 6-8pm	21 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ First Aid ✓ Melba Copland open night 6-8pm ✓ Community Consultation on Positive Culture 7pm	22 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ First Aid ✓ Repeat session: Community Consultation on Positive Culture 5:30pm	23 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ First Aid ✓ Disco jnr P-2, 4:30-5:45 snr yrs 3-6, 6-7:30pm ✓ Canberra High open night 6-8pm	24 May ✓ NAPLAN ✓ Athletics Carnival, years 2-6
Wk 5	27 May Reconciliation Day Public Holiday	28 May ✓ National Reconciliation Week ✓ National Reconciliation Week Assembly 9.15am ✓ Belconnen High open night 6-8pm	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 ✓ Yr 2 @ National Zoo & Aquarium ✓ Hats off Day
Wk 6	3 June ✓ Mabo Day ✓ Yr 5 combined band at Giralang	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 ✓ Cross Country Ribbon Assembly 2:10pm
Wk 8	17 June ✓ 8.30 am Online Bookings open for Parent Teacher interviews on SOBS	18 June ✓ School Board Meeting 5pm	19 June ✓ Yr 5 @ Camp Burrendong	20 June ✓ Yr 5 @ Camp Burrendong ✓ P&C Meeting 6pm	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 dia de los libros (Day of the Books)	3 July ✓ Year 6 @ Hoyts 9:15am-12:05pm ✓ Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30-7pm	4 July	5 July ✓ Athletics Ribbon Assembly 2:10pm

P&C NEWS



Macgregor Primary School | Partners in Education

Term 2, Week 6 2019



PARKING

With changes to the new Action bus timetable a bus now drops off students on Hirschfeld Crescent each morning at approximately 8.45am. It again collects students each day at approx. 3.25pm. Action driver's have been frustrated by the inability to park to drop off and pick up.

It is likely parking inspector's will commencing patrols, and not necessarily on foot.

We strongly encourage you to refrain from parking in the bus stop and on residential footpaths on Hirschfeld Crescent.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening times:

Mondays - 9:00- 9:30am

Alternate Thursdays 5:00 – 6:00pm

(coinciding with public service pay week)**

And

Fridays 2:30 – 3:30pm

Orders through [Flexischools](#) are checked through the week and will be delivered to classrooms Monday mornings. The pickup function can be used if you would like to collect your order in person within the above opening times.

If you are available to volunteer your time in the Uniform Shop, even if it is to help sort clothes and tidy up, please contact the Uniform shop email uniform@macgregorpandc.org.

EARN & LEARN STICKERS



We have over 15,000 stickers so far, please keep sending in stickers. All stickers collected go toward purchasing sporting and learning resources for the students

5 CENT FUNDRAISER



Reminder to keep saving those 5 cent pieces!!

SCHOOL FETE

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

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking next week is on **WEDNESDAY'S** outside the library. This term's rewards are taking us on a polar adventure. This term's rewards are a fluffy notepad and a slap band ruler. They will be popular.

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.

We also have a competition. If you have banked at least 5 deposits this term, you will go into a draw to win a book. There is a seniors' book and a juniors' book. So be in it to win it. The winners will be revealed at the end of the term.

Thanks to **Kirsty and Martin Ross** for volunteering to keep school banking operating this year.



We're fundraising with Tea Towels!

Keep an eye out for our next fundraiser! Your children are busy this week preparing their drawings ready for this years tea towels - notes/order forms will be coming home soon!

Next P&C General Meeting, 6pm Thursday 20 June 2019

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.

Meetings are held in the school library and a movie will be shown to keep children entertained.

All parents, carers and their children are welcome!



**Proudly brought to you by Macgregor
Primary School P&C**

www.facebook.com/macgregorprimarypandc/
or search for Macgregor Primary P&C.



Macgregor Primary School Music Scheme

Would your child like to undertake private music lessons in 2019?

The P&C runs a music scheme to give students the opportunity to learn **piano, drums or guitar at school during school hours with a private tutor**. No running around after school to get your child to and from music lessons!

These half hour weekly lessons with specialist tutors from **Canberra Music Tuition** provide students with individual attention and students can be enrolled on a term by term basis. All levels and skills are catered for.

Cost: \$37 per half hour lesson (Canberra Music Tuition)
 \$10 per student P&C administration fee

For more information or to enrol your child please email Lyndall at lyn_dall@yahoo.co.uk.

Lyndall Visagie
P&C Music Scheme Coordinator

