

THURSDAY 01 DECEMBER

40 - 05

Dear Parents,

• BREAK UP DAY

Parents are reminded that **break-up day will be celebrated on Thursday 08 December**. It will begin with an assembly in the hall at which we will farewell teachers on relocation or retirement along with our Year Sevens. Attendance at school on Friday 9th December is optional. It will be a day of relocating resources for teachers on the move to a new classroom for 2006. With our cleaners going on their end of year holidays from Friday afternoon, it gives them an opportunity to engage in a massive clean-up before the break. There will be no formal classes on that day.



• TWO RETIREMENTS

Ms Kenny: After 17 years of outstanding service to our school, Ms Jill Kenny will be retiring at the end of next year. Her contribution to this school is difficult to describe. As a classroom teacher, her dedication and commitment to her students could never be challenged or questioned. Her excellent skills enhanced the learning outcomes of every child who had the privilege of working with her. As our very first technology teacher, she became a great mentor for our classroom teachers, assisting them in embedding the new technologies into everyday learning activities. In her final role as our enrichment teacher, the results our students have achieved as part of the gifted program speak for themselves. Jill will be missed and we wish her well in the next stage of her life.



Helen Brown: After 11 years as a teacher-aide in our special education unit, Helen has also decided to call it a day. Over that period of time, Helen has worked with some, at times, very difficult and complex students with special needs. Her influence on them was just incredible and her skills in the special education area will be sadly missed. As with Ms Kenny, we wish Helen all the very best in her retirement years. Thank you Mrs Brown.

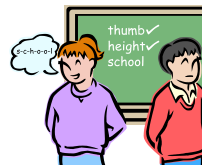
• STAFF CHANGES

At this stage there are very few changes to our staff list for 2006. Ms McKenzie has been relocated to Acacia Ridge State School. An outstanding teacher, her expertise and dedication to her students will be missed. Ms Beatty will not be returning to MacGregor in the new year. She will be taking up a teaching position in England. We thank her for the great work she has done with 6AB this year and wish her well in her new adventure. Ms Angela Burgess will be on exchange for a year in Canada. The exchange teacher is Ms Nancy Ward.

For some reason, there appears to be a great deal of speculation in the community about who will be the Principal of MacGregor next year. I would like to inform everyone that I will be returning in 2006!

• CLASS LISTS 2006

They will be posted on the parent notice board located in the Snow-White covered area next Tuesday at 2.30 pm. At the same time, the map showing class locations will be posted. The children will meet their new teachers during the morning and afternoon sessions on the same day. **Parents are reminded that following advice at least a month ago to all parents that concerns re the placement of children should be communicated with Deputy Principals at that time, there will be no changes to class lists once they have been posted.**



We appreciate work and family circumstances can change rapidly but to assist us with class numbers and hence staffing levels in the new school year, please let us know as quickly as possible if your child will not be returning to MacGregor next year.

• STATEWIDE TEST DATA

The data from the statewide tests of numeracy and literacy in Years 3, 5 and 7 have arrived and they are great news for MacGregor students. In all areas, across all year levels, the school mean was significantly above that for Queensland. Below are the

means (averages) for both MacGregor and Queensland for each aspect tested in all three year levels.

YEAR 3		
	MacGregor	QLD
Reading & Viewing	588	548
Writing	569	509
Spelling	633	544
Number	612	540
Measurement & Data	615	544
Space	595	543

YEAR 5		
	MacGregor	QLD
Reading & Viewing	640	614
Writing	652	606
Spelling	660	599
Number	665	610
Measurement & Data	656	612
Space	655	612

YEAR 7		
	MacGregor	QLD
Reading & Viewing	735	689
Writing	847	746
Spelling	766	687
Number	764	665
Measurement & Data	765	668
Space	754	670

The data once again demonstrates that MacGregor Primary is a school of excellence, maximising the learning outcomes for **all** students. The students and their teachers are to be congratulated on the excellent results achieved. We are still awaiting the data that compares MacGregor's achievements against similar schools. That should be available early in the school year.

• AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Last Friday, the annual awards assembly was held in the school hall. Mrs Irene Cayas, the Vice-Chair of the Queensland Ethnic Communities Council, was our very special guest before an audience of approximately 1000. Our other special guests included Mr Gary Hardgrave, federal member for Moreton; Ms Judy Spence, State Member for

Mt Gravatt; and Mr John Rossato, P&C President. Some 200 students were recognized for their achievements over the year through the presentation of Commendation, Merit, MacGregor and Excellence Awards. **The full list is included as an insert in today's newsletter.** My report on the activities of the school over the past year is also included in this week's newsletter. Four MacGregor Awards, celebrating all-round achievement (academic, sport and the arts), were presented.

MACGREGOR AWARDS	
Year 4	Susan Pan
Year 5	Anna Kho
Year 6	Bonnie Cheng
Year 7	Ariane Serina

Pictured below are our four MacGregor Award winners. In addition to these, six excellence awards were presented. Five - Academic, Service to the School, Performing Arts, STAR, Sport - these awards are exclusively for students in Year 7, while the sixth award



was open to any student from Years 4 - 7. Pictured alongside are our excellence award winners, except for Jessica Wright who

was absent at the time the photograph was taken. Below are the statements shared with the community on their presentation.

Academic Excellence: Based on her outstanding achievements across a wide range of academic activities, our dux for 2005 is presented to **Andrea Huang**.

Performing Arts Excellence: As in previous years, the selection was a most difficult task with a very fine line separating three students. They were Lisa Chaw, Name Withheld and Charlotte Quirk. Each will be receiving two gold awards at our performing arts assembly next week with the participation of one of the three in the annual musical separating them. On that basis, our performing arts excellence award is being presented to **Charlotte Quirk**.

Sports Excellence: Like the Arts, a points system was needed to decide our sports star for the year.

This student played basketball and soccer in interschool sport, represented the district in swimming, soccer, athletics, softball and the region in Basketball. Our sports star for 2005 is Name Withheld.

Service to the School Award: This student is strongly committed to her school. She has played the piano at assemblies since Year 4 and this year has been a computer monitor, library monitor and student councilor. She is always an outstanding role model for our peace code. Our Service to the School award this year is presented to **Lisa Chaw**.

STAR Award: This is a very special award. It is more than an award for a particular skill or ability because it says something about the winner's character as well. This year, once again, it has been a particularly difficult task with very little separating three very worthy students. Before announcing the winner, I would like to acknowledge Rebecca Savage and Name Withheld. Both would have been worthy winners of this very special award. This year's winner has attended Macgregor Primary School since Year 1 and enrolled in 1K, a class that supported students experiencing some difficulties with communication. She began as a shy, timid and anxious young girl. Throughout her time at MacGregor, she was determined to overcome many of the difficulties she faced in both her education and personal health. Today, this girl has matured into a more confident young lady whose willingness to help others is to be admired. She has a sense of community with a keen interest in supporting other students who may be facing challenges, or in need of assistance. She is always obliging, positive, co-operative and willing to assume responsibility when asked. Our STAR award recipient for 2005 is **Jessica Wright**.

Best Performer Award: This award reflects the excellence that we at MacGregor Primary School strive to achieve. Unlike all other excellence awards presented, this award is open to any student from Years 4 – 7 and seeks to recognize students for their outstanding achievement or achievements through activities outside the classroom curriculum. In 2005, the award will not be presented to an individual student but to an ensemble whose achievements this year have rewritten the benchmarks for excellence. Having achieved first place in both the Wynnum and Gold Coast Eisteddfods, this group was recently awarded a high distinction in the AMEB grade 5 Practice of Music ensemble performance category.

The examiner wrote: "You are a most impressive ensemble with a bright future. You all play so well individually but more importantly you are all so well aware of each others parts. Wonderful work! Your analysis and background knowledge is superb. Our best performance award is presented to our **2005 string ensemble - Rollin Zhao on 1st violin, Minnie Hong on 2nd/3rd violin, Name Withheld on 2nd/3rd violin and Yen-Rong Wong on cello.**

• CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Over the past week, I have had the pleasure of attending three end of term celebrations of learning. Each highlighted the depth of learning that had taken place in those classrooms over the ten weeks and the quality of the learning outcomes. 2B, with Mrs Seaha, enjoyed a morning tea based around their healthy living unit while 1EF,



Ms Liiv and Ms Dawson, acted out four memorable fairytales they had studied over the term. For 6CD, Ms Wrattton and

Mrs Zschommler, the world of advertising was tested before a very large audience of parents and other family members. All five classes and their teachers are to be congratulated on the great work achieved over the term. Pictured are some of our 1EF students in performance.

• BOOKSHOP

Parents are reminded that book packs for next year are now being packed and delivered across the school. Parents are encouraged to use the extra hours the bookshop is opening between now and the end of the year to minimise long delays in the rush at the beginning of the new school year. It will be open every morning between 8.00 and 8.45 am to Wednesday 07 December. Please check the book pack as soon as you receive it so that any problems can be rectified before books are covered. *i.e.* The Book Shop is not responsible for any books once they have been covered.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

Monday 16th January	8.30-12.00 noon
Tuesday 17th January	8.30-12.00 noon

Ms Piva (instrumental), Mr Adelt (instrumental), Miss Milligan (strings), Mrs Pappas (dance), Mrs Robinson (speech choirs), Ms Au (dance) and Miss Shannon Wilson (dance). Our thanks are also extended to Ms McMahon, Mrs Tierney and Mrs Kiem for accompanying our choirs.

• **TUCKSHOP NEWS - Margaret Buckley**

As we approach the end of the year, certain items on the menu will run out of stock. Please be aware that we may have to offer alternative foods. A big thank you is extended to everyone who has volunteered in the tuckshop this year. Also, a special thank you to those wonderful helpers in the bookshop! **Please note that the tuckshop will close on Wednesday 7th December.**

• **REPORT CARDS**

They will be distributed on Tuesday 6th December. At Years 3, 5 and 7 levels, the students will also receive their individual report of their **achievements in the statewide literacy and numeracy tests that were held last August. From Wednesday, all uncollected reports will be available from the office. Please note that if you are going on holidays early, you need to leave a stamped (\$1.00), self-addressed envelope at the office and we will post it to you. Otherwise, reports can be collected from the office on your return from holidays. The office will be open from Monday 16th January.**

• **PERFORMING ARTS ASSEMBLY**

The inaugural performing arts assembly was held yesterday, Wednesday, in the hall. Gold and Merit awards were presented to members of every performing arts group in our program. We extend our congratulations to all award winners and to all who



participated in the program this year. With more than 500 students involved, our program has been an outstanding success and is a credit to the dedicated group of teachers who work with them. They are Mr Metcalfe (choirs), Mrs Cook (choirs), Ms Paterson (choirs), Mr Norrell (instrumental),

GOLD	
Senior Choir	Lisa Chaw & Yen Rong Wong
Songsters	Charlotte Quirk & Lisa Chaw
Year 5 Choir	Anna Kho & Pennie Gu
Year 4 Choir	Mabel Wai
Year 3 Choir	Lani Gibbins
Junior Speech Choir	Amaya Perera
Senior Speech Choir	Matthew Tsai
Senior Band	Angela Yen & <i>Name Withheld</i>
Intermediate Band	<i>Name Withheld</i> & Cathy Lee
Junior Band	<i>Name Withheld</i>
MacGregor Strings	Minnie Hong, <i>Name Withheld</i> Yen Rong Wong, Rollin Zhao, Anna Pan
Senior Strings	Isabel Liu-Batista
Intermediate Strings	Shani Park
Junior Strings	<i>Name Withheld</i>
Senior Greek	Charlotte Quirk
Junior Greek	<i>Name Withheld</i>
Chinese Dancers	Caroline Wong
Year 2 MacGregor Dancers	<i>Name Withheld</i> & Joselinne
Year 3 & 4 MacGregor Dancers	Rostran-Henriquez
Year 5 & 6 MacGregor Dancers	Mabel Wai
	<i>Name Withheld</i>

Those students who made that extra special effort throughout the year were awarded Merits. Congratulations! They were:

MERIT - DANCE		
Senior Greek	Junior Greek	Chinese Dancers
<i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Julia Steele Stephanie Tam Amy Yang	<i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Lucy Kaiser Angelica Orfanos <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Casandra Rogers <i>Name Withheld</i> Siobhan Taylor Elisa Tuicakau	Janna Guy Caitlin Allen Jaymee Seeto-Guy Nicola Young Alex Thompson Ingrid Ng Yen Chii Wong <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Madeleine Sagner Celeste Birgan Sophie Phillips Caroline Wong
Year 2 Dancers	Dancers Yrs 3/4	Senior Dancers
Connor Austin <i>Name Withheld</i>	<i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i>	Alison Lee Cathy Lee

Katelyn Carlile Lisa Cheng Ian Cheung Summer Facer <i>Name Withheld</i> Samantha Medlin Angelica Orfanos <i>Name Withheld</i> Hannah Soen Jack Wang	Kirby Hickling Seleina Kong Zara Lai Cassandra Martin Kyra Tiongco	<i>Name Withheld</i> Minsie Nam <i>Name Withheld</i> Paige Talbot
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MERIT - BANDS

Senior Band	Intermediate Band	Junior Band
Bradley Bell Nicholas Cheang Anna Go Marian Lien Emily Majewski Wendy Pei Noushin Sattar Ariane Serina Wesley Wat <i>Name Withheld</i>	Roger Chung Angelica Huang Thomas Keks <i>Name Withheld</i> Dean Moss John Oh Deborah Rynne Madeleine Semit <i>Name Withheld</i> Caroline Wong Andrew Feng Felix Yu	Kelvin Chan Matthew Hales Memy Ho Alan Kwok Darron Lee Nicole Majewski Alex Oh <i>Name Withheld</i> Amy Yang <i>Name Withheld</i>

MERIT - STRINGS, SPEECH CHOIRS

MacGregor Strings	Senior Strings	Intermediate Strings
Breanna Bennett Lisa Chaw Pearl Ching Andrew Feng Michael Kim Huldah Kwong Galen Lau Yvonne Lee Daniel Park Jenny Pan	Joshua Au <i>Name Withheld</i> Teddy Kao Aaron Kho Anna Kho Tim Liu Anna Pan Alexander Seeto Samuel Tsai Sophia Lai	Victoria Chen Sonia Dong Isabella Gerometta Zara Lai Kevin Li Ingrid Ng Susan Pan Jacky Tan Mabel Wai Tracey Wu Brendon Yuen
Junior Strings	Junior Speech Choir	Senior Speech Choir
<i>Name Withheld</i> Cloe Hui <i>Name Withheld</i> Thomas Ng <i>Name Withheld</i> Joshua Yang	Vanessa Au Connor Austin <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Lani Gibbins <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i> Cassandra Martin Stephanie Moore <i>Name Withheld</i> <i>Name Withheld</i>	Galen Lau <i>Name Withheld</i> Dean Moss Charlotte Taylor-Philip Linh Thai Samuel Tsai Wesley Wat Brittany Williams

• SPORTS ASSEMBLY

The summer sports assembly will be held tomorrow, Friday, at 2.00 pm in the assembly hall. An invitation is extended to all parents to attend. Trophies will be presented to the Best & Fairest and Most Improved players in

each team along with bronze, silver and gold medallions to students at the representative level. In addition, three teams from our back at school program will be recognised for their efforts during this summer season.

In a night full of highlights, special mention must be made of the 40 selected students from Years 5 and 6 who participated in our inaugural Dance & Drama Focus at MacGregor High for the past ten weeks. Their performance at the Dance Night was just fantastic! The students can be very proud of what they achieved in such a short time frame. The group repeated their performance on full school assembly last Monday. The focus program will be offered again in term four of next year.

• YEAR 7 GRADUATION

Parents of students in Year 7 are reminded that the final day for the purchase of tickets to our Year 7 graduation dinner dance is tomorrow, Friday. They are selling for \$17 each and are available before school at MacGregor Place. Parents are also reminded that, because of the size of our Year 7 student population, parents only can attend the dinner.

The Year Sevens, as part of their end of primary school celebrations, will be enjoying a day at Wet'n Wild this Monday.

• SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND 2006

As you prepare for the 2006 school year, you are again reminded of our expectations with regard to school shoes. As in 2005, **when students are wearing the day uniform, they should be in black shoes.** That will mean that the wearing of sports shoes will be acceptable when wearing the sports uniform only, in line with the P&C approved dress code for MacGregor Primary School.

• SWIMMING CARNIVALS

The swimming carnivals for students in Years 1, 2 and 3 will be held next week to culminate their term of swimming. The times and dates are as follows:

Monday 5th December

Year 3 9.00 – 11.00 am

Year 2 11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Wednesday 7th December

Year 1 9.00 – 11.00 am
 Please note that there will be no end of year swimming carnivals for students in Years 4 – 7.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs Seaha (2B) and her family on the sudden and unexpected loss of her father recently.

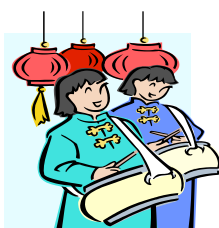
• **YEAR BOOK**

You are reminded that the 2005 Year Book and DVD are now on sale. Separately, each sells for \$15.00. Bought as a package, they will cost you \$20. They are great value and a comprehensive summary of the school’s activities and achievements in this year.

• **LOTE CONCERT**

The annual end of year LOTE concert will be held in the hall next Tuesday, 6th December, between 12.00 noon and 1pm.

All parents are most welcome to join us in celebrating our achievements in LOTE in 2005.



• **PERFORMING ARTS**

All String Players – Please do not leave instruments in the store room over the holidays. The store room will be renovated and any instrument left there will be thrown away.

Boys in Strings – return your cummerbunds to school immediately.

Choirs – All choir music is due back NOW. Please make sure you return your music to Mrs Cook, Mr Metcalfe or Mrs Lorimer.

Choir Auditions finish on Friday 02 December. Any students who have not yet auditioned will need to see Mrs Cook on Friday. There will be no more auditions after Friday.

• **BOOK CLUB NEWS**

Thanks to all who have supported book club this year. In particular, thank you to our dedicated group of book club organisers. They are, for years one to seven respectively, Brigitte Salzlechner, Sheryl Gildea, Caroline Tierney, Jennifer Eggleton, Narelle Romano, Min Ding and Jennie Bennett. Every dollar spent on book club earns reward points which are redeemed as reading resources for use in our library and classrooms.

SCHOOL REFUNDS

Parents please note that if you requested a refund on the monies paid to the school with your Parent Contribution Scheme and was not used in 2005 that the refund was given to your child today. The refunds are cash refunds so check with your child for the envelope. Please note that as part of our accountability system, we asked your child to sign when the envelope was given to them.

AWARDS ASSEMBLY

	MACGREGOR STAR		MACGREGOR STAR		MACGREGOR STAR
1A	Jack Kaiser	3A	Rachel Bishopp	5B	<i>Name Withheld</i>
1B	<i>Name Withheld</i>	3B	<i>Name Withheld</i>	5C	Gabrielle Lui
1C	<i>Name Withheld</i>	3C	Adam Sun	5D	<i>Name Withheld</i>
1D	Ashan Kumar	3D	<i>Name Withheld</i>	6A	Mitchell Perry
1E	Emma Hill	3E	Yanni Jiang	6B	<i>Name Withheld</i>
1F	Jarrold Coleman	4A	Jeremy Hung	6C	Muhammad Suleman
2A	Alisina Tollo	4B	<i>Name Withheld</i>	6D	Ismail
2B	<i>Name Withheld</i>	4C	<i>Name Withheld</i>	7A	Christina Budur
2C	<i>Name Withheld</i>	4D	Brandon Crichton	7B	Michelle Eslao
2D	<i>Name Withheld</i>	M1	Hamza Suleman	7C	Nazifa Hasham
2E	Tamsen Mitchell	M2	Kristin Eldridge	7D	Samantha Stevenson
J1	Nizam Leeya	M3	<i>Name Withheld</i>	S1	Cristina Vitanzi
J2	Amaya Perera	M4	<i>Name Withheld</i>	S2	Sophie Phillips
J3	Damien Wheatley	SM5	Travis Williams	S3	April Chan
J4	Declan Burke	5A	Supun Vithanachchi	S4	<i>Name Withheld</i>
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