

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term One Overview, 2019

Year 2

Dear Families

Welcome to an exciting term 1. Below is an outline of our curriculum for this term. We have had a fabulous start to the learning year and are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. We have begun with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you.' As parents you have valuable knowledge of your child's individual interests, strengths and needs. We look forward to establishing a productive partnership with you. We are currently developing an engaging and friendly learning culture. We have made class agreements, discussed expectations and begun term one routines. We look forward to a fantastic year with you all.

English

Writing

Students have started working on writing procedural texts. Next we will learn to write to socialise which will include letter writing, invitations and post cards. Throughout the term students will explore authors' purpose, text structure and language features. Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on accurately spelling words with regular spelling patterns alongside words with less common long vowel patterns.

Reading

When reading students will be learning to read less predictable texts with phrasing and fluency. We will continue to build on the ability to use reading strategies such as monitoring meaning, predicting, rereading and self-correcting. These strategies will aid in developing literal and inferred meaning.

Speaking and Listening

While interacting with peers and teachers, students will listen for specific information, including instructions, and use interaction skills to initiate topics, make positive statements and voice disagreement in an appropriate manner.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

We will have a strong focus on place value and an increasing understanding of our number system. Students will develop fluency with numbers, counting in sequences of twos, threes, fives and tens and recognise, order and represent numbers to 1000. During the second half of the term students will be developing a range of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems as well as investigate the connection between addition and subtraction. Students will be involved in daily activities which will allow them to explore and practise these concepts, by modelling and solving problems with a strong emphasis on real life contexts.

Measurement and Geometry

The focus in term 1 will be on geometry. Students will describe and draw 2D shapes and describe the features of 3D objects. They will investigate the effect of one-step slides and flips of shapes and match these transformations with their original shape. Finally, they will learn to identify and describe half and quarter turns.

W@M [Wellbeing at Macgregor] Wednesdays

On Wednesdays after recess, we will participate in explicit social emotional learning (SEL) lessons known as W@M Wednesdays. These are not isolated lessons, and W@M principles and the BRICK values continue to be integrated into all aspects of our school culture and learning. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours we want to see in our classrooms. They are compatible with the theory of Positive Behaviour for Learning. The W@M token is our method of rewarding students who have shown the positive behaviours at Macgregor Primary School and will be recorded as part of the classroom W@M points tallies for the week. Students work towards earning W@M badges when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe and Learner.

Inquiry Units

Geography

In geography we will be exploring, 'The story of my place.' Throughout this unit we will learn about the features that define places and recognise that places can be described at different scales. The children will learn that the world can be divided into major geographical divisions.

Science

We will be exploring different materials through a learning unit titled, 'All mixed up.' Throughout this unit we will explore understandings of how and why different materials can be combined for a particular purpose. Students will demonstrate an ability to observe, record and describe changes to objects and materials.

The Arts

Year 2 students will attend a specialist visual arts and music lesson each week with Fabio Fabbo for 45 minutes. They will make and respond to visual art pieces and music, independently and collaboratively. In art, students will transform images of people, pets and other animals into original art works. In music, students will use their voice, recorders and body percussion to develop aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns. To further expand these concepts, students will experiment with different types of instruments and how they can be used to create a simple composition.

ICT

Students have access to Chromebooks this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. We encourage the children to use a whole school online reading program called 'Reading Eggs'. All classrooms at Macgregor have Interactive Whiteboards to enhance lessons and student understanding, along with consolidating ICT skills.

Spanish Language and Culture

In Spanish this term year two will be practising greetings as well as learning to use language that is specific to the classroom. We will be revising the Spanish alphabet and vowels then comparing them to English. This term our involvement with the Uruguayan Embassy and our Sister School program will be to participate in the Spanish readathon (El Día de los libros) and the Uruguayan carnival which traditionally happens over January and February. All students will be making a mask to wear at a carnival which will be held under the COLA on Thursday week 4.

Library

Year 2 students will have a 45 minute library session every Tuesday (2ER and 2JH) and Wednesday (2HD) with our Teacher Librarian, Ms John. They will read quality children's literature, learn about information literacy and borrow books to take home. Up to three books may be borrowed at a time and changed the following week. Please provide a library bag to protect the books and allow for some special time to read to, or with, your child daily.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Every Thursday for 45 minutes students will participate in a fundamental movement skills program with Bethany Taylor. These movement skills are the 'building blocks' for most movement patterns in sport. This forms one component of the school's physical education program. Students receive explicit instruction and the opportunity to practise through a range of games and activities. This term we will be focusing on the skills of fair play and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play games showing team work and sportsmanship. Locomotor skills will also be learned through skipping and a tagging game. We will walk the cross-country track and practice running so the students are familiar with exactly what to do on the day. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a drink bottle and wear a hat every day.

Other Happenings

Kenny Koala – 1st March and 5th April

Swimming Carnival – Thursday 14th March (10.00-1.15pm)

Friendly Reminders;

- The weather is very variable in Canberra, please make sure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, a sunsmart hat, and enough food and water for a whole day of learning
- Please label your child's possessions (hats, jumpers, stationery, lunch box, drink bottle etc.) so that we can return items we find as quickly as possible
- Learning starts at 9.00am. If your child is late arriving to school, please ensure that they are signed in at the front office. Also, just a friendly reminder that in the event of your child being absent, please send in a written note to your child's teacher, or send a notification through the Macgregor Primary School App.
- When the children arrive at school, we ask that they congregate in the senior COLA and the immediate surrounding areas. The junior and senior fixed equipment playgrounds are not able to be used before 9am
- We welcome assistance from parents and carers. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to volunteer. We arrange for all our volunteers to complete a form at the front office. Regular volunteers (more than seven times a year or four times in any one month) apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. The process is easy and the front office staff are always available to help
- Please see the school calendar which is attached to the school newsletter for important dates. We also provide information on Facebook, See Saw and the school's website
- During our morning session we have a short fruit/vegetable break. Please send a small piece/container of fresh fruit or vegetables for your child to eat at this time.
- Please remember we are an allergy aware school. Please do not pack nuts or nut products for your child
- We are encouraging the children to leave their bags at their assigned outdoor area until the bell and we seek your support to remind your child. Teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings before 9am.

Kind Regards

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