

## **Term One Overview, 2020**

### **Year 6**

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 we are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. 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 nurturing 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**

Our literacy program has been planned to assist the students develop knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing.

#### Writing

With an initial focus on how to use specific details to support a point of view, students will create detailed texts elaborating on key ideas for a range of purposes and audiences. Students will be explicitly taught writing skills which will be practised and then applied in different situations. These lessons will encompass grammar, spelling, sentence construction and editing skills. Students will explore a variety of spelling patterns and word origins, including some Latin and Greek roots, base words, prefixes, suffixes, letter patterns and spelling generalisations to spell new words.

#### Reading

Every day at Macgregor the whole school starts the day by reading for twenty minutes. This is a time for all students to practise the technical skills of reading such as particular reading comprehension strategies. Teachers will be conferencing with individual students during this time, working on ways to advance their reading skills. Please ensure your child is at school by 9:00 am so that they do not miss this valuable reading instruction and practice time. Students in years 3-6 should be reading every night. Please take a few moments each day to talk to your child about what they are reading and how they are making connections to other texts or their own lives.

#### Speaking and Listening

Students will participate in discussions, develop and support arguments, share and evaluate a variety of information, experiences and opinions.

#### **Mathematics**

Our focus for this term will be solving problems involving all four operations with whole numbers. We will explore the use of integers in everyday contexts and connect fractions, decimals and percentages as different representations of the same number. Students will explore prime, composite, square and triangular numbers. Each day students will complete 10-minute reviews of previous learning before moving into the explicit teaching of mental computation strategies and the key areas of number and algebra, measurement and geometry and statistics and probability.

#### **W@M Wednesdays**

This term on a Wednesday 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 culture and learning. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours that we want to see in our classrooms. They are compatible with the theory of Positive Behaviour for Learning when they are used to teach the desired behaviour that we want to see. Students work towards earning a new and

exciting tangible reward when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners. This item will be launched later this term.

### **The Arts**

The arts enable children to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. In visual arts students will be encouraged to explore ideas using various art techniques and mediums. Year 6 will attend a specialist visual art lesson each week with Paula Charles. They will create art pieces inspired by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse and Andy Warhol and using collage, paint, ink, pastels, crayons and charcoal to create original artworks.

### **ICT**

Students have access to Chromebooks this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. We also 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. Please complete and return the ICT Third Parties permission note to ensure your child has permission to use all the ICT learning tools.

### **STEAM**

STEAM refers to the learning areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. As a cross-curriculum subject it takes the principles of science and the analysis of mathematics and combines these with the design process of technology and engineering in the classroom. The STEAM focus for Year 6 during Term 1 will be to introduce the core principles of coding and programming including developing the skills to control robots and develop simple programs. Steve Jobs stated that "everybody... should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think." Our introduction to coding will be through simple and enjoyable real-world activities and games. This will progress to include the school's new fleet of "Bee-Bots", before crossing to Scratch Jr on iPads, which will serve as a platform to introduce the Scratch language.

### **Spanish Language and Culture**

In Spanish this term we will recap greetings, farewells and introductions. We will begin with the vocabulary which communicates how our friends look, use the Spanish alphabet and build phrases to help with expression. Our learning will include the compilation of a list of phrases to be used in the classroom and practice phrases for both verbal and written forms. Songs will be included to assist in becoming accustomed to listening to and using the Spanish language.

### **Library**

Year Six students will come along to the school library each week throughout 2020 with their teacher and teacher librarian Norma John to develop further their appreciation for and love of reading, develop research skills and learning how to find their way around a library and online. It would be great if students would help to protect our library books by bringing along a library bag. Students are encouraged to change their reading books frequently as they read daily both at school and in the evenings at home.

### **Seesaw**

This year we will continue to use Seesaw to showcase your child's learning. Seesaw is an application available for electronic devices such as mobile phones and tablets. It is free to sign up and allows only you to access your child's profile. By now you will have received an invitation with a QR code and instructions on how to sign up. If you are having difficulties signing up or using the application, please see your child's teacher for assistance. It is important to note that Seesaw is for your child's classroom teacher to share their learning rather than a communication mode. If you wish to ask questions or enquire about other school information, please email or contact the front office via phone.

### **PE/Fundamental Motor Skills**

Physical education is taught daily for 25-30 minutes as well as every Tuesday afternoon. This term our Tuesday afternoon sessions will focus on team games, fair play and co-operation. We begin with a warmup activity followed by the introduction of a team game which combines skill development with co-operation and teamwork. Our daily 25-30-minute sessions will encompass quick games, dance, and the ongoing development of fundamental motor skills. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a drink bottle and wear a hat every day.

### **Friendly Reminders**



Education and Training

# MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

**Principal: Jennifer Hall**



- 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,

Michelle Sochacki [Michelle.Sochacki@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Michelle.Sochacki@ed.act.edu.au)

Damien Trask [Damien.Trask@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Damien.Trask@ed.act.edu.au)

Brooke Estreich [Brooke.Estreich@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Brooke.Estreich@ed.act.edu.au)

James Orr [James.Orr@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:James.Orr@ed.act.edu.au)