

## Term 1 Letter 2017 Year 3

Dear Families,

8 February 2017

Welcome to the start of another busy and exciting year. We have made a great start, seeing lots of enthusiastic, smiling faces. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and families to Macgregor Primary and the Year 3 team. We also take this opportunity to introduce Ellen Christou who has joined the Year 3 teaching team for 2017. She is a welcome addition to our team and has quickly settled into the Macgregor way.

In this letter we will briefly explain some of the engaging programs that will be happening this term as well as inform you of a few changes and housekeeping matters to support you and your child's return to school for a new year.

### English

This year we are using The Daily 5 to structure our balanced literacy program. The Daily 5 structure enables students to have choice about the order they complete planned and levelled learning activities. Students participate in whole class, short focused lessons before moving to complete their independent work. Students complete five activities a day comprising of Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Word Work, and Listen to Reading. Whilst the students are engaging in these independent tasks, teachers will be conferencing one on one with students or working in small groups for reading, writing and spelling areas of need.

This term in writing, we will be exploring a range of social purposes. Students will develop their understanding of the structures of each text type and compare the similarities and differences. Throughout the year we will be revisiting the different social purposes regularly with a focus on the skills involved in the writing process.

### Mathematics

This term in mathematics we will have a large focus on place value. We will learn how to compare, order and expand numbers, as well as revisit concepts such as odd and even numbers. We will also look at reading time to the nearest minute and investigate different number patterns we encounter in various settings.

### W@M and Health

You may have noticed some new posters around the school that describe Macgregor's expectations for different areas. These posters are part of our Wellbeing at Macgregor – also known as W@M. Look out in the school newsletter for more information as our implementation rollout continues. To further expand the work we are doing as a school introducing W@M, Year 3 will be using this base to build the children's social and cooperative skills. The second half of term will see us moving on to a healthy eating focus completing a Fresh Tastes unit.

### PE

This year Mr Heywood will be coordinating the specialist PE programme. Alongside Mr Heywood's lessons this term, Year 3 will be working on throwing, catching and kicking, in the class PE program. We will also be using this time to prepare for our cross-country carnival on Thursday 6 April.

## **Science**

Students will explore how changes of state between solid and liquid can be caused by adding or removing heat. They will develop skills to make formal measurements and follow procedures to collect and present observations in a way that helps to answer investigation questions.

## **Geography**

Our geography lessons for Year 3 this term will focus on mapping Australia and our neighbouring countries. We will learn about the states, territories, capital cities and major features of Australia, as well as the Aboriginal language group areas into which Australia is divided. We will also learn about Australia's relationship with our neighbouring countries.

## **Visual and Performing Arts**

This year Ms Christine Trull will be taking our classes for visual and performing arts. This term students will be learning about the visual arts. She will be focusing on found objects collage painting using Waterhouse Picture, High Tide by Carol King as stimulus material. In class we will have a focus on performing arts, looking at music and dance.

## **Housekeeping**

This term, our specialist classes (Art, PE and Spanish) will be on Fridays. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing for PE.

## **Library**

This term the Year 3 Unit library session is on Mondays. At this time students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library. Please be sure that they have their library bag each Monday.

## **Fruit break**

Each day at 10:00 am students will have fruit break. This is an opportunity for the students to give their brains a boost to help them concentrate through until break one. Students will need to bring fresh fruit or vegetables, ideally cut up, which is easy for them to manage and eat in approximately 10 minutes. Other food, such as yoghurt, cheese and biscuits need to be eaten at either break one or two.

## **'Get to Know You' Interviews**

Each year, we hold 'Get to Know You' interviews with parents and carers during the first few weeks of term 1. This year, our interviews will be held on Thursday 16 February 3:30pm - 6:45pm in the school library. These interviews are a chance for you to meet with the teachers and provide them with any important information about your child. Please book in a time with your child's teacher tonight at the Welcome BBQ or call the front office to book an interview from 9:00am Thursday 9 February to 3:00pm Wednesday 15 February.

Finally, if you would like to meet with us to further discuss your child's learning at any other stage of the year, please don't hesitate to make an appointment. We can be contacted via the front office or via email:

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Kind Regards,

David Combe, Ellen Christou, Janine O'Keefe and Jen Hearne  
Year 3 Teachers