

**Principal: Jennifer Hall**

## **Term One Overview, 2019**

### **Year 4**

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 in the year 4 classes and we are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. We have commenced 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 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**

In year 4 students will create a variety of structured texts to explain ideas for different audiences. In particular, they will focus on drafting and publishing narrative texts using relevant structures, language features and expanded use of their vocabulary. The students will be exploring the Dr Suess book *The Lorax* to analyse narratives and sustainability themes as inspiration for their own writing.

Everyday students enter the classroom to read for 30 minutes as part of the schoolwide vision to encourage a love of reading, practise reading strategies independently and to promote fluency when reading. The year 4 team has a differentiated reading program to teach explicit reading strategies and offer opportunities to practice those strategies. We encourage students to take a reading book from class or borrow a book from the school library and read every night to someone at home.

During English we encourage students to discuss and share their ideas. We also offer opportunities for students to respond to others' viewpoints and express an opinion based on information explored in class. Students will prepare presentations on important issues surrounding sustainability.

### **Mathematics**

Students have commenced the term exploring place value beyond 1000 and will continue to revisit this throughout the year. Students have also participated in a variety of games which encourage recall of multiplication facts to 10x10. The year 4 team will also teach and practice strategies for calculations involving multiplication and division with students. As the term progresses, the students will be measuring a variety of objects and learn to measure temperatures and the length of shapes and objects. Students will also be exploring symmetry as part of a mini unit on shapes. They will be constructing graphs using data including our W@M point tallies and other types of data. We will be using graphs to present some information involving our sustainability unit and will discuss the effectiveness of different graph types this term.

### **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.

The W@M token is our agreed upon 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, Learners.

### **Inquiry Unit**

This term year 4 students will be engaging in a weather unit with a focus on sustainability. Students will be presenting information about the Earth's climate which will incorporate knowledge and understandings from science and geography. They will use this knowledge to design a sustainability car that will contribute to solving a world problem. In week 1, year 4 briefly explored what it means to be part of this amazing country of ours. As part of the school's Harmony Day celebration in Week 7, year 4 will be working on a mini assignment researching their families' journey to Australia. We will be focusing on the connections they have to their family's original country and how these connections influence them today. Students will then present their findings to their peers.

### **The Arts**

The Arts enables children to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. In Visual Arts students will be encouraged to explore ideas using a range of art mediums including drawing, oil pastels and sculpture. Year 4 students will attend a specialist visual arts and music lesson each week with Fabio Fabbo for 45 minutes. They will make and respond to both visual art pieces and music independently and collaboratively with their peers. In art, students will be making images relating to a variety of Latin-American/Pre-Colombian images into original art works. In music, students will use their voice, glockenspiels and bongos to develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns. To further expand on 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 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.

### **Spanish Language and Culture**

In Spanish this term year four will be learning simple verbs and using language that is specific to the classroom. We will be focusing on learning language that enables students to participate in everyday classroom exchanges such as responding to and asking questions. This term our involvement with the Uruguayan Embassy and our Sister School program will involve 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 4 students will continue to have a 45-minute library session every Thursday. Norma John is our specialist teacher librarian for 2019. In these sessions the children are introduced to a variety of different books, authors and genres, and we provide time for each child to become a regular borrower. Please assist your child in remembering to bring their library bag every week. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

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

Every week for 45 minutes the students will be participating 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 together showing team work and sportsmanship. Fitness is also an important aspect of PE, the students will participate in the beep test and the scores will be recorded to show the students' progress throughout the year.



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Activities such as the Fitness Alphabet will also be used to demonstrate to the students the correct technique and give them ideas of ways to stay fit and healthy in their own time. Locomotor skills such as skipping will be learned as well.

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

The annual Swimming Carnival will be held in Week 6, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, at the Dickson Aquatic Centre. Notes have already been sent home so if you have not received one please contact the Front Office.

## 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

Year 4

Cameron Ryan, Georgia Starling, Mark Strutt and Hope Auth

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