

**Principal: Jennifer Hall**

## **Term One Overview, 2019** **Year 5**

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. 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 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**

#### Writing

In writing students will be exploring the genres of persuasion and narrative. In our persuasive writing lessons students will pose questions, conduct debates, research, note take and create persuasive texts to share. In our narrative lessons students will examine how language features, images and vocabulary influence interpretations of characters, settings and events. In all writing lessons, students will be creating written pieces for different purposes and always for an audience. During spelling we will explore suffixes, prefixes, synonyms, common endings, compound words and common spelling rules. Our focus is always on the transference of these skills into our daily writing.

#### Reading

In reading students will explore how to decode unfamiliar words using phonic, grammatical and contextual knowledge. They will analyse and explain literal and implied information from a wide variety of texts. Students will also describe how events, characters and settings in texts are depicted and explore their own personal responses to them. We will begin each day with 20 minutes of uninterrupted reading, in addition to our explicit daily reading lessons.

#### Speaking and Listening

Our speaking and listening program is based on the development of active contribution to class and group discussions. Students will consider the perspectives of others and demonstrate active listening skills during group work and individual presentations. We will incorporate real audience opportunities when sharing our learning. At the end of every writing lesson, students are asked to share in pairs, small groups and whole class situations, inviting feedback and discussions. These authentic experiences allow for our students to be both speaker and listener each day.

### **Mathematics**

#### Number and Algebra

Students will be exploring problems involving the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They check the reasonableness of answers using estimation and rounding. Students will identify and describe factors and multiples. They identify and explain strategies for finding unknown quantities in number sentences involving the four operations. We will begin each maths session with a mental maths warm up where we consolidate previous learning before moving to new learning. We use challenging timed activities, games and group investigations to explore number and algebra which are both engaging and designed to extend our thinking around numbers.

#### Measurement and Geometry

Students will explore and connect three dimensional objects with their two-dimensional representations. They will also describe transformations of two-dimensional shapes and identify line and rotational symmetry. When exploring measurement, we will be using a real life challenge to run the distance of Australia by measuring and calculating the distances between each capital city. We will connect this with our measurements of our daily run and record results.

### Statistics and Probability

Students will interpret different data sets. They will also list outcomes of chance experiments with equally likely outcomes and assign probabilities between 0 and 1. Students pose questions to gather data, and construct data displays appropriate for the data.

### **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 five students will be exploring the Eureka Stockade. Throughout this unit we will explore understandings of this significant period in Australia's history. We will research the gold rush, its impact on Australia's democracy and the many changes which resulted from this event. This will all culminate in our end of term exhibition for parents where our students share their learning. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

### **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 variety of mediums, including paints, textures, colour, line and form and construction of 3D images. Our art unit this term is linked to our inquiry, with students producing art pieces to form a mini art gallery in our unit. This will be shared with families as part of our inquiry exhibition at the end of term one.

### **ICT**

Students have access to chrome books 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 five will be learning simple verbs and using language that is specific to the classroom. We will be focusing on practising language that enables students to participate in everyday classroom exchanges and sharing information about self and others. 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 5 students will continue to have a 45 minute library session every Tuesday for 5MJ and 5BN and every Friday for 5MS. 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 focussing on many different skills such as fair play and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play these games showing team work and sportsmanship. The students will learn the correct rules and techniques surrounding Soccer this term. Fitness is also an important aspect of PE, the students will participate in the beep test, the scores will be recorded to show each student's the student's progress throughout the year. Activities such as the Fitness Alphabet will 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. We will also walk the



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Cross-Country track and practise 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.

## **Kitchen Garden**

This term Year 5 students will participate in hands on Kitchen Garden sessions introducing students to the fruits, vegetables and herbs growing in the gardens. We will be working on establishing routines and safety measures to ensure the correct use of equipment. As produce from the garden is harvested, students will learn about healthy food choices and different ways to prepare and cook food to ensure a balanced diet. Kitchen Garden sessions teach students to access and interpret health information and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. To help your child please ensure they wear a hat every day as the lessons are usually conducted outside.

## **Other Happenings**

Towards the end of this term we will hold our open afternoon exhibition for our inquiry unit this term which parents and carers will receive an invitation to. We will also have a Constable Kenny visit on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, as part of our learning about cyber safety this term.

## **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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