

## **Term Two Overview, 2019**

### **Kindergarten**

Dear families

Welcome back to term 2 Kindergarten at Macgregor Primary School. We trust you had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting term of learning. We continue to look forward to working in partnership with you to provide your children with enjoyable, motivating and purposeful learning experiences. The following information outlines our learning program for term 2, special dates and housekeeping reminders.

#### **English**

##### Writing

This term we are continuing to encourage students to 'have a go' with their writing by writing the letters that represent the sounds they hear in words, consonant vowel consonant (CVC) words and known high frequency words. We will continue to use songs, actions, fine motor activities and games to teach the letters and sounds of the alphabet and further develop literacy skills. We will be learning about how to use our writing to recount basic events and stories.

##### Reading

In our rich literacy program children will continue to take part in a range of reading activities related to all areas of the curriculum. They have begun developing the early reading strategies of using picture cues, identifying initial sounds, understanding concepts of print and comprehending what has been read. This term, we will be focusing on predicting, sounding out, the retelling of events and asking questions of what has been read.

##### Speaking and Listening

Kindergarten are continuing to practise their speaking and listening skills through a variety of learning experiences. These will provide students with opportunities to develop their oral language skills and increase their vocabulary and fluency when speaking. Throughout the coming terms your child will have the chance to take home their 'class pet'. On return, the students will present the adventures they shared with the class pet to an audience. Audience members will continue to practise how to be a respectful listener, continue to identify quality questions to elicit more information from the speaker and understand the difference between questions, statements and commands.

#### **Mathematics**

##### Number and Algebra

This term, daily mathematics lessons will focus on number awareness where we will explore the names, quantities, symbols and order of numbers to 20 and beyond. Comparisons will be made between collections using the terminology of 'more', 'less', 'same as' and 'not the same as'. Students will develop their knowledge of subitising (instant recognition of quantity of objects) to 10.

### Measurement and Geometry

In measurement, we will compare objects using informal measurements for mass, length and capacity. Following on from last term, students will continue to explore days, weeks and months by explaining, connecting and ordering daily events.

### **W@M Wednesdays**

This term our Wellbeing at Macgregor (W@M) lessons will focus on developing resilience and managing our emotions. We will identify and describe the different feelings we may experience at any given time and how to deal with these. These are not isolated lessons, and the W@M principles and BRICK values will continue to be integrated into all aspects of our culture and learning at Macgregor. 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 desired behaviours. The W@M token/ticket is our agreed 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 each week. Students work towards earning W@M badges when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners.

### **Inquiry learning – Geography and Science**

The big idea of our integrated inquiry learning is that we all have our place in the world and we learn about each other. During geography we are building knowledge of the different places people live, their familiar features and why they are important to us. Our science unit is called 'What's it made of?' during which we will investigate and categorise different materials into natural and man-made.

### **The Arts**

Kindergarten students will attend a specialist visual arts and music lesson each week with Fabio Fabbo for 45min. They will engage in a range of activities and tasks toward completing their major art works based on cloud images and a range of creative characters and landscapes. Students will also respond to music individually and collaboratively with their peers. They will engage in music by using their voice, instruments and body percussion to progress through their aural skills by experimenting with and reproducing sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns. To expand upon these concepts, students will explore various instruments and how they can be used to compose a simple musical piece.

### **Technologies**

This term kindergarten students will continue to engage in a range of learning experiences, involving the access to iPads and other digital technologies. Students will learn the basic skills required to effectively operate and utilise these resources. All classrooms at Macgregor have Interactive Whiteboards (IWB) to enhance lessons and students understanding of a particular topic.

### **Spanish - Language and Culture**

In Spanish this term for Kindergarten we will be learning how to carry out simple exchanges in the Spanish classroom and follow simple instructions in Spanish. We will be listening to stories that focus on repetitive language structures to familiarise ourselves with the Spanish language. This term our involvement with the Uruguayan Embassy and our Sister School program will involve the Spanish readathon, El Día de los libros.

### **Library**

Kindergarten students will have a 45-minute library session with Norma John our specialist teacher librarian, every Monday (KLO and KRB) or Wednesday (KMG and KEB). This term will be a big focus on the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) and the Shortlisted books for 2019. Specifically, Kindergarten will read and do activities around the Early Childhood and Picture Book of the Year categories. Please remember that books are borrowed from the Library and returned every week with a library bag. Please follow this link to learn more about the [Shortlisted Books for](#)

[2019](#). Could you please ensure that the library bag is reusable and water proof (a plastic bag is suitable). We also ask that your child's library bag is separate to your child's home reading bag. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

### **Health and Physical Education**

In health this term, students will recognise how their bodies are growing and changing, and the impact of food on their development. They will identify choices to keep themselves healthy and active, and group foods into 'sometimes' and 'everyday' choices. Every week for 45 minutes as part of specialist rotations, the children 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 part 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 the skills of throwing and catching. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a drink bottle and wear a hat every day.

### **Seesaw**

This term the kindergarten teachers will continue to use Seesaw to showcase your child's learning. Students will be given the opportunity to use the iPads and share their own learning in addition to the posts of the classroom teacher. Doing this will mean more of your child's voice and ideas are incorporated into their posts. If you are having difficulties 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 question or enquire about other school information, please email or contact the front office via phone.

### **Friendly Reminders;**

- Learning starts at 9.00am. If your child arrives after 9.10am please ensure they are accompanied by a carer to the front office to sign in prior to coming to class.
- If you collect your child before 3pm please sign your child out at the front office before collecting them from the classroom.
- Children are ready to be collected at 3:00pm from their kindergarten classrooms. For the safety of all children we ensure children are handed over to their parent/carers. We ask the children to sit on the carpet in their room until the teacher has seen you and called your child's name. Please do not take your child without the teacher knowing they are leaving.
- Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:10pm will be taken to the front office so parents/carers can be contacted.
- If your child is absent from school please call the Front Office on 6142 1600, email [info@macgregorps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@macgregorps.act.edu.au) or use the Macgregor School App and your class teacher will be informed.
- Please remember to label all clothing and belongings. Any named lost property is returned to the child. All unnamed items will be placed in the lost property box located outside the uniform shop.
- The weather is very variable in Canberra. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, a SunSmart hat, sunscreen applied before school and enough food and water for a whole day of learning.
- At Macgregor we promote healthy eating. 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
- We ask that your child's drink bottle only has water in it.

- The TuckaBox (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Wednesdays Flexischools orders only, no cash).
- At Macgregor Primary School (specifically in Kindergarten) there are several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts, nut products, seafood and other food allergies. To create a safe and healthy environment for all our students and staff we ask that children do not bring any products that contain nuts and seafood to school.
- If you wish to bring in food products to celebrate your child's birthday, please check in with your child's teacher beforehand.
- All toys and precious items should remain at home to avoid interruptions to learning time and items getting lost or broken. If your child has a cuddly toy that they are particularly attached to and they cannot make it through the day without it, please talk to your class teacher about this and arrangements can be made to support your child.
- We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns that you may have involving your child. We are available some afternoons after class to chat, otherwise please make an appointment with us by emailing the front office.
- The whiteboard outside the kindergarten unit, near the junior playground, will regularly have messages from the kindergarten teachers and copies of notes that have been sent home.
- Access to the classroom is not available before 9:00. We encourage 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
- 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
- If you would like to volunteer in our kindergarten unit we would appreciate your help. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to arrange a time. The ACT Education Directorate requires 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) are required to apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. The process is easy and the front office staff are always available to help.

Kind regards

Meagan Gordon, Edward Bassanelli, Rebecca Bull, Lyndsey Orchard, Jaspreet Kaur and Tracey Liddle

[meagan.gordon@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:meagan.gordon@ed.act.edu.au)

[edward.bassanelli@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:edward.bassanelli@ed.act.edu.au)

[rebecca.bull@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.bull@ed.act.edu.au)

[lyndsey.orchard@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:lyndsey.orchard@ed.act.edu.au)

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