

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term 1 Overview 2017 Year 5

Dear Families

8 February 2017

Welcome back, we hope you had a safe and happy holiday break. Millie Butt and Willa McIntyre have moved to Year 5 and would like welcome James Orr to Macgregor. We have had a fantastic start to the year and are excited about all the learning we have planned. Everyone has settled in to our new classrooms and we are getting to know our new Year 5 students.

English

We have designed a balanced literacy program as determined by the content descriptors from the Australian Curriculum.

We will continue to use a Reader's Workshop framework to develop the skills needed to be life-long readers. This term we will focus on increasing our reading stamina and using our journals to record our thoughts and observations while reading. We will be reviewing different comprehension strategies required for competent independent reading. Students will have the opportunity to choose their own books and will also be introduced to a variety of genres during class discussions.

Students will be exploring the 'Hamburger Model' as a generic text frame. We will look at persuasive texts in detail. Students will have the opportunity to look at a variety of texts written to persuade and to explore the structure and significance of powerful statements, hooks and word choice. They will work on structuring their writing, with an emphasis on developing their opinion with strong supporting statements and use of descriptive language and other literary devices. Students will learn to analyse strategies that authors use to influence readers. Explicit instruction will be given on how to edit their own and other's work using agreed criteria.

In addition the 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.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra - The focus this term will be on addition and subtraction strategies to five digits. Students will also begin rounding numbers to the nearest hundred and thousand. Estimation forms a part of the addition and subtraction focus when checking answers. Students will also be looking at a range of multiplication and division strategies and how decimal fractions and common fractions are linked.

Measurement and Geometry – This unit will be focusing on calculating elapsed time and looking at different units of time.

Statistics and Probability – Students will be exploring chance and data, given the opportunity to collect data and represent it in a range of graphs.

PE and Health

Students will focus on employing a range of fundamental motor skills in a variety of different modified games and sports. These will include throwing and catching, forehand strike and kicking. The students will also demonstrate ethical behaviour and fair play that aligns with rules when participating in a range of physical activities.

Science

Students will be focusing on Desert Survivors for our first science topic this year. This involves exploring animals living in particular environments and how they adapt to their environments in order to survive.

Geography

In geography, students will look at climatic zones within Australia and describe the characteristics of places in different climate zones.

Visual Arts and Performing Arts

This year visual and performing arts will be taught by Ms Christine Trull in collaboration with classroom teachers. In term 1, classroom teachers will focus on visual arts. Students will link their artwork to geography by creating a climate zone scene using different techniques and mediums.

Wellbeing at Macgregor

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.

Housekeeping

Fruit break – Each day at approximately 10:00am students will have fruit break. This is an opportunity for the students to give their brains a boost to help them concentrate through until the lunch break. Students will need to bring fresh fruit, which is easy for them to manage and eat in approximately ten minutes. We have already seen lots of students remembering to bring their fresh fruit, and there has been a great variety of fruit and vegetables coming in. Other food, such as yoghurt, cheese and biscuits need to be eaten at either recess or lunch.

Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. To assist with creating a safe and healthy environment for all our students and staff we ask that children do not bring any nuts or nut products to school for recess or lunch.

Camp

Camp for the year 5 students will be in term 3 2017. Students will be focussing on clear links to the history curriculum and participating in activities such as gold panning and learning about life on the goldfields. In order to be well organised and to allow parents time to budget for camp, notes and permissions will be sent home well in advance.

'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.

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Thank you. We look forward to a successful term of learning.

Willa McIntyre, James Orr and Millie Butt