

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term One Overview, 2019 **Year 6**

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

Our literacy program has been planned to assist the students develop knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing.

Writing

With an initial focus on narratives and descriptive language, students will create detailed texts elaborating on key ideas for a range of purposes and audiences. 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.

Students will explore a variety of spelling patterns and word origins, including some Latin and Greek roots, base words, prefixes, suffixes, letter patterns and spelling generalisations to spell new words.

Reading

Every day at Macgregor the whole school starts the day by reading for twenty minutes. This is a time for all students to practise the technical skills of reading such as particular reading comprehension strategies. Teachers will be conferencing with individual students during this time, working on ways to advance their reading skills. Please ensure your child is at school by 9:00 am so that they do not miss this valuable reading instruction and practice time.

Students in years 3-6 should be reading every night. Please take a few moments each day to talk to your child about what they are reading and how they are making connections to other texts or their own lives.

Speaking and Listening

Students will participate in discussions, develop and support arguments, share and evaluate a variety of information, experiences and opinions.

Mathematics

Our focus for this term will be recognising the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers and exploring the use of integers in everyday contexts. Each day students will complete Numeracy Ninja and Five-Minute Frenzy Drills to develop a quick recall of basic facts and build mental computation strategies.

Students will record and interpret data relating to weather and weather events. They will explore statistical information and measurement as part of our investigation of Natural Disasters.

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.

The Arts

The Arts enables children to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. Year 6 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 combined images based on the theme of 'metamorphosis'. In music, students will use their voice, ukuleles and keyboards 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 students 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 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 6 students will continue to have a 45minute library session every Monday. 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 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



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test, the scores will be recorded to show each 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 about ways to stay fit and healthy in their own time. We will also walk the 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.

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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