



## Term 1 Overview 2017 Year 6

Dear Families

8 February 2017

Welcome back, we hope you had a safe and happy holiday break. Renee Waters and Nicole Carney are continuing on Year 6 this year and we are both very excited about it.

In this letter we will briefly explain some of the engaging programs that will be happening this term, as well as inform you of a few changes and housekeeping matters to support you and your child's return to school for a new term.

### English

This term our reading focus will be based on the "Reader's Workshop" programme. Reader's Workshop allows students to analyse their chosen text while discussing the author's deliberate decisions in composing the book, and has a strong link to comprehension strategies. Students will be exploring writing to instruct and speech writing. Students will have the opportunity to look at the different structural and language features of writing. They will work on how to make their writing include more descriptive language and how to effectively engage an audience. We will also have a big focus on the ways in which they can edit their writing and apply teacher/peer feedback constructively.

### Mathematics

This term in mathematics we will have a focus on effective strategies when solving four operation problems. Students will use 'Middle Years Mental Computation' testing in addition, to identify their next steps. The unit will also look at the inverse relationship between Addition/Subtraction and Multiplication/Division. We will be examining various forms of data and interpreting this information to form analysis. The students will be applying these skills to the current unit in Science, by collecting, graphing and interrupting experiment data.

### Social Skills and Health

This term we will continue to focus on our Social and Emotional Learning program incorporating Growth Mindset and the Mind Up curriculum. The students will develop skills in building greater resilience and acquire strategies in order to better cope with situations that arise. In addition this term, the school will also continue to focus on mindfulness activities. Research shows that daily mindfulness supports students to develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.

### Physical Education

Classroom teachers will be working collaboratively with our specialist PE teacher to further develop fundamental motor skills of kicking, throwing, running, dodging, catching and leaping activities. We will

focus our lessons around these skills through cooperative games. A major focus for these games will be team work and building successful relationships.

## **Science**

This term we will have a science focus on the Primary Connections programme “Change Detectives”. Students will be exploring the concepts of evaporation, dissolving, burning and chemical reactions through a series of collaborative inquiry-based learning activities. We will investigate the factors that influence the rate of change, developed through hands-on activities and student-planned investigations. Students will aim to explain physical and chemical changes in everyday materials.

## **Technology**

This year we will be continuing to utilise Chrome Books and Google Apps for Education (GAFE) as a key component in our approach to develop collaborative skills and integrate technology. In addition, this term students will engage in an embed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) learning program. We will buddy up with year 2 students to initially develop basic digital literacy skills. Once these skills have been firmly established, other digital based STEAM concepts can be explored such as Coding, Web design, Graphic design and 3D modeling.

## **Visual Arts and Performing Arts**

This term in art we will focus on 2D visual art, making connections to our Mindfulness unit. This will include work around patterns, mosaics, complementary colours and Zen tangle. The Zen tangle method is a relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. It increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction along with an increased sense of personal wellbeing.

## **Housekeeping**

### Visual and Performing Arts, PE and Spanish

Our specialist visual and performing arts, PE and Spanish lessons will continue to be on Tuesdays and will be in the morning session. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing for PE and dance.

### Library

This term our Library session will be in the afternoon on Thursday's. At this time students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library.

### W@M – 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.

### Welcome BBQ and '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.

## GAFE Parent Information Session

In week 4 of this term, we will be running an hour long information session to support families in understanding the way in which our students are using this technology at school and how it can be utilised at home.

Date: Thursday, Week 4, 23 February 2017

Time: 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Venue: Library

Finally, if you would like to meet with us to further discuss your child's learning, please don't hesitate to make an appointment. We can be contacted via the front office or email:

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[nicole.carney@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:nicole.carney@ed.act.edu.au)

Kind Regards

Renee Waters and Nicole Carney

Year 6 Teachers