

Term One Overview, 2020

Year 2

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 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 developing 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

Students have started working on writing procedural texts. Next we will learn to write to socialise which will include letter writing, invitations and post cards. Throughout the term students will explore authors' purpose, text structure and language features. Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on accurately spelling words with regular spelling patterns alongside words with less common long vowel patterns.

Reading

When reading students will be learning to read less predictable texts with phrasing and fluency. We will continue to build on the ability to use reading strategies such as monitoring meaning, predicting, rereading and self-correcting. These strategies will aid in developing literal and inferred meaning.

Speaking and Listening

While interacting with peers and teachers, students will listen for specific information, including instructions, and use interaction skills to initiate topics, make positive statements and voice disagreement in an appropriate manner.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

We will have a strong focus on place value and an increasing understanding of our number system. Students will develop fluency with numbers, counting in sequences of twos, threes, fives and tens and recognise, order and represent numbers to 1000. During the second half of the term students will be developing a range of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems as well as investigate the connection between addition and subtraction. Students will be involved in daily activities which will allow them to explore and practise these concepts, by modelling and solving problems with a strong emphasis on real life contexts.

Measurement and Geometry

The focus in term 1 will be on geometry. Students will describe and draw 2D shapes and describe the features of 3D objects. They will investigate the effect of one-step slides and flips of shapes and match these transformations with their original shape. Finally, they will learn to identify and describe half and quarter turns.

W@M [Wellbeing at Macgregor] Wednesdays

On Wednesdays 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 school culture and learning. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours we want to see in our classrooms. They are compatible with the theory of Positive Behaviour for Learning. 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 each week. Students work towards earning W@M new and exciting tangible rewards when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners.

Inquiry Units

Geography

In geography we will be exploring, 'The story of my place.' Throughout this unit we will learn about the features that define places and recognise that places can be described at different scales. The children will learn that the world can be divided into major geographical divisions.

Science

We will be exploring different materials through a learning unit titled, 'All mixed up.' Throughout this unit we will explore understandings of how and why different materials can be combined for a particular purpose. Students will demonstrate an ability to observe, record and describe changes to objects and materials.

The Arts

Year 2 students will attend a specialist visual arts lesson each Wednesday with Paula Charles. They will make and respond to visual art pieces independently and collaboratively. In art, students will transform images of people, pets and other animals into original art works.

ICT

Students have access to Chromebooks this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. All classrooms at Macgregor have Interactive Whiteboards to enhance lessons and student understanding, along with consolidating ICT skills. Please complete and return the ICT Third Parties permission note to ensure your child has permission to use all the ICT learning tools.

Spanish Language and Culture

In Spanish this term we will be learning how to greet and farewell each other, as well as being able to introduce ourselves. We will explore ways to express how we look, use the Spanish alphabet and begin to build our vocabulary. We will use language that is specific to the classroom, learning phrases and the names of classroom objects. Our learning will include songs and visual cues to explore and experiment with Spanish, and to start to become accustomed to listening to the Spanish language.

Library

They will read quality children's literature, borrow books for their class and to take home. Children will also learn about how a library works, how to find information and how to use the library systems for themselves. A library bag is needed to protect the books between home and school and can vary from a purchased or handmade one to a plastic school bag. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Each day students will participate in a fundamental movement skills program. Focusing on catching, kicking, running and vertical jumping. These movement skills are the 'building blocks' for most movement patterns in sport. Students receive explicit instruction and the opportunity to practise through a range of games and activities. 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 year we will continue to use Seesaw to showcase your child's learning. Seesaw is an application available for electronic devices such as mobile phones and tablets. It is free to sign up and allows only you to access your child's profile. By now you will have received an invitation with a QR code and instructions on how to sign up. If you are having difficulties signing up or 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 questions or enquire about other school information, please email or contact the front office via phone.

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 In the event of your child being absent, please send in a written note to your child's teacher, call the front office on 6142 1600 or send an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au.
- 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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