

Term One Overview, 2020

LSG

Dear Families,

Welcome to an exciting Term 1. Below is an outline of our curriculum for this semester. We have had a fabulous start to the learning year and are very impressed with the way our students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. 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

Students in the three LSG classes will participate daily in activities and explicit lessons to guide and expand their knowledge and understanding of literacy at their individual levels. LSGMG will focus on identifying their name, writing their name and recognising the letters of the alphabet and the associated sounds. LSGPS and LSGTW will consolidate their use of compound sentences. Both classes will review the different types of words and letter patterns to assist with spelling and reading.

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 using particular reading comprehension strategies. This will take various form across the three classes including, reading to another, reading to self, listening to reading, reading to identify weekly spelling patterns in texts and literacy investigations focusing on reading fundamentals. 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 should be reading or being read to 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 various oral language experiences that include discussions, sharing and evaluating a variety of information, experiences and opinions.

Mathematics

Our focus for this semester is number. LSGMG will also investigate 2D shapes in our environment and use this knowledge to create art works. LSGPS will focus on multiplication facts and strategies. LSGTW will consolidate their understanding of fractions, introducing decimal fractions whilst investigating the connection to division.

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. They will make and respond to both visual art pieces and music independently and collaboratively with their peers. In art, students will be making art pieces relating to a variety of combined images based on our enquiry units. In music, students will use their voice, and drums, to develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns.

ICT

All students in the LSG have access to iPads for educational applications. The senior students will also be given the opportunity to use Chromebooks. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. We also encourage the children to use the online reading programs 'Reading Eggs' and 'Mathseeds'. 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

As with previous years the LSG do not attend Spanish as a specialist class. If you would like your child to attend Spanish lessons, please let their teacher know and we will organise for them to join a peer class.

Library

LSGPS and LSGTW students will continue to have a 45-minute library session on Wednesdays. At this stage LSGMG will attend on Tuesday middle session with kindergarten. Norma John is our specialist teacher librarian for 2020. 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

Physical education sessions will focus on fundamental movement skills, fair play and co-operation. 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.



Education and Training

MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall



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
- 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 library where there will be supervision. Access to classrooms is not available prior to 9:00 am and children are asked to take their bags to the library rather than the classroom as teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings at this time.
- 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, Seesaw 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

Kind regards,

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