

Term One Overview, 2020

Year 3

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

Writing

In writing this term students will be focusing on the language features and structure of persuasive and narrative writing. Explicit instruction on the language features of persuasions and narratives will inform part of this learning. Students will be given daily opportunities to write including a writer's notebook. In this book they will complete writing tasks to generate ideas and help to inspire them to become better writers.

Reading

Every morning from 9-9:30am students read their own choice books. During this time teachers conference with students and have them read aloud to practise reading with expression. This is done both individually and in small groups. Students will also be explicitly taught strategies to assist them in becoming better readers. Our focus in Term 1 for those strategies will be monitoring, making connections, questioning and inferencing. In addition, students will be introduced to the skill of answering comprehension questions on a variety of text types. Students will use both teacher lead texts and their own choice when practising their comprehension skills.

Speaking and Listening

In Term 1 students will use a variety of mediums to practise their speaking and listening skills. This will be reading aloud their written work, using puppets to speak as different people and reading aloud texts both in small groups and to the whole class. Our aim with all of these tasks is to have students practise their pitch, tone and speed to allow others to understand them.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

Students have begun our number unit with a strong focus on place value. This sets the foundation for understanding our number system. Students will develop fluency with numbers and recognise, order and represent numbers to 10 000. During the second half of the term students will be working on developing a range of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems, and investigate the connection between addition and subtraction. Students will have daily practise in exploring and practising these concepts, including vertical algorithms, mental computation strategies and word problems.

Measurement and Geometry

The focus this term will be on time. Students will learn how to recognize that there are 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute.

Statistics and Probability

Students will be looking at chance and data. Students will be conducting repeated trials of chance experiments such as tossing a coin or drawing a ball from a bag and identifying the variations between trials.

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 a new and exciting tangible reward when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners. This item will be launched later this term.

Inquiry Unit

This term students will be exploring night and day in science. They will investigate how cultural stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples explain the cyclic phenomena involving sun, moon and stars and how those explanations differ from contemporary science understanding. Students will also learn to recognise the sun as a source of light. In Geography, students will explore understandings of our global neighbours and take a virtual tour looking at the climates, settlement patterns and population characteristics of places, and how these effect communities, past and present.

ICT

Students have access to Chromebooks this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. Students will be introduced to cyber safety and appropriate use of technology at school. Please complete and return the ICT Third Parties permission note to ensure your child has permission to use all the ICT learning tools.

Library

Students in Year 3 will enjoy weekly library sessions run by their classroom teacher and the teacher librarian (Mrs John) during 2020. Students will engage with quality children's literature and be encouraged to read and borrow books from the library regularly. The set borrowing limit is 6 books at a time. We will also learn about the library layout, how it works, and finding books using Oliver LMS (in the library). Students need a library bag of any kind to help protect books when taking them home. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

Library Day- 3CR and 3TN - Tuesday 3WM- Wednesday

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Every week the students will be participating in a fundamental movement skills program. 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 practice through a range of games and activities. This term we will be focusing on the skills of fair play and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play games together showing teamwork and sportsmanship.

STEAM

STEAM refers to the learning areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. As a cross-curriculum subject it takes the principles of science and the analysis of mathematics and combines these with the design process of technology and engineering in the classroom. The STEAM focus for Year 3 during Term 1 will be the introduction of the core principles of coding and programming such as the development of defined rules and instructions guide robots and programs. Steve Jobs stated that “everybody... should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think.” Our introduction to coding will be through simple and enjoyable real-world activities and games. This will progress to incorporate the school’s new fleet of “Bee-Bots”, which will serve as a platform to introduce Scratch Jr on iPads.

Spanish

In Spanish this term we will be learning how to greet and farewell each other, as well as being able to introduce ourselves. By using tone, gestures and facial expressions we will explore ways to express how we look like, 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.

Visual Arts

The arts enable children to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. In visual arts students will be encouraged to explore ideas using various art techniques and mediums. Year 3 students will attend a specialist visual art lesson each week with Paula Charles, making and respond to visual art pieces independently and collaboratively with their peers. They will be looking at artists such as Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso and Henry Matisse with a focus on colour and shape. Students will experiment with collage, crayons, pastels and watercolour paint to create simple compositions.

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.

Other Happenings

Specialist- Specialist subjects will be held on Monday morning for Year 3.

Friendly Reminders;

- The weather is unpredictable 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 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.
- 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 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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