



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Jennifer Hall



Term One Overview, 2020

Year 4

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 in the Year 4 classes and we are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. We have commenced 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 your children and with you.

English

Writing

In Year 4 students will create a variety of structured texts to explain ideas for different audiences. They will focus on drafting and publishing informative texts using relevant structures, language features and expanded use of their vocabulary. The students will be creating texts linked to our HASS unit, Past and Present, as well as exploring the historical context of our Term 1 novel, *Tom Appleby: Convict Boy* by Jackie French.

Reading

Each day students enter the classroom to read for 30 minutes as part of the schoolwide vision to encourage a love of reading, practise reading strategies independently and to promote fluency when reading. The Year 4 team has a differentiated reading program to teach explicit reading strategies and offer opportunities to practise those strategies. We encourage students to take a reading book from class or borrow a book from the school library and read every night to someone at home.

Speaking and Listening

During English, we encourage students to discuss and share their ideas. We also offer opportunities for students to respond to others' viewpoints and express an opinion based on information explored in class. Students will prepare presentations on their understanding of how the lives of the children in the 1780/90s (both early colonial children, as well as Londoners) are different to theirs today.

Mathematics

Students have commenced the term exploring place value to at least tens of thousands and will continue to revisit this throughout the year. Students have also participated in a variety of games which encourage recall of multiplication facts to 10x10. The Year 4 team will also teach and practise strategies for calculations involving multiplication and division with students. As the term progresses, the students will be using scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and temperatures. Students will also be exploring symmetry as part of a mini unit on shapes. They will be constructing graphs using data from a range of sources. We will be using this knowledge of graphs to present some information involving our science unit and will discuss the effectiveness of different graph types.



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W@M Wednesdays

Each Wednesday after recess students will participate in explicit social emotional learning (SEL) lessons known as 'W@M Wednesdays'. These are not isolated lessons and W@M principles will 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 (PBL) when they are used to teach desired behaviours. 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. These items will be launched later in the term.

Inquiry Unit

This term, Year 4 students will be focusing on interactions between people, places and environments over time and the effects of these interactions. Specifically, students will explore European exploration and colonisation in Australia up to the early 1800s. They will also learn about life for Indigenous Australians pre-and post-European contact and consider the impact that contact had. In science, students will describe relationships that assist the survival of living things and sequence key stages in the life cycle of a plant or animal. As part of the school's Harmony Day celebration in Week 7, Year 4 will be working on a mini assignment researching their families' journey to Australia. We will be focusing on the connections they have to their family's original country and how these connections influence them today. Students will present their findings to their peers.

The 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 4 students will attend a specialist visual art lesson each week with Paula Charles. They will be looking at artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse and Vincent Van Gogh and using collage, paint, pastels, crayons and charcoal to create original artworks.

ICT

Students have access to chromebooks this year and 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.

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 4 during Term 1 will be to introduce the core principles of coding and programming including developing the skills to control robots and develop simple 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 include the school's new fleet of "Bee-Bots", before crossing to Scratch Jr on iPads, which will serve as a platform to introduce the Scratch language.



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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. 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.

Library

Students in year 4 will enjoy weekly library sessions run by their classroom teacher and teacher librarian Norma John during 2020. We will engage in quality children's literature and encourage children to read and borrow books from the library regularly. We be learning about library organisation, systems and protocols. Students will need to bring along a library bag of any kind (including plastic shopping bag) to help protect books going home in their bags.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Every week for 45 minutes, the students will be participating in a fundamental movement skills program with their class teacher. 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. 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. Fitness is also an important aspect of PE and the students will participate in the beep test and the scores will be recorded to show the students' progress throughout the year. Locomotor skills such as skipping will be learned as well.

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 healthy food and water for a whole day of learning
- Please label your child's possessions (hats, jumpers, stationery, lunch box, drink bottle etc.) to help us return lost items 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, or send a notification through the Macgregor Primary School App.



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- When 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) need to 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. We ask that you do not pack nuts or nut products for your child
- Children are to leave their bags at their assigned outdoor area until the bell and we seek your support to remind your child of this as teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings before 9am.

Kind Regards

Year 4

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February 2020