

Term 1 Overview 2017 Year 1

8 February 2017

Dear Families

Term 1, 2017 is here! We have had a great start to the year and it was wonderful to see such happy, bright little faces during the first week.

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. We hope this supports you and your child's return to school.

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.

'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 3:30-6:45pm 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.

Investigations

Our days this year will start with investigations. These are linked to all areas of the Australian Curriculum and offer the students an opportunity to explore and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the areas we are studying throughout the week. Investigations will run in the morning on Monday and then at various times regularly throughout the week.

English

Reading

This year we are using The Daily 5 to structure our balanced literacy program. The Daily 5 structure enables students to have choice about the order they complete planned and levelled learning activities. Students participate in whole class, short focused lessons before moving to complete their independent work. Students complete various literacy activities each day comprising of Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Word Work, and Listen to Reading. Whilst the students are engaging in these independent tasks, teachers will be conferencing one on one with students or in small groups for reading, writing and spelling areas of need.

Writing

Our social purpose for writing this term will be writing to recount. Students will learn how to include specific information (such as who, what, where, when, why and how) and to use signal words to sequence

their writing (such as first, next, or then). Students and teachers will together develop a success criteria and task rubrics for all to refer to when writing. We will also explore how writing changes for different purposes and different audiences.

Mathematics

Mathematics is divided into three content strands: number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. This term students will be ordering, writing and reading numbers to 100 and will explore the range of strategies to add and subtract. They will also be learning to measure and compare using informal units. Again, students will be involved in the creation of success criteria for these areas so that all students are aware of what they need to do in order to demonstrate proficiency.

Science

We will be building student's science inquiry skills and exploring chemical reactions in foods. By the end of the unit, students will be able to identify how and why chemical changes occur in various food products.

Physical Education and Health

Class PE activities provide students opportunities to use fundamental movement skills to improve coordination. Students will also be participating in rotations activities which focus on cooperation, team work and motor skills.

For our unit of work in health, Year One students are exploring Macgregor's Positive Behaviours for Learning, focusing on our expectations in the four areas of safety, respect, responsibility and learning. We will also explore friendships and bullying, including what we can do if we experience bullying. We define bullying as ongoing, targeted and intentional and we will use drama, role plays, stories and discussions to explore what bullying means and how we can combat it together.

The Arts

Year One students will be attending specialist art classes this with Christine Trull. Students will also be exploring the creative arts within our Investigations and participating in drama lessons within the year one timetable.

Specialist Program for Year One Classes

Specialist classes (Spanish, Art and PE) will occur every Monday after break 1. Please see the specialist term letter for further details. Library will be on Fridays so please ensure your child has a labelled library bag that they bring to school every Friday. In addition to our specialist PE classes on Monday, we will also be teaching short PE sessions throughout the week. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate shoes each day for physical activities.

Homework

Our homework program will focus on daily reading and using Reading Eggs at home. We request that you listen to your child read for at least five minutes each night and record their reading in their home reading log. When students have reached each goal, please send the log in for their teacher to sign and comment. Your child will be responsible for changing their take home books as needed. Please send in your child's reading bag to be changed when necessary. Parents can use the same reading folder as last year if you wish. Please send in reading folders as soon as possible so we can start our reading program. Reading Eggs log on details will be sent home shortly.

Housekeeping

- Please label your child's possessions (hats, jumpers, lunch boxes, water bottles etc.).
- The day's program starts at 9.00am after our morning assembly at 8.55am. 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, an email to your child's teacher or via notification through the Macgregor School App.

- At 10.00am every day we have a fruit break. We ask that children eat fresh fruit or vegetables only.
- Please remember to include a water bottle every day.
- We would appreciate it if toys are not brought to school. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
- We welcome assistance from parents and carers, please speak to your child's teacher if you think you may be able to volunteer. A roster will be placed outside of the unit as soon as we have settled in to our year and are ready for your help.

Kind Regards,

The Year One Team

Renee Sochacki (Monday to Thursday) Glennis Weatherstone (Friday)	Michelle Sochacki
renee.sochacki@ed.act.edu.au glennis.weatherstone@ed.act.edu.au	michelle.sochacki@ed.act.edu.au
Lyndsey Orchard	Ilse Arellano (Monday to Wednesday) Sally Stedman (Thursday and Friday)
lyndsey.orchard@ed.act.edu.au	Ilse.arellano@ed.act.edu.au sally.stedman@ed.act.edu.au