

Term 3 Overview 2018

Year 3/4

1 August 2018

Dear Families

Welcome to term three. We hope you had a wonderful, restful break.

Please read on to learn about our engaging term 3 program. This is designed to both inform and help you and your child to enter into term 3 smoothly and confidently.

English

This term the students are continuing to develop their comprehension skills in reading. In particular, we will be focusing on inferring meaning from the books we are reading as well as paying attention to punctuation when reading out loud. This helps with our fluency and expression. The students will be continuing with spelling groups where the focus is on prefixes and suffixes. The students will enhance their learning about root words, meanings and how prefixes and suffixes can change words. The students will continue to work on transferring spelling strategies to our everyday writing. During writing sessions, students will be exploring the structure of explanations. This will be done through a range of activities including drafting, editing and publishing. In addition, we will be having a big focus on the mechanics of writing, including using commas, speech marks, exclamation marks and question marks.

Every day at Macgregor the whole school starts the day by reading for fifteen minutes. This is a time for all students to practice the technical skills of reading such as particular reading comprehension strategies. Teachers will be conferencing with individual students during this time, working on ways to advance their reading skills. Please ensure your child is at school by 9:00 so that they do not miss this valuable reading instruction and practice time.

Mathematics

Throughout the term the students will continue to develop our mental computation skills with a particular focus on the times tables, division, fractions and decimals. We will also continue to consolidate our use of addition and subtraction strategies. Students will participate in activities such as small group work, paired work, hands on learning, Mathletics, math games and problem solving to support their learning. Our math lessons are structured with a mental math warm up, explicit teaching session, differentiated learning activities and a plenary (where we review and share our learning).

W@M Wednesdays

This term every class on a Wednesday after recess will be participating in explicit social emotional learning (SEL) lessons at the same time in what will be known as W@M Wednesdays. This is not an isolated lesson and W@M principles and the BRICK values will continue to be integrated into all aspects of our culture and learning. The first 5 weeks of term 3 we will have a whole school focus on antibullying workshops. Students will have the opportunity to voice any concerns they have in a safe space.

Physical Education

This term we will be focusing on developing our cooperation skills as well as our fundamental movement skills. We will be playing games, taking part in fitness challenges and modelling how to demonstrate great sportsperson ship.

Geography

In geography this term we will be investigating Australia and our surrounding neighbors. We will be mapping and researching various countries that are close to our nation.

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Inquiry

For our inquiry unit this term we will be exploring the history of Australia, including the First Fleet and early settlement. We will study European exploration and colonisation in Australia up to the early 1800s and life for Indigenous Australians pre- and post-contact.

Science

In science this term we will be looking at the properties of certain materials. Students will analyse materials and identify why certain materials are chosen for particular purposes. Our science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships as well as representing and communicating observations, ideas and findings using formal and informal representations.

Technology

Our focus for technology this term continues to be the integration of digital technology into various learning areas, including maths, geography, inquiry, literacy and science.

Housekeeping

Students need to bring fruit for our regular fruit break and they are asked to bring their water bottles in each day. They also need to remember to bring their hats to school from 1st August 2018.

Library is on Tuesdays so please ensure your child returns any overdue books and they can keep their library bag in their school bags for use every Tuesday.

In class, the students continue to have access to Google Classrooms where there are a number of activities to support your child's learning. Students can access these classrooms from home from the ACT Department of Education's digital backpack. Once there, students will need to log onto classrooms. Students use their ID number followed by @schoolsnet.act.edu.au and then their current password.

We look forward to being partners with you in another brilliant term of learning with your child.

Kind regards,

Simone Xirakis, Michelle Sochacki, Cameron Ryan, Edward Bassanelli, Cynthia Steenkamp, Millie Butt, Rebecca Naughton and Hope Auth.

Year 3/4 Teachers