

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term One Overview, 2020 Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to an exciting term one. We have had a fabulous start to the year and we are very impressed with the way our students have settled into their new classes. We have begun with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you'. We are focused on developing a nurturing, engaging and friendly learning culture and we have made class agreements, discussed expectations and set up some term one routines. Year Five is on our red timetable this year and will eat both lunch and recess after their play breaks.

As parents or carers, you have valuable knowledge of your child's individual interests, strengths and needs. If you haven't already done so, we would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to fill out the Student Profile sheet sent home last week to give us a head start on getting to know your child. We look forward to establishing a productive partnership with you and having a fantastic year with you all. Here is a general outline of the program of learning we have planned for Year Five this term:

English

Writing

In writing, students will be exploring the text types of persuasion and narrative. In our persuasive writing lessons students will pose questions, conduct debates, research, take notes and create texts to share. In our narrative lessons, students will examine how language features, images and vocabulary influence interpretations of characters, settings and events. In all writing lessons, students will be creating written pieces for different purposes and always for an audience. Spelling will be taught in the context of our reading and writing with a combination of explicit teaching and 'pressing the Pause button' to look at common spelling patterns. Our focus is always on being able to transfer these skills into our writing. In addition, we will soon commence regular handwriting lessons to assist our students to build their legibility and fine motor skills.

Reading

In reading students will explore how to decode unfamiliar words using phonic, grammatical and contextual knowledge. They will analyse and explain literal and implied information from a wide variety of texts. Students will also describe how events, characters and settings in texts are depicted and explore their own personal responses to them. We will begin each day with twenty minutes of uninterrupted reading, as part of our complete reading program.

Speaking and Listening

Our speaking and listening program is based on the development of active contribution to class and group discussions and will demonstrate active listening skills during group work and individual presentations. We will also incorporate real audience opportunities when sharing our learning. At the end of writing sessions, students will share in pairs, small groups or to the whole class, inviting feedback and discussion. These authentic experiences allow for our students to be both speaker and listener each day.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

We will start the year off by consolidating our students' understandings of the meanings of mathematical symbols and their relationship to English. We will focus on deep understanding of the place/value aspect of our number system and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, initially with whole numbers. They identify and explain strategies for finding unknown quantities and check the reasonableness of answers using estimation. We will begin each maths session with a mental maths warm up. We use challenging timed activities, games and group investigations which are both engaging and designed to extend thinking.

Measurement and Geometry

This term we will explore angles and two-dimensional shapes and their properties, including area and perimeter. We will also have a look at mapping in the context of our inquiry into Bushfires and Floods.

Statistics and Probability

Students will spend some time acquiring data which they will then find a way to represent in a way that makes it easy for the viewer to interpret and understand.

Inquiry Unit

This term Year Five students will be exploring Bushfires and Floods. We will investigate the impact of bushfires and floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond. This is a timely inquiry into climate and weather and the way that these events affect individuals, families and communities.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

This term we will be focusing on fitness and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play these games showing teamwork and good sporting behaviour. We will look at ways to stay fit and healthy in our own time. We will also walk the Cross-Country track and practise running so the students know what to do on the day. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a drink bottle and wear a hat every day.

Wellbeing at Macgregor (W@M) Wednesdays

On Wednesday afternoons, we will participate in explicit Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons. These are known as W@M Wednesdays. Our W@M principles of Respect, Responsibility, Safety, Learning and the BRICK values continue to be integrated into all parts of our culture and learning. We will use rewards to recognise individuals and the positive behaviours that we want to see in our classrooms. 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.

ICT

Each student in Year Five will have access to a dedicated Chromebook this year. Also, all of our classrooms at Macgregor have interactive whiteboards to enhance teaching and learning, 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.

Visual Art

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 5 will attend a specialist visual art lesson each week with Paula Charles. They will create art pieces inspired by varied artists and artistic movements and experiment with different materials and techniques. They will be looking at artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse and Vincent Van Gogh and using collage, paint, ink, pastels, crayons and charcoal to create original artworks.

Spanish Language and Culture

In Spanish this term we will recap greetings, farewells and introductions. We will begin with the vocabulary which communicates how our friends look, use the Spanish alphabet and build phrases to help with expression. Our learning will include the compilation of a list of phrases to be used in the classroom and practice phrases for both verbal and written forms. Songs will be included to assist in becoming accustomed to listening to and using the Spanish language.

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 5 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.

Library

Year Five students will come along to the school library each week throughout 2020 with their teacher and teacher librarian Norma John to develop further their appreciation for and love of reading, develop research skills and learning how to find their way around a library and online. It would be great if students would help to protect our library books by bringing along a library bag. Students are encouraged to change their reading books frequently as they read daily both at school and in the evenings at home.

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 and footwear for PE and the weather conditions, a SunSmart hat, and enough food and water for a whole day of learning.
- Please label your child's possessions (clothing, 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 at school (after 9:10), please ensure that they are signed in at the front office. When the 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) 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 day 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 9 am and we seek your support to remind your child. Teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings before 9am.

Kind regards

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