

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term One Overview, 2019 Kindergarten

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. This year the kindergarten teachers are Meagan Gordon, Edward Bassanelli, Rebecca Bull and Lyndsey Orchard. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and their families.

As parents you have valuable knowledge of your child's individual interests, strengths and needs. We look forward to establishing a positive and productive partnership with you. We have commenced the term with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you'. We are currently nurturing an engaging and friendly learning culture where class agreements have been made, expectations discussed, and term one routines are underway. We look forward to a fantastic year with you all.

English

Writing

This term we will use songs, actions, fine motor activities and games to teach the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Children will be encouraged and supported to 'have a go' with their writing.

Reading

In our rich literacy program children will take part in a range of reading activities related to all areas of the curriculum. We will be developing early reading strategies such as identifying initial sounds, understanding concepts of print and comprehending what has been read. In week 5 we will commence our Home reading program. You will have received a note regarding the requirement for each child to have a home reading bag. Please make the payment for this bag as soon as possible.

Speaking and Listening

Kindergarten are continuing to practise our speaking and listening skills using their 'All about me Bag'. Please encourage your child to bring in their bag if they have not done so already. This term the children will be learning how to present information about themselves to an audience and how to be a respectful audience member. We are learning to identify quality questions to elicit more information from the speaker and the difference between questions, statements and commands.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

This term, daily mathematics lessons will focus on number awareness where we will explore the names, quantities, symbols and order of numbers to 10 and beyond.

Measurement and Geometry

We will be learning to identify, sort and describe 2D shapes by their features in our indoor and outdoor environments. In measurement, we will learn about calendars, the days of the week and weather. Kindergarten children will explore informal units of measurement.

W@M Wednesdays

This term each Wednesday after lunch, 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 at Macgregor. 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 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 each week. Students work towards earning W@M badges when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners.

Inquiry Unit – History

The big idea of our integrated learning is that we all have our place in the world and we learn about each other. Your child will be exploring their personal and family histories such as where they were born, where they were raised and the difference in clothing and their culture. The students are learning the inquiry skills of questioning and communicating. will be starting with 'Who lives in your house(es) with you?' in order to learn about their family history. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity to share your history with your child.

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. Kindergarten students will attend a specialist visual arts and music lesson each week with Fabio Fabbo. They will make and respond to both visual art pieces and music independently and collaboratively with their peers. In art, students will be making cloud images into a range of creative characters and landscapes. In music, students will use their voice, instruments and body percussion to develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns. To further extend these concepts, students will experiment with different types of instruments and how they can be used to create a simple composition.

ICT

This year Kindergarten students will engage in a range of learning technologies and have access to iPads. All classrooms at Macgregor have Interactive Whiteboards to enhance lessons and student understanding and assist in the consolidation of ICT skills.

Spanish Language and Culture

In Spanish this term year 1 will be learning how to introduce ourselves and use the correct greetings for the time of day. We will be looking at the Spanish alphabet and comparing it to the English alphabet with music and visuals. We will be learning and using language that is specific to the classroom. This term our involvement with the Uruguayan Embassy and our Sister School program will involve the Spanish Readathon (El Día de los libros) and the Uruguayan carnival which traditionally happens over January and February. All students will be making a mask to wear at a carnival which will be held under the COLA on Thursday week 4.

Library

Kindergarten students will have a 45-minute library session with Norma John our specialist teacher librarian, every Monday (KLO and KRB) and Wednesday (KMG and KEB). In these sessions the children are introduced to a variety of different books, authors and genres, and we provide time for each child to become a regular borrower. Please assist your child in remembering to bring their library bag every week. Could you please ensure that the library bag is reusable and water proof (a plastic bag is suitable). We also ask that your child's library bag is separate to your child's home reading bag which will be handed out later in the term by your child's classroom teacher. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Every week Kindergarten students will be participating in a fundamental movement skills program with Bethany Taylor our PE specialist. Fundamental 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 daily explicit instruction and opportunities to practise these skills through a range of games and activities. This term we will be focusing on the skills of cooperation through games such as Hula Hoop Road Trip, and learning the fundamental movements of hopping, skipping, running and jumping. We will walk the cross-country track and practise running so the students are familiar with exactly what to do

during our cross country event. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a drink bottle and wear a hat every day.

Seesaw

This year the kindergarten team 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 question or enquire about other school information, please email or contact the front office via phone.

Friendly Reminders;

- Learning starts at 9.00am. If your child arrives after 9.10am please ensure they are accompanied by a carer to the front office to sign in prior to coming to class.
- If you collect your child before 3pm you are required to sign your child out at the front office before collecting them from the classroom.
- Children are to be collected at 3:00pm from their kindergarten classrooms. For the safety of all children we ensure children are handed over to their parent/carer. Children are to remain seated on the carpet in their room until the teacher has seen you and called your child's name. Please do not take your child without the teacher knowing they are leaving.
- Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:10pm will be taken to the front office so parents/carers can be contacted.
- If your child is absent from school please call the Front Office on 6142 1600, email info@macgregorps.act.edu.au or use the Macgregor School App and your class teacher will be informed.
- Please remember to label all clothing and belongings. Any named lost property will be returned to the child. All unnamed items will be placed in the lost property box located outside the uniform shop.
- The weather is very variable in Canberra. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, a SunSmart hat, sunscreen applied before school and enough food and water for a whole day of learning.
- At Macgregor we promote healthy eating. 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
- We would ask that your child's drink bottle only has water in it.
- The TuckaBox (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Wednesdays Flexischools orders only, no cash).
- At Macgregor Primary School (specifically in Kindergarten) there are several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts, nut products, seafood and other food allergies. To create a safe and healthy environment for all our students and staff we ask that children do not bring any products that contain nuts and seafood to school.
- If you wish to bring in food products to celebrate your child's birthday, please check in with your child's teacher beforehand.
- All toys and precious items should remain at home to avoid interruptions to learning time and items getting lost or broken. If your child has a cuddly toy that they are particularly attached to and they cannot make it through the day without it, please talk to your class teacher about this and arrangements can be made to support your child.
- We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns that you may have involving your child. We are available some afternoons after class to chat, otherwise please make an appointment with us by emailing the front office.
- The whiteboard outside the kindergarten unit, near the junior playground, will regularly have messages from the kindergarten teachers and copies of notes that have been sent home.
- Access to the classroom is not available before 9:00. We encourage 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

- 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
- If you would like to volunteer in our kindergarten unit we would appreciate your help. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to arrange a time. The ACT Department of Education requires 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) are required to apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. The process is easy and the front office staff are always available to help.

Kind regards,

Meagan Gordon, Edward Bassanelli, Rebecca Bull, Lyndsey Orchard, Jaspreet Kaur and Tracey Liddle

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