

Principal: Jennifer Hall

Term One Overview, 2019 Year 1

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. The teachers on year 1 this year are Renee Sochacki, Simone Xirakis, Gaye Yates, Jay Bartholomew and Charlotte Wood. 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 are looking at the genre of recount writing. We are beginning with students recounting their own experiences as well as recounting events from much loved books and exciting new stories.

Reading

We begin each day with sustained reading. Students have a selection of free choice library books and a number of home reading books in their book boxes to choose from. The green Macgregor Home Reading bags from last year should be brought to school each day so that home reading books can go home each night.

Speaking and Listening

Oral language skills will be developed in a number of ways including, speaking during whole class discussions and in targeted small groups. Talking about the lesson content will remain a focus. We will also concentrate on enhancing the awareness of volume, speaking at the appropriate tone for different environments.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

Our emphasis this term will be on numbers to 100 including recognition, forward and backward sequences and writing numerals and words. Place value will be a focus and we will concentrate on investigating tens/ones using concrete materials such as paddle pop sticks, tens frames and MAB blocks. Addition will be taught using strategies such as counting on, number lines and concrete materials

Measurement and Geometry

When learning about measurement the children will be using informal units to measure and compare familiar items. Two-dimensional shape will be the geometrical focus this term.

W@M Wednesdays

This term each Wednesday after recess, 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.

The Arts

Year 1 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, recorders and body percussion to develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns. To further expand on these concepts, students will experiment with different types of instruments and how they can be used to create a simple composition.

ICT

Year 1 students will engage in a range of learning technologies and have access to iPads and Chromebooks this year. We encourage the children to use a whole school online reading program called 'Reading Eggs'. Your child's password will be supplied by their classroom teacher. 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

Year 1 students will continue to have a 45-minute library session with Norma John our specialist teacher librarian, every Tuesday for 1CW and 1RS and every Friday for 1GY and 1JB. In these sessions they will read quality children's literature, learn about information literacy and borrow books to take home. Up to three books may be borrowed at a time and changed the following week. Please provide a library bag to protect the books. We ask that your child's library bag is separate to your child's home reading bag. Be sure to find some special time daily to read to or read with your child. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Every week the students will participate 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. These lessons form 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 fair play and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play games utilising team work and sportsmanship. The skills of locomotion will be learned through skipping and tagging games. We will walk the cross-country track and practice 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 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 question 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 sun smart hat, and enough food and water for a whole day of learning
- Please label your child's possessions (hats, jumpers, 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 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, call the front office on 6142 1600 or send a notification through the Macgregor Primary School App.
- 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.
- 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 available for use 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, Seesaw 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
- If you wish to bring in food products to celebrate your child's birthday, please check in with your child's teacher beforehand.
- We would ask that your child's drink bottle only has water in it.
- Orders for the Tuckabox (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Wednesdays Flexischools orders only, no cash).
- Please remember we are an allergy aware school. Please do not pack nuts or nut products for your child
- All toys and precious items should remain at home to avoid interruptions to learning time and items getting lost or broken.
- 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.

Kind Regards,

Renee Sochacki, Gaye Yates, Charlotte Wood, Jay Bartholomew, Ira Patkar and Kate McDonald

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February 2019