

## Term One Overview 2021

### LSG

Dear Families

Welcome to an exciting term 1. We have had a fabulous start to the learning year and are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. Each of the classes have started the new year with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you', created class agreements, established routines and discussed expectations within a strong educational philosophy that places cultural integrity practices at the centre. All activities develop an engaging and friendly learning culture. As parents you have valuable knowledge of your child's individual interests, strengths and needs. We look forward to both establishing a productive partnership with our new parents and fostering those already in place. Students are re-establishing friendships, exploring routines and engaging with the years motto 'Be you, be here, belong'. Students are enjoying exploring the deeper meaning of the phrase in a friendly learning culture. We look forward to a fantastic year with you all. Below is an outline of our curriculum for this term.

#### **English** - *Language: knowing about the English language*

*Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literary texts*

*Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage*

Students in the four LSG classes participate daily in activities and explicit lessons to guide and expand their knowledge and understanding of writing at their individual levels. LSGCO and LSGSM will focus on identifying their name, writing their name and recognising the letters of the alphabet and the associated sounds. LSGPS and LSGTW will develop our understanding of tense whilst exploring plural forms. Both classes will review the different types of words and letter patterns to assist with spelling and reading.

Every day at Macgregor the whole school starts the day by reading for twenty minutes. This is a time for all students to practise the technical skills of reading such as using a variety of comprehension strategies. This will take various form across the LSG classes including, reading to another, reading to self, listening to reading, reading to identify weekly spelling patterns in texts and literacy investigations focusing on reading fundamentals. Please ensure your child is at school by 9:00 am so that they do not miss this valuable reading instruction and practice time. Students should be reading or being read to every night. Please take a few moments each day to talk to your child about what they are reading and how they are making connections to other texts or their own lives.

While interacting with peers and teachers, students will listen for specific information, including instructions, and use interaction skills to initiate topics, make positive statements and voice disagreement in an appropriate manner. We also welcome a full time teacher working across the school with our children who speak English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). Lyndall Visagie will support students individually within their classrooms and in small groups to develop each child's English language competence across the curriculum, enhancing participation in all aspects of schooling.

#### **Mathematics** - *Number and Algebra*

*- Measurement and Geometry*

Due to the nature of LSG classes each student will work at their individual level and goals. LSGCO and LSGSM will focus on early number facts, incorporating everyday experiences. LSGTW and LSGPS will begin with a focus on area and perimeter, whilst consolidating multiplication and division concepts. Students will be involved in daily activities which will allow them to explore and practise these concepts, by modelling and solving problems with a strong emphasis on real life contexts.

## **W@M [Wellbeing at Macgregor] - Wednesdays**

On Wednesdays, 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 school culture and learning. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours we want to see in our classrooms and on the playground. They are compatible with the theory of Positive Behaviour for Learning. 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 new and exciting tangible rewards when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe and Learners. We welcome youth worker Wehebe Darge to Macgregor this year.

## **Inquiry Unit**

In science, we will be exploring the properties and needs of living and non-living things. Students will investigate the importance of plants and what they need to grow and survive. They will also explore animals and their habitats, what they need to live and survive. Every student will have the opportunity to grow a mystery seed, care for it and take observations of its stages of development.

Our second inquiry unit will continue throughout the year, exploring our Australian history in relation to indigenous culture. Students will learn some basic Ngunnawal language and what our classroom place names mean to the Ngunnawal people.

## **The Arts**

The Arts enables children to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. They will make and respond to both visual art pieces and music independently and collaboratively with their peers. In art, students will be making art pieces relating to a variety of combined images based on our enquiry units. In music, students will use their voice, and a variety of instruments to explore the concepts of beat and rhythm.

## **ICT**

All students in the LSG have access to either a Chromebook or iPad for educational applications. LSGTW and LSGPS will continue with the blended learning model we explored last year utilising Google Classroom as a platform for independent, self-guided learning and research. Students are encouraged to use the Read and Write extension to proofread and edit their writing. LSGTW will continue to explore the coding site Code.org, strengthen typing skills using 'typing club' and complete multiple learning tasks involving creating or adding to Google Slides or Google Docs. All students will use the online programs 'Reading Eggs' and 'Mathseeds' actively during the term and are encouraged to also do so at home using their school log in. Please complete and return the ICT Third Parties permission note to ensure your child has permission to use all the ICT learning tools.

## **Spanish Language and Culture**

As with previous years the LSG do not attend Spanish as a specialist class. If you would like your child to attend Spanish lessons, please let their teacher know and we will organise for them to join a peer class.

## **Library**

All LSG classes will attend library once a week to choose quality children's literature to borrow for use in class and to take home. Children will also learn about how a library works, how to find information and how to use the library systems for themselves. A library bag protects the books between home and school and can vary from a purchased or handmade one to a plastic school bag. The library is also open for your child to visit at lunch times. Our Teacher Librarian, Norma John, is available to assist.

## PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Physical education sessions will focus on fundamental movement skills, fair play and co-operation. 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 – Communication with families and Digital Portfolios

This year we will continue to use Seesaw to showcase your child's learning. In addition to real time updates, Macgregor Primary students will develop a digital portfolio of their learning throughout the year. This will replace the hardcopy portfolio folders that have been sent home in previous years. 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, footwear, a sunsmart hat, and enough food for a whole day of learning, if your child is in Kindergarten or year 1 please send a spare set of clothing in a plastic bag with their school bag in case of emergency
- 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
- 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 and notify us if your child is absent on 6142 1600 or send an email to [info@macgregorps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@macgregorps.act.edu.au)
- When the children arrive at school, we ask that they congregate in the library where there will be supervision. Access to classrooms is not available prior to 9:00 am and children are asked to take their bags to the library rather than the classroom as teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings at this time.
- COVID friendly arrangements continue to be in place for term 1. This includes hand sanitiser stations, regular handwashing on arrival to class and after breaks, limited visitors onto the school grounds and adjustment to school events to allow for social distancing
- After school pick up arrangements include Clode Place gate, Hirschfeld Crescent gate and Yerrabi Yuumma. Please communicate with your child as to where you will meet them for pick up at 3pm
- 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
- Please remember we are an allergy aware school. Please do not pack nuts or nut products for your child

Kind Regards

(Tracey Webster [Tracey.Webster@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Tracey.Webster@ed.act.edu.au), Peta Sackl [Peta-Marie.Sackl@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Peta-Marie.Sackl@ed.act.edu.au), Claire Oconnor [Claire.Oconnor@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Claire.Oconnor@ed.act.edu.au), Sara Meagher [Sara.Meagher@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Sara.Meagher@ed.act.edu.au), James Orr [James.Orr@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:James.Orr@ed.act.edu.au), Christine Trull [Christine.Trull@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Christine.Trull@ed.act.edu.au), Jo Pearce [Jo.Pearce@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Jo.Pearce@ed.act.edu.au), Simone Dawson [Simone.Dawson@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Simone.Dawson@ed.act.edu.au).)