

Term One Overview 2022 Kindergarten

Dear Families,

Welcome to an exciting Term One. Despite an unusual start for the beginning of the school year, we have had a fabulous start to learning programs and are very pleased with the way all the children have settled into their new classroom surroundings... learning new routines and some of our traditions at Macgregor Primary School. Each of the classes have started the new year with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you', created class agreements, laughed 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 establishing a productive partnership with you and hope that you are able to meet with us to chat about your child. If you have not yet booked an appointment for a 'yarn' please log into SOBS ASAP for an appointment over the coming week. And just as the excitement of the first few days starts to dissolve...we were delivered four tanks of tadpoles! We will be scientifically observing the tadpoles and their life cycle over the remainder of the term.

Children at Macgregor this year are identifying an Australian Indigenous author, artist or musician to name their class. The children in Kindergarten have identified the following names;

KDB: Don Bell, a local Indigenous author

KER: Daisy Utemorrhah, an Indigenous author

KMG: David Hardy, an Indigenous illustrator and animator

KEB: Richie Allan, a local Indigenous artist

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be spending time individually with all the children to gain a comprehensive understanding of each child's knowledge, skills and understandings. One of the assessments is an ACT Education Directorate requirement called BASE. This tool assesses the early literacy and numeracy skills of students in Kindergarten. All kindergarten children in the ACT are assessed twice in the year through BASE – usually in February and October. In 2022, BASE will be administered in March. We use these assessments to develop learning programs and pedagogical approaches for the children. If you would like any further information, please contact your child's classroom teacher or Catherine Dillon.

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

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 the rime and rhythm of the language, initial sounds, understanding concepts of print, and comprehending what has been read. In week 5 we will commence our home reading program and will provide additional supports for families.

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 and we will jointly construct phonics charts for display, and for the children to refer to, for the remainder of the year.

This term the children will be learning how to present information to an audience and how to be a respectful audience member. Students will be learning to identify quality questions to elicit more information from the speaker and the

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difference between questions, statements, and commands. Not only will we have daily news...but also a twist on this with 'true or false' news...we know that we are going to enjoy some fanciful and factual stories!

Mathematics - Number and Algebra *Measurement and Geometry*

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. We will also look at directions (over, under, next to etc), identifying, extending and creating patterns, subitizing dot patterns, seriation and counting forwards and backwards.

We will be learning to identify, sort and describe 2D shapes by their features in indoor and outdoor environments. In measurement, we will learn about calendars, the days of the week and weather. The children will be learning to 'bundle' into groups of ten as part of our calendar maths with a 'count up' to 100 days of school that culminates in a celebration!

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 classroom 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 children who have shown positive behaviours at Macgregor Primary School, and will be recorded as part of the classroom W@M points tallies each week. The children work towards earning W@M tickets, with new and exciting tangible rewards when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe and Learners. We have a school challenge currently operating whereby if 5000 W@M tickets are collected and recorded over the next four weeks ... we will have a casual clothes day!

Inquiry Units – Geography *Science*

The core concepts of our inquiry learning is that living things have basic needs and we all have our place in the world and we look after that place (sustainability and cultural integrity). Your child will be exploring animals and plants as well as learning about sustainability and how our local land has been cared for by Indigenous families over thousands of years. The children will explore the importance of reusing, repurposing, recycling and composting materials from home and how environmentally friendly practices are achieved through sustainable activities. The children are learning the inquiry skills of questioning and communicating as well as the scientific process skills of observing, questioning, researching and communicating. We will be starting with 'life cycle of a tadpole' and identifying living and non living things through answering a series of questions like 'Does it breathe?', does it need food or water?' and 'does it grow'?

We will be exploring how daily and seasonal changes in our environment affect living things. Your child will discuss how changes in daily weather affects our behaviour and how we dress for different conditions, including examples from different cultures. The students will be investigating how changes in the weather might affect animals such as pets, animals that hibernate, or migratory animals.

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. They will make and respond to visual art pieces independently and collaboratively with their peers. In daily music lessons with their teachers, students will use their voice, instruments and body percussion to develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns.

ICT

This year Kindergarten students will engage in a range of learning technologies and have access to iPads. All classrooms at Macgregor have interactive whiteboard display screens to enhance lessons and student understanding and to assist in the consolidation of ICT skills. The children will be exposed to basic coding content.

Spanish Language and Culture

Students will have a Spanish lesson each week and experimenting with the Spanish language each day. They will be focusing on Spanish greetings, counting to three and singing Happy Birthday in Spanish... **feliz cumpleaños** (pronounced as **fey-lees-coom-plea-on-yos**)

Library

As we are currently cohorting, our teacher librarian, Norma John, has provided each of our Kindergarten classrooms with over 60 picture books, a large range of big books and two sets of picture book titles from the same author for the children to study. The children will learn about how to borrow books related to their interest areas later in the year as restrictions are lifted.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Each day, the children participate in a fundamental movement skills program, focusing on the underarm throw, bounce pass, catch and forward movements (running, hopping, jumping, power walk etc). These movement skills are the 'building blocks' for most movement patterns in sport. Students receive explicit instruction and the opportunity to practise through a range of games and activities. To help your child please ensure they wear appropriate footwear such as sports shoes, have a water drink bottle and wear a sunsmart hat every day. The children will also engage in proprioceptual activities throughout the week.

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. 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. In the coming weeks, you will receive 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 contact 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 the teacher directly 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
- 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 the front office if your child is absent on 6142 1600 or send an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au

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- When the children arrive at school, we ask that they congregate adjacent drop off location. The junior and senior fixed equipment playgrounds are not able to be used before 9.00am and have been allocated throughout the day to cohorts of children
- If you need to collect your child before 3.00pm please wait in your car at the school's turning circle adjacent to the front office and call the school on 61421600. A staff member will then bring your child out to you.
- Children are accompanied by teachers to their nominated pick up/drop off location each afternoon. If you wish to change your nominated location, please call the front office on 6142 1600 or send an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au and this will be forwarded to your classroom teacher. Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:10pm will be cared for near the school's front office so parents/carers can be contacted
- COVID-friendly arrangements continue to be in place for Term 1. This includes staff wearing masks, 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
- Food 4 Minds @MPS (canteen) is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Lunch orders are available for order through FlexiSchools. No over-the-counter sales can be made during this period of cohorting however the children are able to order canteen items using the supplied canteen bags located in classrooms
- If you wish to bring in food products to celebrate your child's birthday, please check in with your child's teacher beforehand. Food for celebrations must be commercially prepared and packaged food (individually wrapped) due to COVID restrictions
- We appreciate all toys and precious items remaining 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 over the phone or by Google-Meet, otherwise please make an appointment with us by email
- 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, nut products or Kiwi fruit as we have some children with severe anaphylaxis in attendance this year.

Kind Regards,

Catherine Dillon
Evelyn Robertson
Edward Bassanelli
Kirstin Brown
Meagan Gordon

catherine.dillon@ed.act.edu.au
evelyn.robertson@ed.act.edu.au
edward.bassanelli@ed.act.edu.au
kirstin.brown@ed.act.edu.au
meagan.gordon@ed.act.edu.au