

## Term One Overview 2021

### Kindergarten

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 establishing a productive partnership with you. 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 initial sounds, understanding concepts of print, and comprehending what has been read. In week 5 we will commence our home reading program.

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.

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 difference between questions, statements, and commands.

#### **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 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.

#### **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 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 tickets, with new and exciting tangible rewards when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe and Learners. We also welcome youth worker Wehebe Darge to Macgregor this year.

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## **Inquiry Unit – History/Geography Science**

The core concept 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 diversity of our cultures and traditions. The students are learning the inquiry skills of questioning and communicating. We will be starting with ‘Who lives in your house(es) with you?’ to learn about family history. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity to share your history with your child.

In science, we will be exploring how daily and seasonal changes in our environment affect everyday life. 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 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. 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 display screens to enhance lessons and student understanding and to assist in the consolidation of 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. Cameron Ryan and Damien Trask will also be delivering coding lessons throughout the school during 2021.

### **Spanish Language and Culture**

Students will attend a specialist Spanish lesson each week with Paula Charles. This term, students will be focusing on Spanish greetings, family, and the way the weather affects the clothes we wear. The initial focus is on listening to the sounds and patterns of Spanish through language rich activities such as songs, rhymes, and actions. The Embassy of Uruguay will be collaborating with Macgregor Primary this year on fun, culturally rich activities. Updates will be posted on our social media sites.

### **Library**

Kindergarten will come to the library each week on a Friday with their teacher to change take-home books, borrow new books to read in the classroom and to learn about how to work in a library environment. Students will learn about how to borrow books related to their interest areas and authors being looked at together.

### **PE/Fundamental Motor Skills**

Each day, the children will participate in a fundamental movement skills program, focusing on catching, kicking, running and vertical jumping. 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.

### **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

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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. 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 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.

### **Sustainability**

During our sustainability sessions, each week Kindergarten students will be looking at how we as individuals and families belong within our environment and how the weather and our lifestyle impacts on the planet. The students will explore the importance of reusing, repurposing, recycling and composting our materials from home and how environmentally friendly practices are achieved through sustainable activities. These practices will reinforce that everyone can play a role to have positive effects on our world, today and into the future.

### **STE(A)M**

During our STE(A)M sessions, students in Kindergarten will be designing and using a variety of technologies to investigate a range environmental and sustainability issues. Students will develop and work towards projects that have been integrated with science, sustainability and technology explored with the Kindergarten teachers as part of their program. STE(A)M specialists will assist students in exploring the weather through experimentation and investigating cause and effect. Students will also explore the importance of caring for and respect for country and our environment. In coding lessons students will be developing their foundational skills in computational thinking and their awareness of personal experiences using digital systems. This will be integrated within various learning activities and periods of guided play with robotic toys.

### **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 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 junior area. The junior and senior fixed equipment playgrounds are not able to be used before 9.00am
- If you collect your child before 3.00pm please sign your child out at the front office before collecting them
- 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](mailto: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
- In the event of your child being absent, please send a written note to your child's teacher, call the front office on 6142 1600 or send an email to [info@macgregorps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@macgregorps.act.edu.au).
- 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.



- Food 4 Minds @MPS (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Lunch orders are available for order through FlexiSchools, and students are able to purchase snacks with cash during their breaks on canteen days
- 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 store-packaged food due to COVID restrictions
- 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 over the phone, 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 or nut products for your child.

Kind Regards

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