

Principal: Belinda Andrews

Term One Overview 2021

Year 1

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) and Literacy (expanding the repertoire of English usage)*

Students have commenced working on writing recounts based on their personal experiences. This term we will also have a strong focus on writing conventions such as the correct use of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on accurately spelling words with regular spelling patterns, alongside words with less common long vowel patterns. Handwriting will be explicitly taught twice a week.

When reading, students will be learning to decode less predictable texts with phrasing and fluency. We will continue to build on the ability to use reading strategies such as monitoring meaning, predicting, rereading and self-correcting. These strategies will aid in developing literal and inferred meaning. Our small group explicit teaching reading groups begin at 9:05 each morning.

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, Algebra and Place Value, and Measurement, Shape, Geometry*

We will have a strong focus on place value and increasing the understanding of our number system. Students will develop fluency with numbers, counting in sequences of twos, fives and tens, and recognise, order and represent numbers to 100. During the second half of the term students will be developing a range of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems, as well as investigate the connection between addition and subtraction. Place value will also be a focus, concentrating on ones, tens and hundreds. 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. Term one will also include the exploration of geometry. Students will describe and draw 2D shapes and describe the features. They will investigate measuring the length of various objects using informal units of measure.

W@M (*Wellbeing at Macgregor*)

We will participate in explicit social emotional learning (SEL) lessons. 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 – *History and Science*

In history we will be exploring, ‘The past, present and future.’ Throughout this unit we explain how some aspects of daily life have changed over recent times, while others have remained the same. The children will share and write stories about their past, present and future. We will also focus on special places and how to care for them.

In science, we will be exploring different materials through a learning unit titled ‘Spot the difference.’ Throughout this unit we will explore understandings of how and why different materials can change when heated or frozen.

The Arts

During Term One, the children will be creating art works that display creative and critical thinking. They will use a variety of materials and mediums to express their ideas inspired by analysing artworks made by others.

ICT and STE(A)M

Year 1 students have access to iPads this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. All classrooms at Macgregor have Interactive Whiteboards to enhance lessons and student understanding, along with consolidating 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 and STE(A)M throughout the school during 2021. During these STE(A)M sessions, students in Year 1 will be using a variety of technologies to investigate a range of environmental and sustainability issues. Students will develop and work towards projects that have been integrated with science, HASS, sustainability and technology, supporting the programs of the Year 1 teachers. STE(A)M specialists will assist students in observing how materials change through heating and cooling. Students will also investigate the importance of caring 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.

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 words for past, present and future. 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

This term Year 1 will go to the library with Ms John, the Teacher Librarian, on a rotational basis for three weeks in a row, followed by one week off. Children will learn about Australian authors and illustrators, be read quality children’s books aloud and take part in activities that deepen their understandings about Australian children’s literature. They will also learn how to independently use the library computers to borrow books for themselves and begin to learn more about finding information in a library environment. Additionally, every week students will also come to the library to change

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their library books, 1ER, 1RS and 1CP on Mondays and 1DC and 1KD on Fridays. It is important that children bring along a library bag and that they change their books every week.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Each day students 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. Year 1 students will also attend a specialist PE lesson once week. 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.

Sustainability

Fabio Fabbo will work with the children each week on how we fit within our environment and how our lifestyle impacts on our planet. During our sustainability sessions each week, Year 1 will look at how we fit within our environment and how our lifestyles impact our planet. The students will explore the importance of repurposing resources to demonstrate how environmentally friendly practices can be achieved through sustainable activities. These practices will involve some experiments that explore how temperature impacts the processes of heating, cooling and freezing.

Friendly reminders;

- Year 1 students will attend specialist lessons in STE(A)M, PE, Spanish and Sustainability on a Wednesday afternoon
- 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
- When the children arrive at school, we ask that they congregate in the junior area or senior COLA and the immediate surrounding areas. The junior and senior fixed equipment playgrounds are not able to be used before 9am
- 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



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- 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

Renee Sochacki, Charlotte Panarello, Evelyn Robertson, Hannah Dwyer, Manpreet Kaur, David Conley and Christine Trull.

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