

## Term One Overview 2021

### Year 2

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 writing to socialise which will include letter writing, invitations and post cards. Throughout the term, students will explore an author's purpose, text structure and language features. Next, they will look at writing procedural texts. Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on accurately spelling words with regular spelling patterns, alongside words with less common vowel patterns.

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.

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 disagreements 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, and Measurement and Geometry**

We will have a strong focus on place value and an increasing understanding of our number system. Students will develop fluency with numbers, counting in sequences of twos, threes, fives and tens, and recognise, order and represent numbers to 1000. 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. 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.

Another focus in term one will be on geometry. Students will describe and draw 2D shapes and describe the features of 3D objects. They will investigate the effect of one-step slides and flips of shapes, and match these transformations with their original shape. Finally, they will learn to identify and describe half and quarter turns.

**W@M (Wellbeing at Macgregor)**

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 to assist with promoting positive wellbeing throughout the school.

## **Inquiry Unit – Geography and Science**

In geography we will be exploring ‘The story of my place.’ Throughout this unit we will learn about the features that define places and recognise that places can be described at different scales. The children will learn that the world can be divided into major geographical divisions.

In science, we will be exploring different materials through a learning unit titled ‘All mixed up.’ Throughout this unit we will explore understandings of how and why different materials can be combined for a particular purpose. Students will demonstrate an ability to observe, record and describe changes to objects and materials.

## **The Arts**

During term one, the students will be experimenting with different materials and techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks. Students will become aware of their bodies and learn about the body bases, parts and zones used in dance through Bush Dancing. Our IMP music teacher, Katharine Finlayson will also teach the children throughout the year.

## **ICT**

Students have access to Chromebooks and 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 throughout the school during 2021. During these STE(A)M sessions, students in year 2 will be designing and using a variety of technologies to investigate and solve a range of environmental and sustainability issues. Students will develop and work towards projects that have been integrated with science, sustainability and technology supporting the programs of the Year 2 teachers. STE(A)M specialists will assist students in designing a toy and assist in researching the history of their local places. Students will also explore and investigate 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.

## **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 relating to the places we live in and our immediate surroundings. 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 (*explicit lessons with Ms John on Tuesday and borrowing on Fridays for all classes*)**

Year 2 students will come to the library for lessons with their classroom teacher and Ms John, our teacher librarian, on a rotational basis, one week on and one week off. Additionally, every week on Fridays, students will also come to the library to change their library books. It is important that children bring along a library bag and that they change their books every week. Students will learn about quality Australian children's literature, authors and illustrators and research skills related to their work in the classroom. This term we will be introducing students to e and audio books that are available to them at school and from home. More information about this is available through the school library.

## **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 2 students will also attend a specialist PE lesson once a 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. You will soon 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**

During our sustainability sessions with Fabio Fabbo, each week Year 2 will be looking at how we as individuals and families fit within our environment and how our lifestyle impacts on our planet. The students will explore the importance of reusing, repurposing, recycling and composting materials from home and how environmentally friendly practices are achieved through sustainable activities. These practices will reinforce that collective resourcefulness can have positive effects on our planet today and into the future.

## **Friendly reminders;**

- Specialist STEAM, Spanish and PE lessons will be held with Year 2 students on a Tuesday morning.
- 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)



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# MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

**Principal: Belinda Andrews**



- 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
- 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

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