

Term One Overview 2022

LSG

Dear Families

Welcome to another exciting year at Macgregor Primary School. We have had an enjoyable 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 '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 'respect', the focus for our year. 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. LGSB will focus on identifying their name, writing their name and recognising the letters of the alphabet and the associated sounds. LSGCO, LSGPS and LSGTW will develop our understanding of writing purposes. Classes will participate in daily activities to foster a love of reading and writing.

Every day at Macgregor the whole school starts the day by reading for twenty minutes. This is a time for all students to practice 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.

Lyndall Visagie will continue to support students who speak English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). Working to develop each child's English language competence across the curriculum, enhancing participation in all aspects of schooling.

Mathematics

Due to the nature of LSG classes each student will work at their individual level and goals. Junior classes will focus on areas such as early number facts, shape and colour. Senior classes will begin with a focus on chance and probability. 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. Student will engage in games and hands on activities as well as using mathematics applications on digital devices.

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 learning and school culture. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours we want to see in our classrooms and on the playground and 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 tallied each week. Students work towards earning new and exciting tangible rewards when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe and Learners.

Inquiry

In science, we will be exploring science as a human endeavour, and science inquiry skills. Students will participate in experiments making predictions, developing a hypothesis, recording observations, and analysing data to evaluate the success of the experiment.

The second inquiry of the term will explore many celebrations and commemorations from around the world, identifying their importance to different cultures. Senior classes will also investigate, research and report on a significant place or site from our community and explain its significance.

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 inquiry units. Students will explore why and how indigenous Australians use dance as a form of storytelling.

ICT

All students in the LSG have access to either a Chromebook or iPad for educational applications. 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. 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

Library

Due to COVID regulations students will not have access to the library for individual borrowing. However, LSGPS, LSGSB and LSGCO will have specialist time with Norma John our wonderful librarian each week. Every class has a library of books that students can use during class time.

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. James Orr will work with James Orr during specialist times and explore various Bluearth physical movement activities. Bluearth focusses on positive participation experiences that develop skills and motivation to embed healthy habits for students to play, run, jump and generally be more active.

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. 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

- 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
- The weather is variable in Canberra, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, a Sunsmart hat, and enough food to sustain them 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 for emergency situations.
- Our school is part of the Fresh Tastes program, so 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 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. Absences can be notified on 6142 1600 or by an email to info@macgregorps.act.edu.au
- On arrival at school, students will line up with their cohort at each drop off point. Access to classrooms or the school buildings is not available prior to 9:00am.
- After school pick up arrangements include Clode Place gate, Hirschfeld Crescent gate and Yerrabi Yuumma drive through. Please communicate with your child and their teacher as to which place you will meet them at 3pm. If arrangements change for any reason, please email your child's teacher.
- 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 website
- Please remember we are an allergy aware school. Please do not pack nuts or nut products for your child

Kind Regards,

Tracey, Peta-Marie, Clair, Sean, Norma, James and Jo

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