



MACGREGOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LINKED BY LEARNING... EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSION & EXCELLENCE

Principal: Belinda Andrews



Term One Overview, 2021

Year 4

Dear Families,

Welcome to an exciting Term 1. Below is an outline of our curriculum for this term. We have had a fabulous start to the learning in the Year 4 classes and we are very impressed with the way all students have settled into their new classroom surroundings. We have commenced with activities based on cooperation and 'getting to know you'. 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. We are currently nurturing an engaging and friendly learning culture. We have made class agreements, discussed expectations and begun term one routines. We look forward to a fantastic year with your children and with you.

English – *Language: knowing about the English language*

-*Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literary texts*

- *Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage*

Writing

In Year 4, students will create a variety of structured texts to explain ideas for different audiences. This term, they will focus on drafting and publishing narrative texts using relevant structures, language features and expanded use of their vocabulary. The students will be creating texts linked to our HASS unit, Past and Present, as well as exploring the historical context of our Term 1 novel, *Tom Appleby: Convict Boy* by Jackie French.

Reading

Each day, students enter the classroom to read for 30 minutes as part of the schoolwide vision to encourage a love of reading, practise reading strategies independently and to promote fluency when reading. The Year 4 team has a differentiated reading program to teach explicit reading strategies and offer opportunities to practise those strategies. We encourage students to take a reading book from class or borrow a book from the school library and read every night to someone at home.

Spelling

Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on learning common spelling rules, with a focus on long and other vowel patterns. Spelling words will also be taken from students' own writing.

Speaking and Listening

During English, we encourage students to discuss and share their ideas. We also offer opportunities for students to respond to others' viewpoints and express an opinion based on information explored in class. Students will prepare presentations on their understanding of how the lives of the children in the 1780/90s (both early colonial children, as well as Londoners) are different to theirs today.

We also welcome a fulltime teacher working across the school with our children who speak English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). Lyndall Visagie will support student 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.



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Mathematics -*Number and Algebra* - *Measurement and Geometry*

Students have commenced the term exploring place value to at least tens of thousands and will continue to revisit this throughout the year. Students have also participated in a variety of games which encourage recall of multiplication facts to 10x10. The Year 4 team will also teach and practise strategies for calculations involving multiplication and division with students. As the term progresses, the students will be using scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, mass, capacities and temperatures. Students will also be exploring symmetry as part of a mini unit on shapes.

W@M [Wellbeing at Macgregor] Wednesdays

Each Wednesday after recess students will participate in explicit social emotional learning (SEL) lessons known as 'W@M Wednesdays'. These are not isolated lessons and W@M principles will continue to be integrated into all aspects of our culture and learning. Positive rewards are ways we can recognise individuals and the learning behaviours that we want to see in our classrooms. They are compatible with the theory of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) when they are used to teach desired behaviours. 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 for the week. Students work towards earning a new and exciting tangible reward when they reach milestones for our four W@M Values - Respect, Responsible, Safe, Learners. We welcome youth worker Wehebe Darge to Macgregor this year.

Inquiry Unit- -*History* -*Science*

This term, Year 4 students will be focusing on interactions between people, places and environments over time and the effects of these interactions. Specifically, students will explore European exploration and colonisation in Australia up to the early 1800s. They will also learn about life for Indigenous Australians, pre-and post-European contact, and consider the impact that contact had. In science, students will describe relationships that assist the survival of living things and sequence key stages in the life cycle of a plant or animal. As part of the school's Harmony Day celebration in Week 7, Year 4 will be working on a mini assignment researching their families' journey to Australia. We will be focusing on the connections they have to their family's original country and how these connections influence them today. Students will present their findings to their peers.

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 media.

ICT

Students have access to Chromebook this year and will engage in a range of learning technologies. Students will be introduced to cyber safety and appropriate use of technology at school. Please complete and return the ICT Third Parties permission note to ensure your child has permission to use all the ICT learning tools.



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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, friends and language for classroom interactions. We will incorporate indigenous perspectives by learning Aboriginal greetings alongside Spanish greetings. Using modelled expressions, they will engage in collaborative activities to request help, complement each other and seek permission. 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 4 will enjoy rotational library lessons on Wednesdays with Ms John, our teacher librarian. There will be three weeks of library lessons followed by one week off. These lessons will be used entirely for learning about children's literature, authors and illustrators and research skills. Children will be read to and engage with quality Australian children's literature and be shown how to best use a library for research purposes. This will support the Year 4 history focus including how to work safely online, choosing good passwords and what it means to follow the school IT Acceptable Agreement Protocol. Additionally, Year 4 will come to the library on Mondays to change their library books.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Students will be participating in a fundamental movement skills program with their class teacher. These 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. This term, we will be focusing on the skills of fair play and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play games together showing teamwork and sportsmanship.

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. Soon you will be receiving information on how to join your child's Seesaw class. 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;

- The weather is very variable in Canberra, please make sure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, a sunsmart hat, and enough healthy food and water for a whole day of learning
- Please label your child's possessions (hats, jumpers, stationery, lunch box, drink bottle etc.) to help us return lost items as quickly as possible
- 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
- Learning starts at 9.00am. If your child is late arriving to school, please ensure that they are signed in at the front office. In the event of your child being absent, please send in a written note to your child's teacher, or send a notification through the Macgregor Primary School App.



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- Children are to leave their bags at their assigned outdoor area until the bell and we seek your support to remind your child of this as teachers are preparing lessons and attending meetings before 9am.
- When children arrive at school, we ask that they congregate in the senior COLA and the immediate surrounding areas. The junior and senior fixed equipment playgrounds are not able to be used before 9am.
- We welcome assistance from parents and carers. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to volunteer. We arrange for all our volunteers to complete a form at the front office. Regular volunteers (more than seven times a year or four times in any one month) need to apply for a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. The process is easy and the front office staff are always available to help
- Please see the school calendar which is attached to the school newsletter for important dates. We also provide information on Facebook, See Saw and the school's website
- Please remember we are an allergy aware school. We ask that you do not pack nuts or nut products for your child

Kind Regards

Year 4

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