

Term One Overview 2021

Year 5

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

Students will be exploring the text types of persuasion and narrative. In our persuasive writing lessons students will pose questions, conduct debates, research, take notes and create texts to share. In our narrative lessons, students will examine how language features, images and vocabulary influence interpretations of characters, settings and events. In all writing lessons, students will be creating written pieces with a focus on an author's purpose, text structure and language features. Explicit writing sessions will include a focus on accurately spelling words new words using knowledge of known words, base words, word origins, letter patterns and prefixes and suffixes. In addition, we will commence regular handwriting lessons to assist our students to build their legibility and fine motor skills.

When reading students will be learning to decode texts using phonic, grammatical and contextual knowledge. They will analyse and explain literal and implied information from a wide variety of texts. Students will also describe how events, characters and settings in texts are depicted and explore their own personal responses to them. We will begin each day with twenty minutes of uninterrupted reading, as part of our complete reading program. During this term, we will introduce Book Club. Students will participate in activities relating to a particular book, promoting comprehension, analysis and grammar.

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 disagreement 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

- *Measurement and Geometry*

- *Statistics and Probability*

We will have a strong focus on place value and an increasing understanding of our number system, including the language and vocabulary of maths, and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Students will identify and explain strategies for finding unknown quantities and check the reasonableness of answers using estimation and rounding. 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 measure and construct angles and explore two-dimensional shapes and their properties, including area and perimeter.

Students will pose questions to gather data, interpret information and construct data displays appropriate for the data making it easy for the viewer to interpret and understand.

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 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 - Science

- HASS

This term students will be exploring survival and adaptations. Students will investigate how the form of living things enable them to function in their environments. We will look closely at Australian native plants in our school gardens, and with links to the Arts and HASS, students will explore different adaptations of plants and animals in our environment. Students will pose questions for investigations, make predictions, collect and present data and explain their results. They will also discuss how scientific developments help us solve problems.

The Arts

During Term One, the children will be creating artworks that display creative and critical thinking. We will be focusing on the use of a variety of materials, including clay, to explore and represent ideas and create artworks. Our IMP music teacher, Katharine Finlayson will also teach the children throughout the year.

ICT

Students in Year 5 will have access to a dedicated Chromebook this year. They will engage in a range of learning technologies. 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. They will be engaging in learning with written and spoken Spanish to enable interactions within the classroom relating to personal interests and feelings. Students will begin making a small booklet containing their Spanish language learning which will assist

with language practice when students share their books with others. We will also look at migration, how Spanish speakers have arrived in Australia and the culture that they bring with them. 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 5 have two targeted library sessions. One on Thursdays with Ms John, our teacher librarian, and their classroom teacher for exploring Australian children's literature, authors and illustrators and engaging with research processes. A second every Friday for 5CB and Mondays for 5SH and 5SB is for changing library books. The borrowing limit for students has changed to 3 books each, which should be swapped on a regular basis. Children are still expected to read every day at home as well as at school. This term we will support a classroom focus on how to work safely online, how to choose good passwords and what it means to follow school the Macgregor IT Acceptable Agreement Protocols.

Sustainability

During our sustainability lessons each week, Year 5 will observe how animals, plants and other living things can adapt and survive in our local environment and other locations. Students will investigate how environmental factors impact on biodiversity and a variety of living things within the same environment. The students can then explore the importance of mindful and respectful approaches to being part of larger, biodiverse local and worldwide environments and how to sustain our plants, animals and other living things through practicing harmonious lifestyles between us and our planet.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

This term we will be focusing on fitness and cooperative games. It is important that students know and understand how to play these games showing teamwork and good sporting behaviour. We will look at ways to stay fit and healthy in our own time. Year 5 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.

STE(A)M

During STE(A)M sessions students in year 5 will be using a variety of technologies to explore a range of environmental, technological and sustainability topics. STE(A)M specialists will assist students in researching the living conditions of animals and how they adapt to their environment. Students will also develop and work towards projects that have been integrated with science, sustainability and technology explored as part of their teacher's regular program. Students will also explore and investigate the importance of caring and respect for country and our environment. In coding, students will further develop their understanding of digital systems and programming with periods where they will be tasked with collaboratively designing and developing digital projects using visual programming languages.

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 teach the children each week about the ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain all life.

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
- 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 hand washing 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 Yuumba. 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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