

Term One Overview 2022

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, written a class acknowledgement of country, 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 quick writes which allow the students to focus on their sentences and writing for fun. Explicit writing sessions will include focus on accurately spelling words with regular spelling patterns, alongside words with less common vowel patterns. Students will soon begin using rich quality literature to focus on building their vocabulary of words which will link with our spelling and reading strategies.

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 data and mapping. This links with our Geography inquiry in Term 1 and will allow students to understand more about where in the world they are.

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. Our Term 1 focus is the Zones of Regulation which allows students to identify their emotions and begin to develop strategies to manage them.

Inquiry Unit – Geography and Science

In geography we will be exploring 'Where in the world is'. It focuses on where Australia is in the world, the features of Earth's surface, how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples maintain special connections to particular Country/Place, how people who live in Australia are connected to people around the world and how they communicate with them.

In science, we will be exploring how living things grow and change over time, through a learning unit titled 'Watch it grow.' Throughout this unit we will explore the growth of a range of living things and explore the lifecycle. We will engage in hands on activities and investigations to compare the growth of living things under different conditions. Students will demonstrate an ability to observe, record and describe changes to living things.

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.

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.

Spanish Language and Culture

Year 2 students will learn:

- How to count to ten in Spanish
- The names of colours and a range of common usage nouns and verbs
- How to respond to basic questions about their likes and preferences.

Library

Currently class books from the library are picked by the classroom teacher in a covid safe way. Each classroom is filled with rich literature and Ms John supports teachers to change over class books on a regular basis.

PE/Fundamental Motor Skills

Physical Education

This term students will be working on the fundamental movement skills leaping, jumping and running. They will learn the correct form for different types of jumps, including tuck jumps, jump half turns and rocket jumps. Students will practise their techniques through various games and activities. At the end of the term students will begin building their running stamina to prepare them for Cross Country in term 2.

Health

Students will learn about how making healthy food choices strengthens their body as they categorize foods into the different food groups. They will look at healthy diets from around the world and share their own cultural knowledge with peers. Students will begin to identify healthy lifestyle activities and recognise the importance of staying physically 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. 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. 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 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
- 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

Melissah Cook (team coordinator), Natalie Duke, Maddison Mielens, Tina Nguyen

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