**Welcome to Year 1!**

Year 1 is a really important year for your child’s development. We look forward to working with you to ensure that it is a successful and enjoyable year.

**Classes**

The teachers on Year One this year are:

**1S -** Mrs Stormer (Year 1 Group Leader)

**1D** – Miss Dandashli

**1E –** Mrs Esmek

**1H** – Mrs Hadir

**1I** – Mrs Ibrahim

The following are some procedures and suggestions to help make the transition into Year 1 easier for you and your child.

**School Routines:**

**Arriving at school:** Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8.30am-8.50am so that he/she is at lines when the bell goes at 8.57am.

**Leaving school:** School finishes at 2.45pm. Please be on time to collect your child or ring the office if there is an emergency that will cause you to arrive late. Please wait at the bottom of the stairs as it can be distracting and disruptive to students’ learning if parents or younger siblings are on the verandah or in the corridor.

**Absences:** Students are legally required to attend school every day that the school is open, unless they are genuinely sick. If your child is unable to come to school, please send a note to the teacher by the next school day explaining why he/she was absent.

**Crunch and Sip:** At 10am every day, students will participate in Crunch and Sip. During this time, they will be able to eat fruit or vegetables and have a drink of water. They will not be allowed to have poppers or yoghurt.

**Lunch Box Ideas:** We promote healthy eating at Blaxcell Street Public School so please keep this in mind when packing your child’s lunch box. Some healthy ideas are: sandwiches or wraps, fruit or vegetables, cheese, yoghurt, water or fruit juice. No soft drink will be allowed to be consumed whilst at school and please refrain from including lollies in your child’s lunchbox.

**Canteen:** If you would like your child to purchase lunch, orders can be made before school from 8.30 am at the side canteen window. If ordering after 9.00am only sandwiches will be available.

**Voluntary School Contributions:** The cost of the voluntary contribution is: 1 child-$30, 2 children-$45, 3 or more children-$60. Please pay directly to the office.

**Grade Routines:**

**Sport/Grade Fitness:** Year 1 will be participating in grade fitness on Thursdays. Please ensure your child wears a sport uniform, including a hat and running shoes on the day.

**Library:** Year 1 visits the library on a weekly basis. In order to borrow a book, each student will need to bring his/her own library bag. Classes have library on the following days:

**1S**-Wednesday **1D-**Friday

**1B**-Wednesday **1E**- Friday

**1I-** Wednesday

**Community Language:** Community language classes are held on **Tuesday** 1.15-2.15pm and **Thursday** 11.45-12.45pm.

**Scripture:** Scripture takes place on **Tuesdays** 2.15-2.45pm.

**Home Learning**: All home learning tasks will link directly to what is being taught in school. Home learning is to be kept in a home learning folder and is due each fortnight, on the date indicated on the top of the sheet. Home reading books will be issued and need to be returned with the home learning every fortnight. In Year 1, it is very important to read with your child for at least 10 minutes every night.

**Classroom Needs:** All of the items on the ‘School Supplies’ note, now need to be at school! This includes a strong and durable library bag (this can be purchased from the office, or can just be an ‘enviro’ bag from a supermarket).

**Parent and Teacher Interviews/Contact:** Parent/Teacher interviews will be held in late Term 1. It is important for you to come and speak with your child’s teacher so that you are aware of his/her progress at school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s learning at any other time, please make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher before or after school.

**Literacy**

Every day, Year 1 students will participate in the following literacy lessons and activities: Morning Routine (focusing on day/date/weather, 100 days of learning, Talk for Learning and Sentence of the Day), Writing, Guided Reading and Phonics. Literacy is also integrated into other Key Learning Areas including Science and Technology and Human Society in Its Environment.

**Numeracy**

This year, your child will be developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the relationship between these concepts. As your child progresses throughout the year, encourage him/her to talk with you and explain how they came up with a solution to a mathematical problem. The aim is to build mathematical meta-language in order to explain understanding through the use of questions and investigations.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)**

The HSIE units for Year 1 this year are:

* **Semester 1:** Features of Places **---Geography**
* **Semester 2:** Personal and Family History---**History**

**Science and Technology**

Year 1 students will be participating in the Primary Connections science program. Primary Connections is an innovative approach to teaching and learning science.

A program of the Australian Academy of Science supported by the Department of Education, Primary Connections focuses on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in both science and literacy.

The Primary Connections units for Year 1 are:

* Term 1: Up, down and all around (Earth and Space)
* Term 2: Look! Listen! (Physical World)
* Term 3: Spot the Difference ( Living World/Material World)
* Term 4: Schoolyard Safari (Living World)

**English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)**

With the vast language background other than English at Blaxcell Street PS, we have 5 specialist EAL/D (English as an additional/Dialect) teachers – Mrs Donohoe, Mr Simpson, Ms Zin, Ms Reed (Monday and Friday) and Mrs Melisi (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) working across K-6. As a qualified EAL/D team we will be providing a New Arrival Program (NAP) to newly arrived students from overseas to support them in acquiring the English language. In small groups, we work on developing their listening and speaking skills, reading and writing in English to help them become active participants in all aspects of school life.

We are also assigned to different grades to support all students in literacy and numeracy.

**Year 1** – Mrs Donohoe: My main focus will be to support Year 1 with reading and newly arrived students in K-2 to acquire and develop their English language skills.

**Community Language and Cultural Studies**

The language and Cultural studies area at Blaxcell Street PS is an essential part of a broad and balanced education for all learners. Learning another language extends the cognitive and conceptual development and problem-solving skills of learners. It increases their awareness of how language works and can assist significantly in developing literacy. The language and cultural understanding develops and promotes cross-cultural relationships to contribute to all key learning areas.

Our community Language and Cultural Studies team comprises of:

* Mrs Alca and Mrs Shmeissem as our Cultural Studies teacher
* Mrs Cheung as our Chinese teacher
* Mrs T. Nguyen as our Vietnamese teacher
* Mrs Moussa, Mrs Ramsey, Mr Riad and Mrs Eter as our Arabic teachers

R/Assistant Principal Mrs J. Nguyen, will we working with both EAL/D and Community Language/Cultural Studies teams and will be available through the office on appointment.

**LaST**

Students in Year 1 with additional learning needs will have access to support from a number of specialist Learning and Support Teachers. Students with evidence of additional needs will receive support as appropriate in the areas of reading, numeracy, socio-emotional needs and diagnosed disabilities. This support will be available through in-class, small group and one-to-one interventions. Learning Support Specialist Teachers are readily available to discuss these interventions further. Please contact the school directly to arrange communication with them. Kristy Nichols and Erin Forster (Learning and Support Team Leaders).

Thank you for your anticipated support. We look forward to a successful year at school!

**Year 1 Teachers 2016**