**Welcome to Year 3!**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Year 3 is an important year in your child’s life. Children who are in Year 3 have now made the transition from ‘infants’ to ‘primary’ school. As such, their learning will start to develop further, and teachers will be exposing students to new and exciting content! We all look forward to it being a successful and memorable year. We would like to take this opportunity to outline for you some of the organisational things that you will need to know for this year, as well as any equipment you may need to send to school.

**Classroom Needs**

All students will need to have purchased all of the items on the ‘School Supplies’ note issued to you by now, including a strong and durable library bag (this can be made, purchased from the office, or can just be a green ‘enviro’ bag from a supermarket), a dictionary for class, a box of tissues for your child’s classroom and a packet of baby wipes as these always come in handy. If you have any appropriate old magazines, such as TV Week, etc., please feel free to donate these to the class too.

**Class Routines**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Library lessons** for Year 3 are:Wednesday: **3K** (even week) and **3N** (odd week)Tuesday: **3S** (odd week) | **Community Language** lessons for Year 3 are:Wednesday 1:15 – 2:15Thursday 10:10 – 11:10 |

**Mathematics**

In 2016, the teachers in Year 3 are working hard to ensure a strong mathematical education for every student. Teachers will successfully turn current learning research into practical quality teaching ready for immediate implementation, developing a deeper mathematical understanding!

Through the use of engaging teaching programs, the Year 3 teachers will build a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the relationship between these concepts, aim to further mathematical meta-language to explain understandings and deliver quality pedagogy (ways of teaching) using questioning, investigation and differentiation.

We are looking forward to teaching mathematics in 2016!

**Spelling Mastery**

Year 3 students will be participating in the Spelling Mastery program, this year. It is a direct instruction program targeting each child’s learning needs. Students are placed in spelling groups according to their spelling skills and needs.

**Science – Primary Connections**

Year 3 students will be participating in the Primary Connections science program, this year. The units students will participate in this year are:

**Term 1:** Heating up **Term 3:** Feather, Fur and Leaves

**Term 2:** Melting Moments **Term 4:** Night and Day



**HSIE including History and Geography**

The units Year 3 students will participate in this year are:

**Semester 1:** Community and Remembrance

**Semester2:** Places are Similar and Different

**Home Learning**

Home learning this term will relate directly to the learning taking place in classrooms this year. Students will complete home learning on a fortnightly basis and are required to also read their home reader (along with any library books borrowed). It is vital to get your child into good home learning routines now, in order to help support his/her transition into primary school, where the expectations placed on students in terms of home learning are much greater.

In order to complete the home learning tasks, we ask that all students purchase an exercise book and pocket folder. Home learning will be due every second Thursday and reissued the following Monday.

**NAPLAN**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is an everyday part of the school calendar and has been since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:



* Reading
* Writing
* Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
* Numeracy.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

These will be conducted in late in Term 1. It is essential that you come and speak with your child’s teacher, as it is a wonderful opportunity to discuss his/her progress.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher, or grade supervisor at any other time, please feel free to contact the office. We look forward to an enjoyable, cooperative and successful year.

**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.

**Kindergarten** – Mrs Reed and Mrs Melisi

We are supporting Kindergarten this year with focus on literacy and numeracy. We will be targeting students to assist them in developing their phonemic awareness, listening and speaking skills, reading and writing skills.

**Year 1** – Mrs Donohoe

My main focus will be to support Year 1 with reading and newly arrived student in K-2 to acquire and develop their English language skills.

**Year 2** – Mr Simpson

My main focus is assisting Year 2 with reading, phonics and spelling. I will also be helping newly arrived primary students acquire and develop their skills in English.

**Year 3-6** – Ms Zin

I will be targeting students who require additional support in English. This year, my main role is to focus on writing. Semester 1 will be targeted for writing support in NAPLAN with year 3 and 5, and Semester 2 support will be with year 4 and 6 writing. I will also be taking on a spelling group this year.

**LaST**

Students in Year 3 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).

**Community Language and Cultural Studies**

The language and Cultural studies area at Blaxcell Street PS is an essential part of a board 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.

2016 will be a busy year of learning – we cannot wait to start sharing your child’s success stories with you.

 **Mr Gurney Miss Sattouf Miss Najjarine Miss Spillett**

 **3K 3N 3S**

**(Assistant Principal) (Grade Supervisor)**

