**Welcome to Year 4!**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome to Year 4! We are looking forward to a fun, creative and dynamic year with your child. The Year 4 team consists of Ms Derbas (4D), Miss Agamalis (4A), Mrs Henry (4H), Miss Juan (4J), Miss Pearce (4P) and Mr Gurney (Assistant Principal). In this letter we have included an outline of the basic organisational things you will need to know, as well as any equipment you may need to send to school.

**Home Learning**

Home learning will be handed out *fortnightly* (due Fridays). All activities are to be completed and it is expected that your child reads for at least 20 minutes every night. It is vital to encourage positive home learning routines now, in order to help and support the transition to older grades and high school, where expectations places on students in terms of home learning are much greater.

**Spelling Mastery**

This year, students will be participating in a direct instruction program for spelling called Spelling Mastery. Each child will be placed in spelling groups based on their spelling skills and needs.

**Mathematics**

In 2016, the teachers in Year 4 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 4 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.

**Science & Technology and HSIE**

Students will be participating in Units of Inquiry that cover Human Society and its Environment, and Science and Technology. The units of inquiry for Year 4 are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** | **Term 4** |
| Plants in Action (Science) First Contact (History) | Smooth Moves (Science) First Contact (History) | Beneath our feet (Science) The Earths Environments (Geography) | Material World (Science) The Earths Environments (Geography) |

**Class Routines**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Library lessons are 1 hour every fortnight. All students are encouraged to borrow books from the library and in order to do so a library bag must be brought in on the day.  | PDHPE / Sport will be held across 3-6, every Friday afternoon from 1:15-2:45. All students are expected to wear full sports uniform including a hat, and bring a bottle of water.  | Community Language lessons are twice a week. Your child will attend Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese or Cultural Studies.Tuesday 9:10-10:10am and Wednesday 10:10-11:10am.  | Scripture lessons are 30 minutes a week. Your child will attend Islamic, Catholic, Christian, Buddhist or Non Scripture..  | Assemblies are held for 3-6 every three weeks on Friday’s from 10:10-11:10  |

**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 4 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.

If you ever have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact your child’s class teacher by calling the office and making an appointment.

Thank you for your support.

 ***Mr Gurney Ms Derbas Miss Agamalis Mrs Henry Miss Juan Miss Pearce***

 ***4D 4A 4H 4J 4P***

***Assistant Principal Team Leader***

