**Welcome to Year 6!**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Year 6 is an important year in your child’s life. 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), an exercise book and display folder for home learning and a box of tissues for your child’s classroom, as these always come in handy.

School USBs have been issued to all students in Year 6. Please ensure that your child is using them regularly and appropriately, in order to get them into good organisational habits for high school. They can be used to save home learning and assignments on.

**Class Routines**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Library lessons will continue in 2016 for Year 6. Please ensure students have a library bag. | 3-6 sport is on Friday afternoon. Students should wear their sports uniform on this day. | Community Language lessons for Year 6 are on Monday and Thursday. There are two one-hour lessons.  |



**Science – Primary Connections**

The Science units for Year 6 this year are:

Term 1: Change Detectives

Term2: Earthquake Explorers

Term 3: Marvellous Microorganisms

Term 4: Essential Energy

**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 6** 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 6** 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 can’t wait to get started teaching mathematics in 2016!

**Home Learning**

Home learning this term will relate directly to our Human Society and it’s Environment (H.S.I.E) unit. In semester 1, students in year 6 will be focusing on Australia as a Nation. Home learning will comprise of a series of weekly tasks, which will be put together throughout the term, and be presented as a speech at the end of the term. The combined tasks and display form the project for the term. Each home learning task contributes to the total project mark, so please encourage and support your child in the completion of these tasks. It is vital to get your child into good home learning routines now, in order to help support their transition to high school, where the expectations placed on students in terms of homework are much greater.

**High School**

High school is fast approaching for your child. Many of them will be attending various open days at high schools throughout the term. You should receive shortly an Expression of Interest for Placement in Year 7 at a NSW Government Secondary School in 2016 **form**. When this happens you will receive a note, detailing when Miss Wilson will be available to discuss any queries regarding the form.

The Selective Tests will be sat on **Thursday 10th March 2016**, for those students who have completed an application. You may also receive an information package regarding the enrichment classes at Granville Boys High School and Auburn Girls High School. The test date for these Enrichment Classes will be scheduled soon. A note detailing the time and date of this test will be sent home as soon as possible.

**Year 6 Camp**

The Year 6 camp is currently being organised and will be taking place in term 2, week 2 **(May 2nd – May 4th).** You will receive more information soon, but please keep in mind that it is always a wonderful educational experience and a memorable trip for your child. Fundraising opportunities will be given, in order to help reduce the expense.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

These will be conducted 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 their 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.

**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 6 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.

Miss Wilson Mrs D’penha Miss Gorrie Miss Kransinki Mr Hall Miss Wilkinson

 Stage 3 AP Year Group Leader 6G 6K 6H 6W

 6D