**Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) Parent Information - Semester 1 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Stage 3. A special welcome to all families who are new to our school. The Stage 3 teachers are:

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| **5B**  5G  5H  5V  5F  5M | Mrs Brogden – Rel Assistant Principal / Ms Karam (Thurs and Fri)  Mrs Gorringe Rel Assistant Principal Fri  Mrs Hussain (Tues-Fri) & Mrs Wanasawage (Mon)  Mrs Venkat  Mrs Forbes (Mon- Wed) & Mr Meehan (Thurs and Fri)  Mr Mercieca  Ms Doran – **Deputy Principal** | **6R**  **6E**  **6P**  **6K**  **6B**  **6C** | Mr Roberts – Assistant Principal/ Miss Seat  Miss Espiritu  Ms Pearce  Mrs Rajpal  Miss Booth  Mrs Campbell |

The support teachers are:

EAL/D Ms Suttor

Library Mrs Kougellis & Mrs Azar

LaST Ms Singleton

RFF Miss Seat & Miss Chauhan

Students have begun the year with great enthusiasm for learning. All classes have been working on their first Four Week program, which has involved lessons on resilience, wellbeing and our Strong Minds program, school rules, anti-bullying and Cyberbullying. English and Mathematics have also been a focus.

Join our Twitter account and stay up to date with school information.

**School Plan 2021 – 2024 – School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

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More information will be available for you on the school website later in the year.

ENGLISH

The goal of our students’ study of English is to develop their ***love of literature and learning***. Further, it aims to empower them to become ***successful learners, confident and creative individuals*** and active and informed citizens. Your child will learn to collaborate with their peers by actively listening and respectfully sharing ideas and opinions. They will read complex texts, applying strategies to interpret meaning and identify authors’ techniques. In class, your child will participate in Literature Circles, enriching their vocabularies and learning to comprehend, critically analyse and thoughtfully respond to texts. At home, we encourage your child to ***read as many quality novels (chapter books) and informative texts*** ***as possible***. Rich language experiences will help shape their understanding of themselves and their world. Using these quality models of effective writing, your child will learn to create their own well-structured texts. They will develop their use of effective language features and accurate grammar. Your child will learn to express both imaginative ideas and well-reasoned points of view. The quality of their writing will be best supported if they are ***willing to actively engage*** ***in each step of the writing process*** - planning, drafting, proofreading, editing and reviewing their texts to enhance the creativity and accuracy of their written expression.

**MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics covers the strands of, working mathematically, number and algebra, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability. Over the last few years, students in Stage 3 have achieved excellent results in Mathematics. The area that students tend to have difficulty with is problem solving. This covers outcomes where students need to use reason, justify, question and analyse their mathematical knowledge. To achieve in all of the areas of Mathematics, your child will be involved in whole class and group activities. Students in Years 5 and 6 will be exposed to many styles of mathematical questions to ensure they have an understanding of how questions can be worded differently.

GEOGRAPHY & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)

All Stage 3 students are working on the same integrated units of work: A Diverse & Connected World and Material World.

Technology forms an integral part of daily learning and is embedded in all subjects. Students learn skills in word processing, multimedia and internet use. All classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard. Stage 3 classes will be taking part in the ***Bring Your Own Device Program*** this year. Students will be notified when this commences.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA)

Dance and Drama will be taught during RFF lessons. Visual Arts will be part of classroom learning and may include activities on the theme for the term.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PD/H/PE)

Interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication and friendships are essential to ensure successful learning and happiness at school. Students are learning about their classmates and important rules, while establishing routines and relationships. Social skills lessons to develop resilience and anti‑bullying are also a focus. Students are encouraged to develop independence by taking greater responsibility for learning and behaviour at home and school. RFF lessons include drug education and lessons regarding water and road safety. Students also participate in 2 hours of sport each week.

**YEAR 6**

Soon you will receive a **High School Expression of Interest** **form**. On this form will be your child’s name, address and your child’s local high school. The local high school cannot be changed as it is based on your current residential address. As well as the local high school details, you will be able to nominate three non-local high schools. We advise that you research the public high schools in the area. You may like to visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school> and use the school finder. **Please ensure that the school office has your current address.**

**LIBRARY**

This year all Stage 3 classes will participate in an hour lesson every fortnight which will include time for borrowing and returning books. Please ensure students bring a bag for borrowing (preferably a waterproof bag) with their name clearly marked on the bag and any books that need to be returned, so they are ready for borrowing each week. Lessons over the term will focus on: Revisiting library rules and procedures, Revisiting the Web Library Enquiry facility, Revisiting the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) rules and procedures, Students will log on and navigate the PRC site, register to participate and set up a reading record, Literature/Author study, Cyber safety and Digital Citizenship introduction including a recap of responsible Internet usage.

STRONG MINDS

This year we are continuing the implementation of our wellbeing program called Strong Minds**.**It is a whole school approach to wellbeing for all children from K-6, staff and parents. It is based on developing twenty-four scientifically validated character strengths. **Character strengths are the distinctive qualities that are the best in us. They reflect what is important to us and what we value. Research into character strengths indicates that when we know and apply our most valued character strengths, our wellbeing and life satisfaction improves. This has a positive influence on our motivation, effort and academic performance.**

IMPORTANT DATES (more information to come closer to each event)

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| Meet the Teacher  Swimming Carnival  School Photos  School Leaders Training | - Online – date TBA  - Wednesday 23 February  - 29 - 31 March  - 15 February |

NAPLAN period (Year 5) - 10 May – 20 May

Athletics Carnival - 21 June

Stage 3 Camp - 17 – 19 August (Wk 5, T3)

CAPA Night - 17 October

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* Year 5 students will sit *NAPLAN* tests. While these tests are important, it is only a snapshot of their performance. It will reflect learning from Kindergarten to the present. For more information visit: [http://www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au/)
* The Stage 3 camp is an exciting and valuable part of your child’s learning and personal development. This year we will be going to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens.
* Meet the Teacher- Due to COVID restrictions this year’s Meet the Teacher will be held via zoom and a class video. Our grade zoom will occur Monday March 7 and class videos will be uploaded the following day on Google Classroom.
* If your child is displaying any COVID 19 symptoms, they must stay home from school.
* Year 6 will be looking at purchasing the Year 6 T-Shirt early in the year. More information will be provided as the semester progresses.
* Money for activities is to be placed in the **blue payment box** at the front of the office building or you can pay online
* Birthdays are a special time for family celebrations. On your child’s birthday, we request that you **do not** send in food to be shared with their class to help us ensure everyone’s safety in this time with COVID 19 still around.
* Your child’s happiness and success at school is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office and your child’s class teacher will give you a call.

* Please be reassured our teachers will contact you if there are any concerns or questions about your child. For this reason and in case of an emergency, we ask that you ensure contact information is current at the office.

Please refer to the newsletter, website and notes which are sent home for further details about all events. We look forward to your support throughout the year and wish all students a wonderful first term of learning.

Mr Jenkins Ms Doran Mr Roberts – Year 6 Mrs Brogden – Year 5 Stage 3 teachers

Principal Deputy Principal 5-6 Assistant Principal Rel Assistant Principal

February 2022