Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Stage 2 at Westmead Public School. We are looking forward to a wonderful year working with you and your child as well as forming and maintaining strong home-school partnerships. We send a warm welcome to all our new students and families to Westmead Public School.

The Stage 2 team consists of:

3B  Miss Lauren Booth
3C  Mr Anthony Creagh
3E  Miss Simona Lam
3L  Miss Maiza Espiritu
3R  Mr Mark Roberts
3K  Mrs Rehana Khan (Assistant Principal Yr 3)
3/4A  Mrs Archana Chawla
4B  Mr Domonic Buckman and Mrs Chloe Ally
4L  Miss Lucy Becker
4S  Ms Rebecca Slade
4W  Miss Emma Walker
4R  Miss Karosha Reddy (Assistant Principal Yr 4)

Our Specialist teachers working with Stage 2 are:

EAL/D  Ms Julie Crawford, Ms Jennifer Miller and Miss Stephanie Mantzios
LaST  Ms Janelle Singleton
RFF  Mrs Harris Kim and Mrs Meral Cetindag
Library  Mrs Vera Kobeleff and Mrs Poppy Kougellis

TEACHING AND LEARNING OVERVIEW

This year, the main focus in English lessons will be on:

- Exposing all students to quality literature as a model of the English language.
- Learning to write through good examples of quality literature by deconstructing texts for meaning, grammar and good sentence construction.
- Reading, viewing and writing a variety of imaginative, persuasive and informative texts.
- In Term 1, students in Year 3 will primarily focus on persuasive and narrative texts in preparation for the NAPLAN tests from Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May. Year 4 will focus on descriptive writing, including various forms of poetry.
- Further developing students’ knowledge and application of spelling strategies (phonetic and visual) to assist with spelling more complex words.
- Active participation of students in reading groups using guided reading and reciprocal reading strategies. Over the year, students will deepen their understanding of the four roles of a good reader; code breaker, text user, text analyst and text participant.
- Students learning to effectively communicate ideas and information in the classroom, school and social situations for a range of purposes.
- Learning how to write in a fluent style leading to NSW foundation cursive handwriting in Year 4 when students who produce neat, legible handwriting will receive their pen licence.

During Mathematics, students will be taught a range of concepts in all Mathematical strands. Number concepts will reoccur during the teaching of all strands (e.g. during perimeter lessons, students will use addition to find the perimeter of most two-dimensional shapes). Therefore, we like to promote the view of Mathematics as an entire subject developing students understanding of content and skills in:

- Working Mathematically – students will learn to develop understanding and fluency in mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning.
- Number & Algebra – students will learn to develop efficient strategies for numerical calculation, recognise patterns, describe relationships and apply algebraic techniques and generalisation.
- Measurement & Geometry – students will learn to identify, visualise and quantify measures and the attributes of shapes and objects, and explore measurement concepts and geometric relationships, applying formulas, strategies and geometric reasoning in the solution of problems.
Statistics & Probability – students will learn to collect, represent, analyse, interpret and evaluate data, assign and use probabilities, and make sound judgements

The HSIE and Science and Technology topics for this year are:

- Environments & Working Together (HSIE)
- Our Living World & Space (Science)

Stage 2 students access the computer labs and technology in the classroom providing the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in creating word processed documents, digital presentations and conducting monitored online research tasks. Year 3 classes have timetabled access to a school set of Netbooks. Year 4 classes will commence the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, in term 2.

Creative Arts: The strands for Creative Arts include visual arts, music, drama and dance. These will be covered throughout the course of the year.

PDHPE: Students in Stage 2 will be involved in a comprehensive sports program. Students need to wear their sports uniform on Fridays. Students will be involved in recreational, competitive and enrichment sporting activities throughout this year. A number of representative teams have been selected to compete against other schools. Students who are not in these teams will benefit from the rounded and engaging program provided within school. Healthy Living will be a focus this term. This unit will be further reinforced with the introduction of a Crunch & Sip break during the morning session in classrooms.

Homework: All classes will receive homework most weeks of the year. Homework may include StudyLadder, spelling (look, cover, write, and check), reading, mathematics and some home based activities that involve family members. The Edmodo website will be utilised by teachers to communicate homework and class activities. Homework should be completed with minimal supervision and help. If your child is having difficulty please encourage him/her to see the class teacher. Homework is given on Mondays and collected on Fridays.

Stage 2 assembly is on Fridays from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the school hall. Parents are welcomed to attend our assemblies.

Term 1 Library Focus for Stage 2

This year all Stage 2 classes will participate in a weekly hour lesson which will include time for borrowing and returning books. Your child will bring home a note with the day they visit the library and other library related information. 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;
- Revisit the 2015 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;
- Healthy Living (Eating and Sun Safety Focus); and
- Cybersafety and Digital Citizenship introduction including a review of responsible Internet usage.

Should you have any questions or queries about your child please make an appointment via the front office to meet with your child’s teacher so the matter can be discussed at an appropriate time. If you have any further queries, please make an appointment to see Mrs Khan (Year 3 Assistant Principal), Miss Reddy (Year 4 Assistant Principal) or Mr Grinham (Deputy Principal). Please be reassured 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 your contact information is up to date at the office.

Working in Co-operation,

Adrian Mort
Principal
February 2015

Rehana Khan and Karosha Reddy
Assistant Principals (Stage 2)