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

- 5C Mrs Campbell
- 5H Mr Hutchinson
- 5F Mrs Fathers
- 5S Miss Seat
- 5/6H
- 6C Miss Hackney
- 6D Ms Doran
- 6J Miss Pearce
- 6P Mrs Philip

The support teachers are:

- EAL/D Ms Suttor
- Library Mrs Kougellis and Mrs Kobeleff
- LaST Ms Singleton
- RFF Mrs Kim

Teachers meet regularly to plan similar learning experiences for students and ensure consistency across the grade. 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, school rules, anti-bullying and Cyberbullying. English and Mathematics have also been a focus.

Our school strategic directions are:

**Strategic direction 1:** Students will be lifelong learners who think critically and creatively.

**Strategic direction 2:** Quality teachers will innovate and differentiate to inspire our learners.

**Strategic direction 3:** Our school community will be inclusive, informed and engaged.

The following provides an overview of learning for Stage 3. Class programs may differ slightly due to student needs, interests and abilities. Students will work towards achieving Stage 3 outcomes.

**ENGLISH**

The study of English develops a student’s love of literature and learning. It develops skills to enable students to experiment with ideas and expression, to become active independent and lifelong learners. To assist your child, we encourage them to **read as much as possible**. Through reading, your child will learn how to be creative and will better understand the world around them. It is essential that your child **reads a variety of good quality texts**, especially novels (chapter books) to develop their vocabulary/language and comprehension. In class your child will be involved in Literature Circles. Skills are taught and practised through enjoyable activities and supportive group work. During Literature Circles your child will also learn how to critically analyse texts and make connections between texts and real world issues and stories.

Your child will write a variety of texts this term. We will teach and revise text composition, emphasising key elements that make a **quality piece of text**. Your child will also have a weekly spelling list and may complete a variety of activities in class. Students will participate in discussions where they will be encouraged to **take a risk** and **have a go** expressing their opinions.

**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 visual literacy. This strand of Mathematics covers outcomes where students need to use a visual prompt to reason, justify, question and analyse their mathematical knowledge. To achieve in all of the areas of Mathematics, your child will be involved in Literature Circles. Skills are taught and practised through enjoyable activities and supportive group work. During Literature Circles your child will also learn how to critically analyse texts and make connections between texts and real world issues and stories.

Your child will be exposed to many styles of mathematical questions to ensure they have an understanding of how questions can be worded differently.

**HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE) & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)**

All Stage 3 students are working on the same integrated unit of work: Living 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. Some Stage 3 classes will be taking part in the **Bring your own device program** this year. This program will be slowly rolled out to Stage 3 classes throughout the year.

**CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS (CAPA)**

Music will be taught during RFF lessons. Visual Arts will be part of classroom learning and may include activities on the theme for the term. Students are also encouraged to join our creative arts groups for dance, flute, recorder, band, choir and violin.
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, routines and relationships are being established during this term. Social skills lessons to develop resilience (the ability to "Bounce Back") 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. Students participate in 2 hours of sport each week. This may include representing the school as part of a PSSA team or learning skills and games as part of the school sport program. Students are also required to participate in Footsteps in Term 2.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
At our parent information session on 9 March, you will receive a High school Expression of interest form. On this form will be your child’s name and address as well as 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 http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ and use the school locator. Please ensure that the school has your current address.

LIBRARY
This year all Stage 3 classes will participate in a weekly half 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.

Weekly 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;
- Literature/Author study;
- Brief Cybersafety and Digital Citizenship introduction including a recap of responsible Internet usage.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
- Year 5 students will sit for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 12 May to 14 May. While this test is 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
- The Stage 3 camp is an exciting and valuable part of your child’s learning and personal development. This year we will be attending Milson Island Sport and Recreation Camp in grades across one week with each grade attending for 3 day and 2 nights. Year 5 camp will be held from 24 August to 26 August. Year 6 camp will be held from 26 August to 28 August.
- Stage 3 will also be attending an Excursion to Centennial Park early in Term 2. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.
- Year 6 will be fundraising again this year for the farewell. The first fundraiser will be a Harmony Day Mufti on 17 March where students will be encouraged to wear traditional cultural clothes.
- Year 5 parents will be invited to attend the selective high school information night. This will help you in the process of Selective High School.
- Ms Doran is continuing her relieving role as DP on Fridays for the rest of the semester. As a result the relieving AP on Fridays will be Mrs Campbell and Mr Hutchinson for Term One and Two respectively.
- Year 6 will be looking at purchasing the Year 6 T-Shirt earlier in the year. More information will be provided as the semester progresses.
- Your child must remember to bring his/ her pencil case with appropriate equipment every day.
- Money for activities or excursions is now to be placed in the blue payment box at the front entrance of the office building.
- Homework is given each Monday and should be brought for marking on Friday.
- Stage 3 assemblies are held at 11:20a.m, Wednesdays in the hall. Your child will tell you when his/her class is running this assembly. You are most welcome to join us.
- Birthdays are a special time for family celebrations. On your child’s birthday, teachers are happy to distribute fruit, muffins, cupcakes, lolly bags or mini donuts to classmates before they go home. Please ensure there are no balloons or party poppers in lolly bags. Please be aware of students with nut allergies.
- Your child’s happiness and success at school is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office to make an appointment to see your child’s class teacher.

We look forward to your support throughout the year and wish all students a wonderful first term of learning.

Mr Adrian Mort  Mr G Grinham  Ms Doran and Mrs Campbell  Stage 3 teachers
Principal  Deputy Principal  Assistant Principals
February 2015