

5/6D Information Handout

Teachers – Mr Elliot Dawkins
Ms Rebecca Ross



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 1, 2021. It has been great to see so many of our students return to school with such positive and cooperative attitudes. I look forward to an exciting, productive and rewarding year with 5/6D and Stage 3.

This year, all Stage 3 classes continue to be composite to reflect the stage outcomes of the NSW Syllabus and to allow for the most effective student groupings. All Stage 3 students and teachers will be working closely together across the various key learning areas throughout the year. Students will be working in groups outside of their regular class group, through our Stage 3 Pr1me Mathematics and Spelling Mastery programs and will have the opportunity to work with several different teachers each week. This style of learning assists with high school preparation as students learn to adapt to a variety of different classroom environments.

IN STAGE 3...

ENGLISH

Literacy sessions are held daily. Instruction is targeted at different levels to match individual learning needs.

READING

- Modelled, guided and independent reading of a range of quality print and digital texts
- Daily reading activities, including guided reading groups with a focus on explicit teaching of a range of different comprehension strategies.

WRITING

- Modelled, guided and independent writing, incorporating imaginative, informative and persuasive texts through our 'Seven Steps to Writing Success' program. Students will regularly employ the use of digital programs and applications to present their work.
- Weekly 'Big Write' sessions and explicit teaching of 'VCOP' (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) to allow students to continuously develop and improve upon their writing.
- Weekly guided writing groups where students set and work towards personal and whole class writing goals.
- Grammar – explicit instruction around the weekly writing focus.
- Spelling – Spelling Mastery Program; explicit and systematic teaching of spelling strategies, patterns and rules, delivered daily through ability based groups.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Weekly discussion circles based on class literature study: 'Two Wolves'.
- Public speaking competition
- BTN (Behind the News)- class discussion of news and current events.

MATHEMATICS

- Grade based mathematics groups across Stage 3, involving relevant, practical and hands on activities through our Pr1me Maths program.
- Differentiated lessons for all strands.
- Focus on developing mental agility, number sense, communicating, reasoning and problem solving skills.
- Weekly topic linked to mathematics homework (set via Google Classroom).

GEOGRAPHY

This semester, our geographical inquiry unit is based on the topic 'Factors that Shape Places'. In Term 1, students will be analysing the impacts of humans on natural environments, both in Australia and around the world. Students will also be collecting geographical information from both primary and secondary sources to explore the effects that bushfires have on Australian people, places and environments. Students will have the opportunity to undertake geographical fieldwork through an excursion to Rumbalara Reserve, later in Semester 1. In Semester 2, Stage 3 students will be undertaking an historical inquiry based on the topic 'The Australian Colonies'.

CREATIVE ARTS

During Semester 1, our creative arts focuses will be drama (mime and puppetry) and visual arts (painting, drawing and photography). In week 9 of this term, Stage 3 students will have the opportunity to participate in a Creative Arts Workshop day where classes rotate to participate in different activities with the Stage 3 teachers.

PDHPE

- Weekly Sport • Daily fitness sessions • Child Protection • Drug Education • Crunch and Sip
- Weekly P.E sessions • Interrelate (Year 6, Term 3)
- During Term 1, students will be completing a unit of work on safety and wellbeing, with a focus on bullying and bystander behaviours.

HOMEWORK

- Students are given a homework grid for the term which requires them to complete several compulsory weekly activities, as well as four activities of their own choice, to be submitted by the end of the term.
- Weekly activities include online mathematics and English tasks; readingeggspress.com.au and maths tasks set by students' maths teacher, via Google Classroom.
- Homework is designed to consolidate content covered in class, as well as to help develop organisation and time management skills, which are critical in preparing students for high school.

HOME READING

- Students should read for **at least** 25 minutes each night
- Can consist of both independent reading and reading aloud
- Helps develop fluency and comprehension
- Useful for parents to monitor their child's progress
- Personal choice texts from home or school Library
- Daily Home Reading Log with rewards for 100 and 200 nights of reading

BYOD

- Students may bring a laptop or iPad.
- A keyboard attachment for iPads would also be greatly beneficial, as students will be using their devices frequently during writing lessons.
- The students will require the following apps or equivalent to be downloaded to their devices, as we will be using them often in class this term:
 - Google Apps for Education (Classroom, Docs, Drive, Slides, Sheets and Forms)
 - Dictionary.com (Dictionary and Thesaurus- free version)
 - Stopmotion Studio (free version)
 - iMovie (or equivalent)
 - The Lost Summer (office of the eSafety commissioner)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Library (Monday after lunch)
- Scripture (Wednesday at 12:05pm, even weeks)
- Superstar Assembly (Weeks 5 and 10, Term 1)
- Primary Assembly (Wednesday before lunch, even weeks)
- IRC (Friday morning)
- Stage 3 Sport (Wednesday afternoon)
- Stage 3 Fitness (Monday - Thursday)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crunch & Sip:

To encourage healthy eating habits, Niagara Park Public School will continue to run the 'Crunch & Sip' program. A small snack of fresh fruit or vegetables and a bottle of water will help promote healthy eating amongst students. This is eaten in class as a short break around 10:00am.

Birthdays:

- If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please comply with current COVID guidelines by sending in cakes or other treats which are store bought and individually packaged.

Allergies:

There are a number of children at Niagara Park Public School who have severe food allergies, including allergy to peanuts. Please keep this in mind when packing lunchboxes or sending in edible birthday items and help us to create a safe environment for them.

- Please discourage your child from sharing food with other children.
- Encourage the routine of washing hands after eating.

Absences:

Please ensure that your child is at school on time in the morning. If your child is absent, please submit an explanation online or provide a written note on their first day back at school.

Hats:

Must be worn every day. No students will be allowed to play on the grassed area without a hat. All hats must be school uniform hats.

Sport:

Stage based sport will happen on a Wednesday afternoon and all students should wear appropriate footwear.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday 24th February	2021 Parent Information Evening @ Niagara Park Public School
Friday 26th February	First Superstar Assembly for 2021
Monday 1st March	High School Enrolment Information Session via Zoom
Thursday 4th March	P&C Crazy Hair Mufti Day
Friday 5th March	Brisbane Water Zone Swimming Carnival
Monday 15th March	Sydney North Swimming Carnival
Friday 19th March	Athletics Carnival
Monday 22nd March	Harmony Day celebration
Wednesday 24th March	School Photos
Friday 26th March	Stage 3 CAPA Day
Wednesday 31st March	NSW Swimming Carnival
Thursday 1st April	Last Day of Term 1
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday

Stage 3 Bathurst Excursion

An excursion for Stage 3 students to visit historic Bathurst has been booked for Week 3 of Term 3. The purpose of the excursion is to consolidate content being taught in History, particularly in relation to Australia's colonial history and the Gold Rush. Dates for the excursion will be the 26th, 27th and 28th July, 2021. A note containing more detailed information will be sent home in the coming weeks. Stage 3 overnight excursions are planned on a rotating, two year cycle. All Stage 3 students should have the opportunity to attend an overnight excursion to Canberra in 2022.

Year 6 Farewell

As in previous years, we will be giving our wonderful Year 6 students a special send off with an evening to be held on Thursday 9th December, 2021 at Gosford RSL Club. We will be forming a committee during Term 3 for Year 6 parents who would like to help with fundraising and organisation of this event.

My EMAIL: dane.hartshorn3@det.nsw.edu.au

We believe that one of the keys to a successful school year is establishing a positive relationship and having regular communication with parents. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns, no matter how minor. We can be contacted via email/Class Dojo or feel free to make an appointment to meet us person.

We look forward to meeting you all at the Parent Information Evening.

Warm regards,

Elliot Dawkins & Rebecca Ross
5/6D Classroom Teachers