



Niagara Park Public School

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STAGE 2 PARENT INFORMATION – 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Stage 2. It has been great to see so many of our students return to school with such positive and cooperative attitudes. Ahead of us is an exciting and challenging year and we are looking forward to working with you and your child.

This year, all Stage 2 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 2 students and teachers will be working closely together across the various Key Learning Areas throughout the year. Students will be working in Maths and Spelling groups across the stage, based on their individual learning needs and will have the opportunity to work with a variety of teachers throughout each week.

Below is a guide of the direction and focus of learning in 2021 for Stage 2.

Stage 2 – Classes and Teachers:

- 2/3H - Miss Jasmin Hargrave
- 3/4C - Miss Amelia Christensen
- 3/4F - Mrs Taiya Franklin
- 3/4G - Mrs Katrina Gabriel and Mrs Kim Miller
- 3/4L - Mr Luke Thompson
- 3/4T - Mrs Justine Temple

Stage Supervisor: Mrs. Amanda Rutherford (Relieving)

TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS

To provide students with a broad and balanced education, the curriculum is defined in terms of our Key Learning Areas as outlined below.

• English

Literacy sessions are held daily. Students are reading and writing at different levels to match their learning needs.

- ~ Reading- modelled, guided and independent reading of a range of quality print and digital texts with a focus on 'Super Six' comprehension strategies as a part of the school-wide 'Focus on Reading' program
- ~ Writing – modelled, guided and independent writing, incorporating a range of different types of texts (imaginative, informative and persuasive). Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the week and students will also complete a fortnightly 'Big Write' session which stems from our 'VCOP' (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) and Seven Steps programs
- ~ Spelling - students are grouped into Spelling Mastery classes based on a formal assessment and may attend spelling in a different classroom
- ~ Speaking and Listening – students will have weekly discussion circles based on their literature study. They will also participate in our Niagara Park Public School Public Speaking Competition and have class discussions regarding News and current events.

- **Mathematics**

A curriculum based program forms the basis of our Maths program which focuses on developing mental agility, number sense, communicating, reasoning and problem solving skills through the use of Pr1me Maths.

Maths groups have been formed across Stage 2 involving relevant, practical and hands-on activities. Maths groups occur Monday to Friday on odd weeks and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday on even weeks.

Weekly homework will be sent home relating to the topics being taught.

- **History/Geography**

This semester, students will be undertaking a historical inquiry unit based on the topic "Community and Remembrance".

In Semester 2, Stage 2 students will be undertaking a geographical inquiry in line with the NSW Geography Syllabus, based on the topic "Places are Similar and Different".

- **Science**

Units of work for this year include "I feel the Earth Move, Surface Changes, Forces Near and Far" and "It's Getting Hot in Here".

- **Creative Arts**

Stage 2 students will have the opportunity to participate in Creative Arts activities with their class teacher. During Semester 1, our focuses will be Drama – including mime and improvisation and Visual Arts with a focus on photography and in Semester 2 it will be Visual Arts, Dance and Music.

- **PDHPE**

During these lessons, various fundamental gross motor skills, health choices, relationships and emotional development will be taught.

Stage 2 students will participate in weekly sport lessons every Thursday. Classes will rotate around activities each week. The students will be taught a variety of game skills while learning the importance of good sportsmanship. Students will need to wear their joggers and hats on this day and bring a bottle of water. Classes will also participate in a variety of fitness activities throughout the week.

PDH will be taught, incorporating the program Second Steps, which is a social and emotional learning program that develops skills to enhance students' learning, empathy, emotion management and problem solving.

HOMEWORK

Students are given a homework grid for the term which requires them to complete several compulsory weekly activities as well as some activities of their own choice to be submitted by the end of the term.

Weekly activities include Reading Eggs tasks, Home Reading and Pr1me Maths revision sheets.

Students are required to read for 10-15 minutes each school night and complete their Reading Log. Time management skills are the key to completing the tasks on time. Students should be encouraged to complete homework away from other distractions. Your assistance in helping your child is always appreciated.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

This is compulsory and appointments in school hours should be avoided if possible. If a student is away for any reason, a note (either written or via the school app) should be sent on the day the child returns to school, giving a reason for the absence.

It is important that students are at school by 8:55am. In Stage 2, the first lesson commences as soon as the students enter the room. If a child is continually arriving late, they are missing vital learning. Repeated absences/late arrivals are questioned by the Department of Education Home Liaison Officer who monitors our rolls. Please be aware teachers do not begin morning playground duty until **8:30am**. **No student should be at school before this time.**

ANTICIPATED COSTS

School Contribution	\$ 45.00 per child
History excursion	\$ 40.00 (approx.)
Science excursion	\$ 20.00 (approx.)
End of year class party	\$ 30.00 (approx.)

EQUIPMENT

Thank you to all those parents who have provided the equipment that was requested. Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked on all equipment they bring to school and that the equipment is replenished each term.

Please note all students will need their own set of headphones in the classroom. These can be stored in labelled zip-lock bags with their names clearly marked.

BYOD

Students may bring either an Apple iPad (iPad Air or newer), iPad mini (2 or newer) or a laptop. A keyboard attachment would also be greatly beneficial for students with iPads, 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 year:

- Google Apps of Education (Google Classroom, docs, sheets, slides, forms and sites)
- Pages, Keynote and Numbers (for Apple devices)
- Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint (students can use their departmental login to access this for free)
- Dictionary.com (dictionary and thesaurus)
- Stopmotion Studio
- iMovie, GarageBand, Classroom
- PuppetPals
- Popplet
- Targeting Maths (at Grade Level)
- Reading Eggs

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Stage 2 team are thrilled to be working with your children this year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. It would be appreciated if you could make an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's progress.

Crunch & Sip/Fruit Break

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 10:00 am.

Birthdays

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please assist teachers by sending in individual portions or items (such as cupcakes). Please note that there are between 29 to 31 students in each of our Stage 2 classes.

Scripture

Scripture is on Wednesdays every fortnight on even weeks.

Banking

School banking is operated by volunteer parents through the Commonwealth Bank and is on every **Tuesday**.

Star Cards

Star Cards will be sent home each **Friday** with students returning signed cards the following **Monday**. Students are well aware of school rules and expectations and these will continue to be promoted throughout the year.

THINGS/DAYS TO REMEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Fruit Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Return Star Cards ♦ Library - 3/4T ♦ Technology - 3/4C - 3/4G - 3/4L 	<p>Fruit Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Banking ♦ Library: - 3/4L 	<p>Fruit Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Assembly (even weeks) ♦ Scripture (even weeks) ♦ Library: - 3/4C - 3/4F - 3/4G ♦ Technology: - 2/3H - 3/4T 	<p>Fruit Break</p>	<p>Fruit Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Star Cards go home ♦ Library - 2/3H - 3/4F ♦ Maths homework due

TEACHER CONTACT DETAILS

2/3T	Miss Jasmin Hargrave	jasmin.hargrave2@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4C	Miss Amelia Christensen	amelia.christensen3@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4F	Mrs Taiya Franklin	taiya.jones1@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4G	Mrs Kim Miller Mrs Katrina Gabriel	kim.miller13@det.nsw.edu.au katrina.gabriel@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4L	Mr Luke Thompson	luke.thompson@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4T	Mrs Justine Temple	justine.temple@det.nsw.edu.au

Together with you, we will work hard to provide your child with every opportunity to have another terrific year.

Yours sincerely,

Stage 2 Teachers