

Stage 3 Parent Information Sheet

Term 1 - 2019

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Welcome to a year of learning at Woonona in Stage 3. We look forward to working closely with you to achieve the best outcomes for your children. This note has been provided instead of a Meet the Teacher afternoon. If you have any questions about the information on this note, please contact your child's teacher.

Stage 3 Teachers

Listed below are the Stage 3 teachers for 2019. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning throughout the year, please don't hesitate to discuss these with the classroom teacher. Organising a scheduled meeting will ensure the teacher is available for a detailed interview. However, feel free to pop into school after the bell goes and introduce yourself in the coming weeks.

5/6A	Mr Michael Arrighi
5/6L	Miss Nicole Lambert
5/6M	Mr Matt Argaet (Relieving Assistant Principal). Miss Mahalia Royters will teach 5/6M on Tuesdays while Mr Argaet is on executive release
5/6O	Miss Tegan O'Brien
5/6W	Ms Mia Westbrook.

Absences

Notes from parents are always required for student absences, late attendance or early leaving. If a note is not sent, a computer generated reminder is issued by the office. If you know that your child is going to be away prior to the date of absence, advanced notice is appreciated by teachers.

Uniform

Monday and Friday - Sports uniform

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - Full school uniform.

Non school hats or jumpers (including representative sports attire) cannot be worn as part of the school uniform. Please label all clothing items with student names.

Parent teacher interviews

We have scheduled our parent teacher interview evening on Tuesday 2nd April. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Learner Qualities

Last year as part of our new welfare policy, we introduced students to Woonona Public School's Qualities of a Learner. These are what we believe are the essential qualities of a learner for our school and learning community. Students have been reading *The Most Magnificent Thing* and participating in cycles of work that teach and reinforce these qualities. Each week, one award per class will be given to students who have demonstrated these qualities in their learning.

- Collaborate - I work with others to achieve a common goal
- Connect - I make links between what I know and my new learning
- Persist - I keep trying to achieve my goal even when they are hard
- Reflect - I think about my learning and how I use it to grow
- Resilient - I bounce back and move on when faced with challenges
- Risk-taking - I have a go, challenge myself and see mistakes as part of learning
- Wonder - I am curious, ask questions and explore ideas

Social Skills Program

The Social Skills Program is a whole school approach reinforcing social skills in all areas of school life. Each skill will be taught over a one-week period.

Awards

Each week teachers will recognise positive behaviour in the classroom by presenting class awards at stage assemblies. One award will be presented to a student displaying the Qualities of a Learner and another for displaying citizenship. In addition to these weekly awards, teachers can nominate students for the whole school Citizen of the Month Award handed out on the last Friday of each month.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Students in Stage 3 will be completing the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2019. Books can be recorded using the Premier's Reading Challenge website with the student's DET login, this can be done both at school and at home.

Stage Showcases

After positive feedback from the parent community, we will be continuing our showcase format as an opportunity to display student work. There will be one showcase per semester

with the Stage 3 Semester One Showcase occurring in Term 2. More information will follow closer to the date.

Classroom Resources

Resource lists were distributed to all students at the end of last year. These lists are still available on the school's website. Teachers would greatly appreciate it if all resources have been brought in by next week.

Kindergarten Buddy Program

Students in Stage 3 participate in the Buddy Program with Kindergarten. This program aims to ease the transition for Kindergarten students to Woonona Public School while developing leadership qualities in Stage 3 students. This program will occur every 3 weeks and incorporates social skill activities, cooperative play and learning based tasks. Each Stage 3 class has been aligned to a Kindergarten class, with the exception of 5/6M who are split between the other four classes due to larger numbers in Stage 3.

Homework

Read, read, read! We believe reading at home is the most beneficial homework task that students can complete. Our expectations this year are that students in Stage 3 read at least 20 minutes each day. This can be done before school, after school, at night before bed - whenever works for your family. Reading exercises the brain, improves vocabulary and enhances students writing in class. We encourage you to implement a regular reading schedule for your child, talk to your children about their reading material and foster a love of reading at home.

Students can access a range of books in our library each week and teachers would be more than happy to recommend stage appropriate books and series. This term students will receive homework tasks in Week 6 which they are to complete on one of the books they have read.

Maths teachers will also set homework pages from the Stepping Stones practice booklets, students will be told due dates in class.

Please note that teachers will not be issuing homework to students who miss school due to family holidays. We recommend that students read and keep a travel journal of all the new and interesting things they've seen and done while away from school.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Over the past two years, Stage 3 students have participated in BYOD as a trial for our school. We have received many questions from students asking if this will continue in 2019. The decision has been made to discontinue the program at Woonona Public School for the

time being. Teachers will ensure their class has regular access to the computer labs, school laptops and iPads, and opportunities to improve technology skills are embedded in to multiple lessons each week.

Library

Students will be visiting the library for weekly borrowing with their classroom teacher. Library days are:

- 5/6A - Friday
- 5/6L - Monday
- 5/6M - Monday
- 5/6O - Monday
- 5/6W - Friday

The library is also open for borrowing at lunchtimes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Camp

Stage 3 students will be attending Berry Sport and Recreation Centre for camp from Wednesday July 24th - Friday July 26th. Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to build and strengthen relationships with their peers, while developing resilience and confidence in an unfamiliar setting. It is always a highlight of the year for both students and teachers. A note regarding camp will go out in the coming weeks, it is important that this note comes back whether your child is attending camp or not as final prices are dependent on the number of students attending.

Year 6 shirts

Students will receive more information about Year 6 shirts in Term 2

Headphones.

This year Woonona Public School require all students to purchase headphones from the school. These will be a one off purchase, labelled with student names and will stay at school for the duration of your child's schooling.

English

Students have been completing a range of pre assessments over the past two weeks. Together with PAT data, teachers will analyse pre assessments to identify target areas for the students that align to NSW syllabus requirements. Teachers will then write short cycles of learning that meet these needs through the use of modelled, guided and independent instruction. Listed below are our focus areas for this term:

- Writing - Narratives
- Reading - Making inferences

- Grammar - Complex sentence structures
- Spelling - see below

Spelling

This year at Woonona we will be continuing our Synthetic Phonics approach to teaching spelling. Synthetic Phonics breaks words into their smallest units of sounds (phonemes) and teaches children to connect these with the written letters (graphemes). Learning intentions for each cycle have been identified using PAT assessment data and cycle focuses are listed below:

- Weeks 2-3 - long o vowel phoneme
- Weeks 4-5 - long i vowel phoneme
- Weeks 6-7 - long e vowel phoneme
- Weeks 8-9 - long ou vowel phoneme
- Weeks 10-11 - consonant k phoneme

Maths

This year, teachers will be using the Stepping Stones program to teach Maths in Stage 3. This program delivers all syllabus content while providing opportunities for teachers to differentiate lessons to cater for the full range of learners in their class. Stepping Stones books will be distributed to students as soon as the office receives payment.

Maths teachers for each year group are:

- Year 5 - Miss Lambert, Mr Argaet and Ms Westbrook
- Year 6 - Mr Arrighi and Miss O'Brien

Opportunities for scheduled Maths interviews will be given early in Term 2, however if you have any questions regarding your child's learning in Maths please contact the classroom teacher before then.

Geography

This semester in Geography students will be learning about 'Factors that Shape Places'. Students will investigate: the way people shape the natural environment, how climate and natural landforms influence the distribution of population, the state and local governments roles in managing places and a bushfire disaster in Australia.

Creative arts

This semester, Creative Arts in Stage 3 will focus on Visual Arts and Drama.

PDHPE

This terms focus for PDH is Anti Bullying and Developing and Maintaining Positive Relationships. Students will also participate in PE lessons on Monday, and Stage Sport on Fridays. The focus for these activities is the development of Fundamental Movement Skills through athletics and games.

Science and Technology

Students will take part in Science and Technology lessons with release from face to face teachers each week.

- Science with Mr Patterson - 5/6A, 5/6L, 5/6M, 5/6O, 5/6W
- Technology with Miss Royters - 5/6A & 5/6O
- Technology with Mrs Rolfe - 5/6L, 5/6W
- Technology with Mrs Bugg - 5/6M

School magazine

School magazines will be used in the classroom to support the teaching and learning program. These magazines will stay at school for the duration of the year and be sent home in Term 4.

It has been a terrific start to the year and we look forward to the year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Stage 3 teachers