



Latham Primary School
Parent Information Years 3/4 Adventurers
Term 1 2019



Welcome to the 2019 school year. We look forward to working with the students, developing their skills to become organised and independent learners.

Classroom Organisation

There are three classes in the 3/4 unit, 3/4LR Determined Discoverers, 3/4SW Persistent Pioneers and 3/4LJ Enthusiastic Explorers. Our program has been developed to give students opportunities to work in a variety of ways as a unit and as individual classes. It also allows students to work at their own ability level. As our timetable is quite tightly run, we ask that students arrive at school by 9:00am. If your child should be away from school please inform us either by phoning the school or with a letter explaining their absence, as it is a legal requirement for absences to be explained. If your child is unable to participate in physical activity, a note is also required.

All students are required to be in school uniform every day including a sunsmart, wide brimmed hat. We suggest students bring a water bottle to have in the classroom during the day. Each morning we allow students to have a piece of fruit or vegetable during the first session.

English

Students will be working on developing their skills in writing, reading, spelling, speaking and listening during our literacy block. At the beginning of the term routines and expectations will be established for the Writing Process, 6+1 Writing Traits, Writer's Notebook and Reciprocal Reading. Our spelling focus is on high frequency words and common vowel sounds.

Mathematics

Students will be developing their use of mental computation strategies for solving problems, in particular addition and subtraction and developing speed and accuracy of calculations. The strategies taught will enable students to apply them to solve problems with larger numbers. We will also be covering place value up to tens of thousands, measuring time to the minute and using formal and informal measurements to calculate the length of objects.

Students will be exploring telling the time to the nearest minute and solving time problems. To link with our explorers work, students will be looking at using grid references and maps.

History and Studies of Society

Students will begin the term looking at the role of rules in the community and how decisions can be made democratically. Following this we will research a world explorer and the impact they had on the societies and communities.

Social and Emotional Program

We will be starting the year exploring our five school values of *respect, resilience, positivity, motivation and collaboration* and setting up routines and expectations. We will move onto the *Protective Behaviours Program* where students will complete activities around the two themes *everyone has the right to feel safe all of the time* and *we can talk about anything to someone we trust*.

ICT

Students will have access to a range of devices over the course of the year. Students will be provided with their personal logon details. Students will be working with the Google For Education suite along with a variety of other applications. Please keep an eye out for a note regarding permissions to these applications.

Specialist Programs

This year students will have Japanese with Sharee, 45 minutes of PE with Sally and 45 minutes of performing arts with Amanda. The days that each class will have time with these teachers and library are as follows:

	3/4LR	3/4LJ	3/4SW
Japanese	Monday	Tuesday	Monday
Arts	Friday	Monday	Monday
PE	Monday	Monday	Tuesday
Library	Friday	Tuesday	Thursday

A message from Sharee....

こんにちは *Konnichi wa* - hello and welcome to 2019, the 'Year of the Wild Boar' (いのしし *inoshishi*)! Year 3/4 will be starting the year by making their own ひらがな *hiragana* chart to use at home to build their recall of the 46 hiragana characters and the sounds they represent. This will be a challenge to build on for the year. Children will learn about だるま *daruma* as a focus for setting personal and class goals for learning in Japanese with Sharee. They will build a *jikoshoukai* じこしょうかい (self-introduction) to deliver to their peers throughout the term, including a range of information including their name, age, year level, and favourite colour and animal. They will work on both their communication of this information to others, as well as their understanding in listening to others and asking for information in conversation.

A message from Sally....

In Physical Education this term, students will learn and practice the fundamental skills of basketball, including passing and catching, dribbling, dodging, goal shooting and defending. Modified cooperative games as well as skill based activities will be played leading up to playing a game of basketball using standard rules. In the second half of the term we will begin preparing for the athletic carnival events, scheduled early in term two. Class activities will include mini hurdles, sprints, jumps, shot put, discus throw and javelin with modified equipment for safety. There will also be some additional longer running to prepare the students for the cross country carnival in week 10. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear for their PE sessions. This term we also have the swimming carnival in week 3.

A message from Amanda.....

For the Performing Arts this term the students are learning about drama. The lessons will explore how the elements of drama (eg. Voice, body, movement, relationships, tension, time and space) can be organised into dramatic performances involving improvisation as well as devised and scripted drama. The students will also be looking at the similarities and differences between the dramas they make, perform and view.

Homework for 2019

In 2017 the School Board ratified a new Homework Policy that came into full effect as of the beginning of 2018. The new policy states that reading is an essential skill that is to be practised by all as regularly as possible. At the beginning of the school year a list of possible activities or suggested websites you might like to pursue with your child will be sent home by the teacher. This will detail activities that can be used to practise skills other than reading. Teachers may identify that individual students require additional support in their learning. After a conversation with the parents an agreement will be made and other activities assigned. Additional to this, parents may request other activities for their child to complete. More information about the policy is available on the school website at http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/409592/Latham_PS_Homework_Policy_2017_2.pdf

Please see the list attached for activities that could be done with your child to support their learning.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child please contact the front office to make an appointment. We have school commitments every morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, but are available for meetings any other afternoon by appointment.

Lynette Johns, Laura Ryan, Steph Wilson and executive teacher Daniel Manestar