



# Welcome to Wonderland

3/4 2017



'Every adventure begins with a single step'

*The Cheshire Cat*

Welcome to the 2017 school year. We look forward to working with the students, developing their skills as they become organised and independent learners.

## **Classroom Organisation**

There are four classes in the 3/4 unit, 3/4MP Mad Hatters, 3/4SW Cheshire Cats and 3/4MS and 3/4RW Kings and Queens. Our program has been developed to give students opportunities to work in a variety of ways as a unit and individual classes. It also allows students to work at their own ability level. As our time table is quite tightly run, we ask that students arrive at school at close to 9:00am as possible. 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 encouraged to be in school uniform every day including a sunsmart, wide brimmed hat. We suggest students bring a water bottle to have on their desks during the day. Each morning we allow students to have a piece of fruit or vegetable during the first session.

Homework will be sent home once a fortnight in the form of a rubric. We encourage students to read every night and choose one activity to complete. If you do not wish for your child to have homework, please contact your child's teacher.

## **Literacy**

Our literacy block is every morning. Students will be working on developing their skills in writing, reading, spelling, speaking and listening during this time. Over the course of the year students will be exploring different text genres including persuasive texts, procedural texts, imaginative and information texts. This term we will be looking at imaginative text such as narratives and poetry. Later in the term we will be looking into persuasive devices in our writing. All classes participate in Daily 5 reading activities which focus on key reading strategies for each student.

## **Numeracy**

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, chance of events and ways of collecting and collating data.

## **Inquiry Units**

This term as part of our history curriculum, we will be inquiring into how the community has changed and remained the same over time and the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development and character of the local community. Students will be developing research skills during this unit.

Following this we will be switching to a science inquiry where we will explore how adding or removing heat can cause a change of state between solid and liquid through different investigations and experiments.

## **Health Unit**

This term we will be looking at the Fresh Taste Program. The program focuses on developing student knowledge, understanding, and skills to make health-enhancing decisions and interpret health messages from different sources to take action on their own health and wellbeing.

## **Social and Emotional Program**

We will be running a social and emotional program this year across the school called *Friendly Schools Plus*. It links in to our school values of positivity, motivation, resilience, respect and collaboration. It will also help students develop their skills in managing themselves and their relationship with others.

## **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. If ICT permission notes have not been handed in, students will not be able to logon to the computers and alternative learning activities will be provided. For the purpose of Chromebooks and google Apps for Education, please note that the email address will only be used to logon to devices which will allow students to share their work with teachers as part of the secure agreement our directorate has with Google Education.

## **Specialist Programs**

This year students will have one hour of Japanese with Daniel, 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 is as follows:

	3/4MP	3/4MS	3/4RW	3/4SW
Japanese	Monday	Friday	Thursday	Thursday
Arts	Friday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday
PE	Friday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday

### **A message from Daniel....**

ようこそ! Welcome to Japanese for 2017. I am excited to be teaching Japanese to all the classes across the school. This term in 3/4 the students will be revising greetings such as 'good morning', 'hello' and 'goodbye' and simple sentences such as 'my name is...' and 'I am ...years old.' We will be learning about getting around and the questions to ask such as where, when and how to get from one place to another. We also will be exploring a variety of cultural traditions such as festivals and daily life of students in Japan. I will be using songs and authentic sources to help to engage the students. Daniel

### **A message from Sally....**

I have now met all of my classes at Latham and am looking forward to working with everyone this year. This term, year 5 and 6 students will participate in a number of activities designed to develop their fundamental motor skills, including throwing, catching, kicking, running and dodging. This will be done through guided play, specific skill development activities and cooperative games. There will be a focus on cricket in the first part of the term and basketball towards the end of term. Students will be accessing the oval, outdoor basketball courts and indoor hall for their lessons. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear for their PE sessions.

### **A message from Amanda.....**

For the Arts this term the students are learning about drama. The lessons will be aimed at extending their knowledge, understanding and skills through dramatic practises focusing on some of the key elements of drama such as character, voice, body, movement, space, time and audience. They will also be making comparisons between the dramas they make, perform and view as well as exploring the intended purpose and meaning of drama in different cultures.

## **Student Management**

Each teacher promotes positive behaviours in their classroom linked to the school values. These positive behaviours ensure successful participation in learning. Each classroom space and teacher's guidelines and processes for reminding students of these behaviours may differ. In the 'Kings and Queens' classroom to encourage children to make great choices a visible values board will be displayed in the class. When children make correct choices this will be recorded on the board. Once a predetermined number of acknowledgements have been received by an individual child, a small reward will be given to that child. At each of the four levels the reward gets larger. This system will be reset at the start of every term with different level rewards being introduced.

There is also a warning system in place to support students who have a lapse in behaviour to get back on the right track. If the child is making poor choices they will receive up to three reminders on what is expected of them at that point in time. After three reminders they will be asked to go to the 'think about it' desk to reflect on their behaviour choices. If behaviours continue they will be asked to exit the class and spend some time in a buddy class. The child will be supported at every step with counselling and encouraged to own their behaviour and reflect on future behaviour choices.

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

Millie Peattie, Mike Smith, Sim Riddle, Chrissie Walker, Steph Wilson and executive teacher Melissa Mongan