Year 3 - Term 1, 2014

Welcome to Year 3!

2014 is shaping up to be a wonderful year of excitement and learning for our new Year 3 students! It's full steam ahead for all concerned and our days are already full of engaging learning experiences across all Key Learning Areas.

Our classrooms are situated in the McHatton Building (the same building as the teachers' staff room). 3SF, 3HF, 3MT and 3JW are situated at the top of the stairs as you enter the building from the flagpole side.

Talking to Your Child's Teacher

Effective communication between home and school is important for the success of your child's education. We encourage you to see your child's teacher with any concerns or queries that you may have regarding social, emotional or academic progress. Your involvement is highly valued in and out of the classroom. Please feel free to approach your child's teacher before or after school and if needed we can arrange a suitable appointment time to discuss any issues.

The use of email is encouraged as a means of communication. A list of email addresses and the school website address is provided at the end of this newsletter. We will communicate concerns or queries with you where necessary. Please provide your child's teacher with your name, contact details and email address for easy contact between home and school. Regular use of the school's website is encouraged to stay informed of upcoming school events, routines, grade newsletters, homework and school news reports.

Learning in Term 1

The term has begun with a focus on developing a positive class environment and establishing routines.

Literacy

Students in Year 3 will take part in a range of engaging activities aimed to increase comprehension and fluency in reading, explore and create information texts, develop and craft persuasive texts and develop speaking and listening skills.

Students are required to read for 20 mins at home each night as part of their homework, as this provides essential practise for your child to develop and consolidate their increasing proficiency as a successful reader. It is recommended that students borrow from the library regularly for home reading. The Premier's Reading Challenge is a great place to start when encouraging a love of books. You will be hearing more about this initiative from your child as the weeks progress as all students in Year 3 are encouraged to complete the challenge this year. You can find out more about the Premier's Reading Challenge if you visit the website printed at the bottom of this newsletter.

Mathematics

The Year 3 Mathematics program has a strong focus on number which is integrated across all Math strands/topics throughout the year. Students will have opportunities to develop their fluency and comprehension of Mathematics through problem solving tasks and hands on activities.

‘Working Mathematically’ underpins all our Mathematics lessons. The students will spend time to reasoning, communicating and problem solving to show their understanding of Mathematics concepts.

All classes will provide consistent and ongoing support for all students.

Conceptual Program

In Term 1 our conceptual program is based on the concept of ‘Change and Interdependence’. Students will explore the topic in both Science and English and investigate how the Earth responds to naturally occurring changes that happen over time such as seasonal changes and day and night. Students will be investigating the issue of natural erosion that is affecting buildings built on the foreshore at Collaroy as part of our Term 1 unit.
Homework
Homework will commence in Week 3 and will continue to be sent home on a Friday and returned on a Wednesday. Students will complete activities to consolidate their learning in spelling, literacy and general aptitude.

Mathletics will also continue this year and students will be provided with their new logins once rollover has occurred. Additional/extension activities in HSIE & Science will also be offered weekly to all students via the Year 3 Homework section of the school website.

Homework will be available soon as a PDF download from the Year 3 section of the school's website should your child lose a copy.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
This term students will participate in class sport activities at different times throughout the week. Please ensure that your child brings a hat and water bottle every day. These activities focus on fitness, game skills and teamwork and are run by the Year 3 teachers.

A number of students in Stage 2 will be attending Tee Ball as part of our regional PSSA participation. Tee Ball will go ahead each Friday from 12 pm.

Please ensure you sign the permission note for your child to walk to nearby parks surrounding the school for the duration of 2014. This allows teachers to take the children for sport in a more open space.

This term as part of the personal development and health program, students will participate in learning through the Bounce Back wellbeing and resilience program.

NAPLAN
The acronym NAPLAN is short for National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy. NAPLAN dates have been released. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 NAPLAN Timetable</th>
<th>Wednesday 14th May</th>
<th>Thursday 15th May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language conventions</strong>*</td>
<td>Reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy** 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
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*Language Conventions incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation.
**Numeracy incorporates Number, Patterns and Algebra, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data.

The NAPLAN website is quite user-friendly and is available at http://www.nap.edu.au/ to support students in these first set of formal assessments. Our preparation involves allowing the students to become comfortable in a test situation, to complete a written response in a 40 minute timeframe and to become familiar with the style of questions set in the tests. If you discuss NAPLAN with your child please maintain a positive approach so your child views the test as a normal part of schooling. We do not want our students to become anxious about NAPLAN. We receive the results mid September and all student results will be mailed to parents/carers.

Camp
The venue for the Year 3 camp is Outdoor Education Experience located just outside the Lake Macquarie area at the Morisset Centre. The camp is two days and one night and will occur on the last two days of Term 3, Thursday 18th – Friday 19th September 2014. Children will be participating in a range of fun activities designed to foster team skills, responsibility and an active lifestyle. The cost is approximately $190.00 which includes coach transport, accommodation, all meals and activities. Further information and organisation for the camp will occur closer to the date. Instalment payments for camp will be included in the Schedule of Payments for Terms 1, 2 and 3.

Punctuality
Please remember that school starts at 8:55am. It is DET policy that students are punctual to school. If you arrive after 8:55am please have your child sign in at the office before going to class.
What do I do if I have an issue?
The first thing you should do is contact your child's teacher. 
The majority of issues can be quickly and easily resolved if you contact the class teacher.

Class Teacher > Team leader (Melissa Tracy) > Executive Staff (Laetitia Kilpatrick) > Deputy Principal (Ashley Grimmond) > Principal (Myra Wearne)

We hope the coming weeks are enjoyable and rewarding for your child as they settle in to their new class. If there are any immediate concerns, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an appointment.

Kind regards,

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NAPLAN information  http://www.nap.edu.au/