

Stage 2

2023



Parent Information session

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose land our school rests. Their footsteps and whispers blow in the wind, drift on the clouds, remain deep in the sandstone and float on the waterways of this place. Their memories and Dreaming stories will continue to connect us to the land and guide future generations of our school community.

Country is alive if you take the time to look, listen and learn.



Welcome

An overview of this evening:

- Introduction to the Stage 2 teachers
- Organisation and procedures
- Communication
- Learning overview



Our Stage 2 Team

3H Camille Hadley

3V Patricia Vitale

4/3W Olivia Wakelin

4HL Jessica Hardy (Mon-Wed) and
Karina Lewis (Thur-Fri)

S2 Assistant Principal: Olivia Wakelin



Communicating with the School

Clear, open and effective communication between parents and teachers is vital to ensuring our students are supported and meet their full potential.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning, development or well-being it is important you contact your child's teacher to schedule a time for an interview.

All email correspondence should be directed to the school email address. Please put your child's name and class in the subject heading.

balgowlahn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

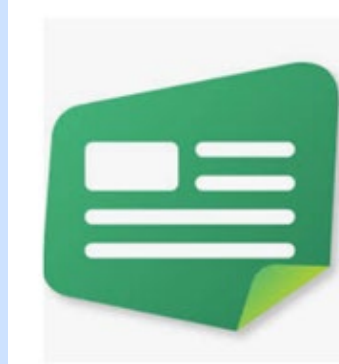


Who should I contact?

Contact	Concern/Question/Information
School Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Health issues – more serious e.g. ongoing medication· Administering of medication at school – short term e.g. antibiotics· Custody/Court Orders· Absent notes via the school app· Change of address or emergency contact details· Enrolment forms· Application for exemption (leave longer than 15 days needs approval)· Child leaving the school· School policy or process· Excursion/Incursion<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Permission Noteo Payments
Classroom Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Academic progress of child· Welfare of own child· Health issues - minor· Behaviour or actions of a student (in class/playground)· Parent-Teacher Interviews· Student Login details



School App: Schoolzine



Please ensure you download the Schoolzine app for all communication in 2023.

In addition to the weekly school newsletter, each term we distribute a Stage 2 newsletter.



Class Parents

Your role

- Help with communication between the families of children in the class, with the teacher, school and P&C Committees.
- Help to make families feel part of the school.

What does the Class Parent do?

- Make a list of names and contact details of class families.
- Support your class teacher as required.
- Email important information to class families from the school or P&C Committees.
- Organises social activities for class families.
- Attend P&C Meetings or read the minutes if unable attend.



Diverse Learner's Team

Our Diverse Learner's Team supports any students with additional needs. These may be academic, social, emotional or behavioural needs.

If your child's class teacher is concerned about your child they will discuss these concerns with you. If it is deemed necessary for these issues to be referred to the Diverse Learner's Team, your consent will be obtained.

The Diverse Learner's Team will develop a plan to support your child and you will be updated on how program modifications and adjustments are progressing.

Our Diverse Learner's Team is comprised of our Principal, Assistant Principal -Wellbeing/Instructional Leader, School Counsellor, Learning and Support Teacher, the stage Assistant Principal and Class Teacher of identified students.



Parent Referral Process

Parents may also refer their child to the Diverse Learner's Team. If you wish to do this, please contact our school office for the relevant parent referral forms.

Attendance and Appointments

At times, some students may benefit from regular appointments with speech therapists, psychologists and occupational therapists. These appointments should be made out of school hours. In the rare occurrence that this is unable to happen, parents are to apply for leave from school to the principal.

If parents wish to apply to the principal to remove their child from school for regular appointment such as these, they are to provide:

- A completed form for school counsellor assistance and a Diverse Learners Team parent referral form. These forms can be obtained by contacting the school via email or at the school office.
- Any reports from allied health professionals that specify that support the need for withdrawal from class.
- A letter to the principal from the parents outlining the reasons why their child is to be considered for approved leave.



Parent Referral Process

The information provided will be considered and discussed at an upcoming Diverse Learners Team meeting. Mrs Rachel Ridley, Assistant Principal - Wellbeing/Instructional Leader will then advise you on the outcome of the meeting. Leave is not guaranteed.

If leave is approved, then students are to be signed out at the office by the parent or guardian as close to the appointment as reasonably possible. Students are expected to return to school after the appointment as soon as possible. Parents should continue to speak with the specialist to organise these appointments to be out of school hours as soon as an availability arises.



Attendance

Establishing positive attendance practices for your child is essential.

Partial absences must be recorded at the school office when the child enters the school late or leaves early for any reason. Please submit absences via the digital absence form on the school app.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

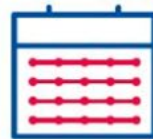
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

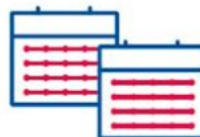
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

NAPLAN

This year the NAPLAN test window has moved to March. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the 4 areas of Reading, Writing, Conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Information will be in the weekly school newsletters.

Wednesday 15th March - Writing and Reading

Friday 17th March - Conventions of Language

Monday 20th March - Numeracy



Stage 2 Curriculum

The NSW syllabus is organised in stages. Our Year 3 and 4 students are working towards meeting the outcomes of the Stage 2 syllabus.

Our teachers are experts at differentiating their programs, lessons and teaching strategies to meet the needs of each and every student. Our programs are stage-based, not specific to just Year 3 or Year 4.

This year, we have the exciting opportunity to engage with the new syllabus that is due to be implemented in 2024.

Teachers will engage in professional learning to effectively plan and develop learning programs.

Mrs Rachel Ridley, our Assistant Principal Wellbeing and Instructional Leader will be working with Years 3-6 teachers to assist the preparation.



Differentiation

What is differentiation?

- ★ Differentiation is a high impact strategy used by teachers to craft lessons that have the right amount of support and challenge for every student.
- ★ Differentiation engages all students in meaningful ways, including those working below, working at or working past expected learning outcomes.
- ★ All students are exposed to the same core content and taught the same key concepts and big ideas. Teachers differentiate for their individual students whilst maintaining high expectations of all students. An example is setting individual learning goals.
- ★ In every class, including composites, there are a wide range of ages and abilities. Teachers are experts in finding key opportunities to meet learners where they are 'at' in order to propel them forward in knowledge, understanding and skills.



Our Term 1 areas of study



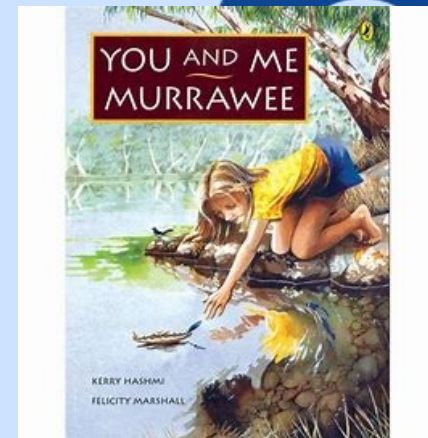
English

Quality Texts:

This term, Stage 2 will explore the textual concepts of Perspective, Point of View and Authority through the use of a variety of Quality Texts. This term, these texts link to our History of Early Explorers and Indigenous Perspectives.

Literacy Groups:

Student understanding of the aspects of reading is deepened through participation in Literacy Groups. Students participate in activities that develop their fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and phonological knowledge. They also engage in guided reading (Engine Room) discussions with the teacher. We are fortunate to have our Learning and Support Teacher, Amanda Mason working with every Stage 2 class this term.



English

Writing:

We continue to embed the Seven Steps writing model into our Quality Text programs. Also, we have weekly sessions with Mrs Debbie Horsley our Teacher Librarian to dive deep into the writing process of brainstorming, drafting, editing and publishing.

Spelling:

Explicit spelling lessons continue to be supported through the use of the Sound Waves program.



 STEP 1: PLAN FOR SUCCESS

 STEP 2: SIZZLING STARTS

 STEP 3: TIGHTENING TENSIONS

 STEP 4: DYNAMIC DIALOGUE

 STEP 5: SHOW, DON'T TELL

 STEP 6: BAN THE BORING

 STEP 7: EXCITING ENDINGS



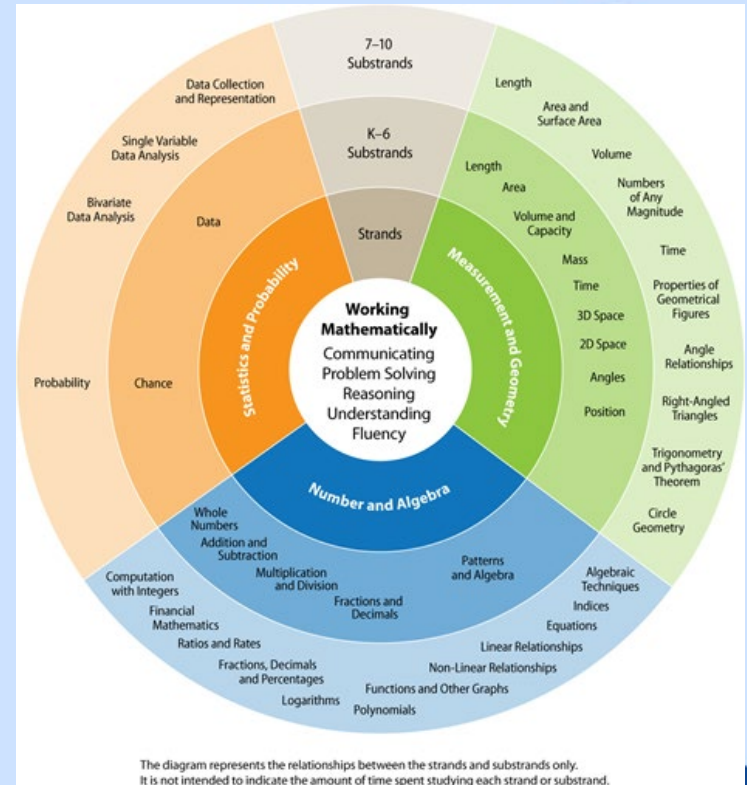
Mathematics

We aim to design mathematics lessons that allow our students to develop and refine their skills to apply these to a range of concepts that involve critical thinking and multi-operational problem solving. Students will take part in discussions of the mathematical strategies they have used and the method they find the most effective.

The concepts we are covering and integrating based on a conceptual focus this term are:

Whole number, length, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, angles, two-dimensional shapes, chance and fractions/decimals.

This year all students have access to the online Mathletics program. Passwords will be sent home soon.

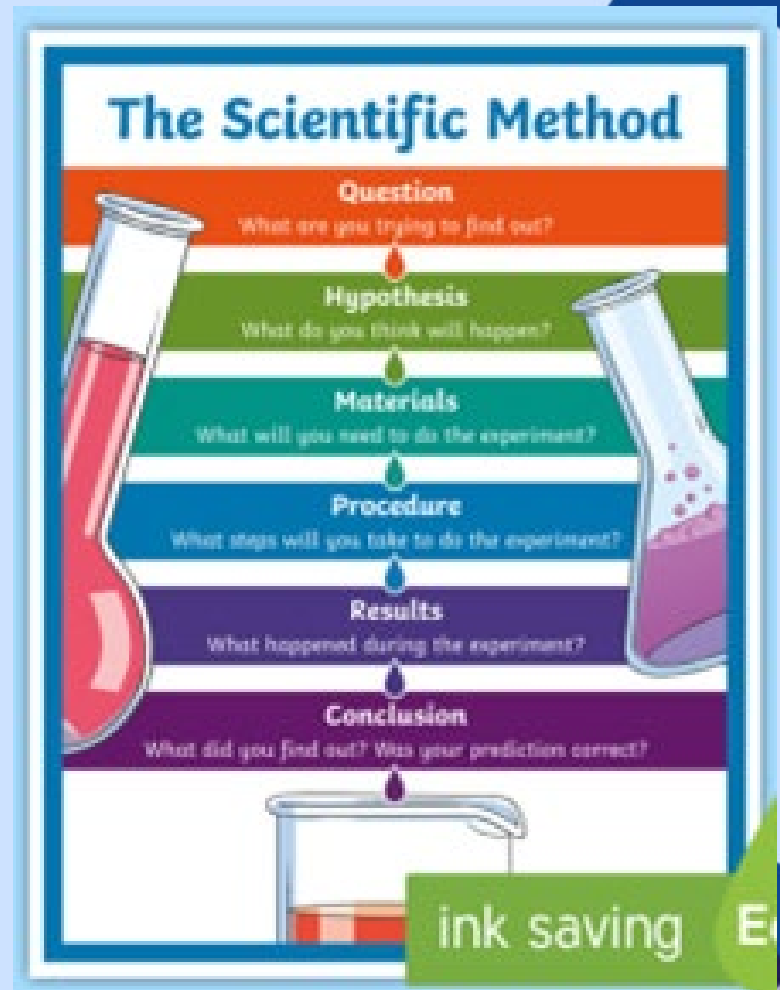


Science

Our unit this term is 'May the force be with you', which focuses on the key concept of the Physical World. We will be conducting hands-on science investigations to explore how energy and forces affect the behaviour of objects.

The planning and conducting of investigations is a vital part of science and students will be involved in the processing and analysing of data to draw conclusions.

An important part of this process is using the Scientific Method to create questions, make predictions, conduct experiments and draw conclusions.



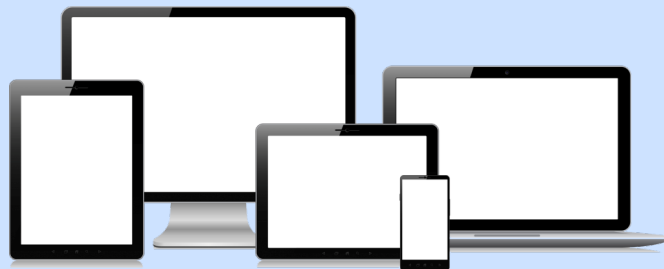
Technology/Robotics

Stage 2 students will use iPads and laptops to support their learning. We value safe, respectful and responsible digital citizenship and expect our students to uphold the agreement they have signed.

In 2022, we introduced a new robotics kit which students thoroughly enjoyed. We will continue to use the Lego Spike Prime kits to provide students with innovative opportunities in areas like coding and problem solving.

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

At school, mobile phones need to be in bags, switched off and may not be used during school hours. Smart Watches cannot be used to send and receive messages or receive phone calls. If you need to get a message to your child during the day, please contact the front office directly.



History/Geography

In Semester One, we will be learning about the great journeys of exploration in the late eighteenth century. We will also be looking at what life was like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans. Students will develop and apply skills of historical inquiry and communication through research, exploration of primary and secondary sources as well as engaging in rich discussions.



Library

Library lessons occur every week with our Teacher Librarian, Mrs Debbie Horsley.

This term in library lessons, students will be exploring a range of quality literature and focusing on comprehension strategies to help facilitate a deeper understanding of texts. Working in small groups, students will explore a shared novel and have the opportunity to discuss ideas, questions and discoveries about the text they are reading. Students will also be encouraged to borrow each week from our extensive library collection including our digital platforms.

This year Stage 2 students will be participating in a reading challenge. As a stage they are challenged to read 1000 books by the end of the year. These books will be recorded on a google form, which will be sent out on their google classroom.

The library is open at lunch time on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for reading, drawing and quiet games.



PE - Physical Education

Students will have a P.E session once a week with Mrs Kelly. Students are to wear their sports uniform for P.E lessons and sport on Friday. If your child is injured and unable to participate please send in a note.



In lessons with Mrs Kelly this term, students will be participating in a variety of team court games with an emphasis on moving to find space and marking players in invasion games. Specific passing, dribbling and shooting skills will be taught. In the second part of the term, students will participate in gymnastics lessons at school, focusing on performing sequences with control.



PDH - Personal Development and Health



For Personal Development and Health in Term 1, Stage 2 will explore strategies for building and maintaining healthy friendships through the URSTRONG program. URSTRONG is a K-6 friendship skills program that creates cultures of kindness in schools. The child-friendly approach to navigating the ups and downs of friendships will help students feel empowered, learn resilience and resolve conflicts.

Parents have access to a free membership. See the [Week 4 newsletter](#) for details.

This semester, we also look at strategies for being a good digital citizen and goal setting.



Creative and Performing Arts

Mrs Eliza McAllister will be teaching Dance in Term 1 and Term 4 and Music in Term 2 and Term 3 this year.

Students from Year 3 and 4 will be learning about performing, composing and appreciating dance. Lessons will include a warmup/stretch, explicit teaching, learning activities, reflection time and a cool down/meditation. The learning will also have a focus on Aboriginal Dance, dance through time and dance around the world. We will be working in the dance/music room and hall. Students will have the opportunity to perform and to build their confidence.



Extra Curricular Opportunities in Creative Arts

All students in Stage Two are invited to participate in:

- ❖ Junior Band
- ❖ Beginner Strings
- ❖ Choir for Years 3-6
- ❖ Drama Ensemble Years Y3 and 4

Visual art lessons will be taught by the class teacher.



Homework

This term, homework will be project based for all of Stage 2. Projects are linked to the curriculum to compliment learning and the topics studied in class. This will begin in Week 6 of Term 1 and is due in Week 11. Students will present projects in class.

Each week students are encouraged to practise spelling using Soundwaves and maths skills using Mathletics, as well as read quality texts daily.

- ★ *Daily reading is one of the most important aspects of homework. We recommend 15-20 minutes of reading a day. This doesn't just need to be independent reading, this can include reading to your child and engaging in discussions about their understanding of the story.*

Homework will be accessed and submitted through Google Classroom.





Thank you!

**We look forward to an exciting
year in Stage 2!**

