Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you for attending our parent-teacher night. This year is going to be a very busy but exciting one for your child. We have prepared an outline of the learning programs for Stage 2 (Yr 3/4) students.

**KEY LEARNING AREAS**

**English:** The four strands – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be taught and practiced across the full range of key learning areas including explicit teaching in areas such as:

- **Reading** - The children will be grouped according to ability. Activities will include developing decoding skills, reading for understanding, reading aloud and reading a range of different text types.

- **Writing** – The children will have the opportunity to learn and practise writing for a variety of purposes such as descriptions, reports, narratives, poetry, discussions, explanations and procedures. The development of sound handwriting and word processing skills will also be encouraged.

- **Spelling** - Personal spelling lists and words relating to units will be an integral part of the English program. A revision test will occur each week. Regular practise of spelling words is an important component of homework.

**Mathematics:** The five strands – Number, Space and Geometry, Measurement, Data and Patterns and Algebra will be developed. Concepts and skills will be reinforced by textbook activities. Extension and remediation activities will also be provided. Children will be grouped as needed. Mathletics, a computer based Mathematics program will be used this year across the school.

**Science and Technology:** Stage 2 will be working on the following topics:

- Machines (Making It Easy)
- Human Body (Look Inside)

This key learning area is also supported by our excursion and performance programs.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE):** The following units will be studied:

- Co-operating Communities
- Understanding Each Other

This key learning area is also supported by our excursion program.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE):** The following programs are included in this key learning area:

- Peer Support
- Child Protection Education
- Drug Education
- Gymnastics
- Fitness and Physical Activity
- Friday sport
- Basic Games Skills
- Friday sport

**Creative Arts:** The following programs are included in this key learning area:

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Drama
- Choir

**Language Other Than English (LOTE):** Mascot Public School offers Greek as our Community Language. Students K-6 who are native speakers in Greek attend LOTE classes taught by Ms. Economy. The focus of the lessons follow the class program, students are given the opportunity to extend their oral and written vocabulary in Greek.
OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

Homework
Homework will be set for Stage 2 on a regular basis. Reading should be practised every night. Homework generally, should take no more than 35 minutes to complete if done in an uninterrupted session. Home Reading is set at 20 minutes per night. We would like you to supervise homework whenever possible.

Excursions
Excursions are a valuable teaching and learning tool. They will complement each focus area in HSIE and Science. Stage 2 will be participating in the “Swim Scheme” program in Term 4.

Library
Ms Rajah does wonderful work in the library helping students develop library and research skills. Library times: 3G Tuesday, 3K Thursday and Year 4 Monday.

Computers
Class teachers will have a scheduled time to support students in developing their Information Technology skills in the computer room. Students will have various opportunities to interact with technology, including Interactive Smartboards, video-conferencing and using digital cameras.

NAPLAN
National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (Yr3 and Yr 5)
Test Dates:
  Tuesday 15 May (Language Conventions and Writing – Persuasive)
  Wednesday 16 May (Reading)
  Thursday 17 May (Numeracy)

Please read attached handout for more information and ensure that your child is prompt to school on these days, unless they are sick.

How Can You Help Us?
It’s the little things that help, such as:
  • labeling all your child’s belongings
  • returning school notes promptly
  • sending a note when your child returns from an absence
  • placing all money in an envelope with your child’s name, class, the purpose for the money marked on the front, and handed to the class teacher (not the office)
  • a note on the homework sheet if homework is incomplete for any reason.
  • ensuring that your child brings a pencil case with blue pen, black pen, red pen, lead pencils, ruler, eraser, glue stick, scissors textas/coloured pencils which are all labeled to prevent loss.

We all benefit when school and home work together. Please feel free to discuss any problems or concerns you may have with us at any time.

S. Brikha, AP (Mon Tue Wed) / C.Gale /S. Jacobson/ E.Karanikolas/D. Metcalfe