Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to 5/6P. We have enjoyed our first week together as a new class. The students are creating their classroom agreement and working with me on establishing a positive classroom and learning environment. You are welcome to visit our room and see the wonderful learning your child is doing throughout the year. If you would like to assist in lessons I warmly welcome you into our learning space. I am really looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

The structure of the classroom:
Currently there are three 5/6 classes (5/6H, 5/6P and 5/6B). The formation of 3 stage 3 classes strengthens and enhances learning and teaching through the provision of authentic and rich educational experiences. Students in year 5 and 6 work within the stage 3 curriculum. The New South Wales curriculum is structured to allow for a natural progression of knowledge and skill acquisition through the learning continuum. Classes were specifically formed to support student’s transition to high school, to increase opportunities to develop leadership skills, to maximize each individual’s learning potential and to develop increase opportunities to work with a variety of peers and teachers.

The structure of the 5/6 class allows me to specifically develop, plan and implement lessons related to each student’s academic stage of development. Flexibility of student groups, lessons and enrichment programs will provide the students a variety of opportunities to engage in lessons with mixed peer groups and various teachers. All stage 3 (year 5 and 6) stage 2 (year 3 and 4) teachers and support teachers formally meet on a regular basis to collaboratively discuss student and group learning targets, assessment criteria and learning programs.

Curriculum content:
This term our students will enter into the mysterious and magical world of Hugo Cabret. The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selsnick is an award winning book told in both words and pictures. The story takes the reader on a journey with a young orphan clock keeper and thief, twelve year old Hugo who lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity.
Students will explore the many layers and features of this book by considering some important questions and themes such as law and order, children’s rights and automaton and film making. This intriguing text will tie together learning in Literacy, Art and HISE.

**ENGLISH (Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening)**

- **Literacy Groups**: Reading programs are tailored to the learning needs/strengths of individual students. The children will work in reading groups four times a week. Our classroom reading program includes silent, guided and modelled reading focusing on specific comprehension strategies, vocabulary and reading texts fluently. The “Super Six” reading strategies of Predicting, Making Connections, Visualising, Monitoring, Questioning and Summarising will be explicitly taught throughout the year. Emphasis will be placed on the strategies of Predicting, Questioning and Summarising this term.

- **Writing** will be connected to the unit ‘State and Federal Government’. The literacy focuses include-factual recounts, procedural texts, summaries and information reports. The students will continue to develop their knowledge of persuasive texts (expositions and discussions). The grammar focus will be on sentence and paragraph structure.

- All year 5 and 6 will receive a spelling list each week. Words will need to be revised at home for the weekly spelling and dictation test each Friday. Students will complete a variety of activities throughout the week to consolidate spelling words.

- **Talking and Listening** will be part of everyday work and will include discussions, reporting back and debating. Persuasive language will be taught explicitly this term and students will prepare a series of short persuasive arguments (speeches) to deliver to their classmates. Each week students will present an oral presentation.

**MATHEMATICS**

- Class-based activities will cover number, space and geometry, measurement, patterns and algebra, data and working mathematically.

- This term number (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), place value operations, 3-D space, length, mass and time will be covered in maths.

- Maths content will be integrated and embedded across all key learning areas and will include, working mathematically, flowcharts, tables, temperature, measurement, diagrams and graphs.

**HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)**

- HSIE will be a major focus of our term one studies. Students will learn about ‘State and Federal Government’. The unit provides opportunities for students to investigate the people and processes involved in legislative, executive and judicial functions of State and federal governments. The unit focuses on the responsibilities of different levels of government and how parliaments work. The unit will conclude with a three day excursion to Canberra.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- This term the Science content strands will be integrated into the HSIE unit ‘State and Federal Government’. The students will utilise knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes taught in HSIE to enhance and deepen their understanding of scientific concepts.
• Computer technology will play a large part in classroom activities. Stage 3 students will attend computer lessons with Mrs Keating each week. These lessons will explicitly teach specific computer skills and provide students with the opportunity to practise these skills.

CREATIVE AND VISUAL ARTS
• All year 5 and 6 students will participate in creative arts group lessons throughout the week. They will participate in learning activities in the strands of visual arts, music, dance and drama with a focus on creating, performing and appreciating the work of other artists.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)
• The Personal Health and Development focus strand for this term will be ‘Interpersonal Relationships’. The unit, ‘Playing My Part’ will be taught once a week and students will participate in lessons designed to identify, describe and address roles and responsibilities in developing and maintaining positive relationships.
• Sport takes place each Friday morning and activities include school sport, dancing, tennis, PSSA AFL and Softball.

CLASS TIMETABLE
• Library: Lessons will be on a Tuesday. Please remind your child to pack their library bag and encourage them to borrow each week.
• Information, Communication and Technology: Lessons will be on Monday with Ms Keating.
• Language lessons: Mrs Morrison will work individually and small groups with students who have English as an additional language (Mon-Thurs).
• Enrichment programs: A variety of programs (Maths Olympiad, Grime Investigations, debating etc) will be offered throughout the week to challenge and extend students.
• Scripture: Lessons are held every Tuesday afternoon.
• Premiers Reading Challenge: All students will be participating in this program. Please encourage your child to complete the challenge.

HOMEWORK
• Homework reinforces key concepts the children are focusing on in class. It is very important that the children get into good routines planning, neatly completing and returning their homework within the correct timeframe. Homework will begin in week 4.
• Homework is handed out on a Monday and needs to be returned on Friday morning. It is the responsibility of the students to collect the homework tasks if they are absent when it is handed out.
• A major component of homework is home reading.
• It is very important that children have several opportunities to read or be read to throughout the week. Such opportunities not only enhance decoding and comprehension skills but also foster a love of reading.
• Could you please ensure that your child’s homework book is covered and that they take pride in completing work neatly. Please make the time to review your child’s work with them and sign the homework sheet once it has been reviewed.
RESOURCES
Please send in the following with your child as soon as possible-

- 2 whiteboard markers and cloth
- Packet of textas
- Coloured and lead pencils
- 2 red pens (for marking and ruling margins)
- Blue pens (for children who have their pen license)
- A glue stick
- A clear ruler (with millimetre measurements)
- Erasers
- Graphite pencils
- A box of tissues

Special Requests

- Remember to keep up to date with all school events via the school website. If you have not done so already, be sure to sign up to have the ‘Dacey Details’ delivered to you online.
- All absences have to be accounted for by an accompanying note.
- Any late arrivals to the office first to pick up a late card. Please try to be at school on time.
- Please make sure your child wears a hat every day.
- Please ensure your child has a healthy lunch and fruit and or Vegetables for Crunch Munch & Sip each day including water and crunch and sip.

I like to keep you regularly informed about your child’s learning and events happening in the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to see me if you have any questions or queries.

I am looking forward to an exciting and successful year. I look forward to meeting you all at the Parent Information session evening.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Serena Petriella