Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to 3/4H. We are looking forward to a brilliant educational experience this year. 3/4H is already a busy learning environment with a variety of learning experiences that cover the six NSW Key Learning Areas. Embedded in these experiences is the fostering of a love of learning, building upon each child’s interests and supporting the children’s innate curiosity in exploring various questions and topics over the year. The students in 3/4H have already established a wonderful rapport with each other based on mutual respect, admiration of each student’s strengths and friendship.

Teachers

Class teacher: Mr Darren Hills
Library teacher: Mrs Bowring
RFF: Ms Harding
English as an Additional Language (EAL): Ms Petriella
Learning Assistance Support Teacher (LaST): Ms Petriella

The Stage 2 Classroom

Students in Years 3 & 4 are working within the stage two syllabus of the New South Wales Curriculum. This curriculum is structured to allow for a natural progression of knowledge and skill acquisition through the learning continuum. Structured learning in the primary classroom includes whole-class, small group and individual experiences that are designed to foster the development of skills and understanding for life-long learning.

Curriculum content

ENGLISH (Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing)

Reading: The reading program is tailored to the learning needs/strengths of individual students and includes reading groups, reading to self, reading to others and modelled reading focusing on Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary (CAFÉ). Through our DAILY 5 routine, students will have an opportunity to read to self, listen to reading and read to others each day.

The “Super Six” reading strategies of predicting, making connections, visualising, monitoring, questioning and summarising will be explicitly taught this term with emphasis placed on the strategies of predicting and monitoring for understanding. Reading/literacy groups will include opportunities to practice and hone these skills through participation in reciprocal reading.

Home reading: Students are expected to read at home each day. Students will be encouraged to read longer texts as part of their home reading in order to develop skills to sustain understanding over a period of time. All students will have access to Reading Eggs online and can access this from home.

Writing: Non-fiction writing will be connected to our HSIE units. Learning activities have been designed to explicitly introduce literacy focuses and will include word walls, topic specific language and informative writing. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of the structure and language used in persuasive texts such as expositions and discussions. Our exploration of grammar this term will focus on sentence structure and text organisation.

Spelling: Students will learn about the four forms of spelling knowledge, phonological (sounds), visual, morphemic (parts of words), and etymological (word origin) and complete a variety of activities throughout the week to consolidate their understanding. Students will also have access to Spellodrome online and will complete a number of set activities, tailored specifically to their individual needs, both at school and as part of their homework.

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 as part of their homework routine.
Premiers Reading Challenge: All students will be participating in this program. Please encourage your child to complete the challenge.

MATHEMATICS In 2015, we will be teaching from the NSW Mathematics K-10 Syllabus

- Class-based activities will cover Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability.
- During our daily Mathematics block, students will participate in whole class activities and small group investigations.
- Students will also work independently through individualised programs that have been developed to address their specific needs and goals.
- Enrichment and Support Maths Groups: Once a week, students in 2/3B and 3/4H will work with Ms Harding, Ms Bonanno and Mr Hills targeting problem solving tasks.
- Mathletics will be an integral component of the program and it is expected that students will complete regularly set Mathletics tasks on a weekly basis. It is important that students complete set tasks as these tasks consolidate learning completed in class. The computer room is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunch breaks for students who are unable to access Mathletics at home.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)

Year 4 Focus Unit – Cooperating Communities

- This unit provides opportunities for students to explore ways in which environments and social systems and structures in local areas meet people’s needs, influence lifestyle choices and contribute to community identity. The unit focuses on the opportunities people have to participate in the community, and their willingness to do so.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- This term the Science content strands will be integrated into the HSIE unit ‘Cooperating Communities’. 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. Students will attend computer lessons at least once a week. These lessons will explicitly teach specific computer skills and provide students with the opportunity to practise developing ICT skills. Students will use computer programs to publish a joint magazine as part of their library assessment task.

CREATIVE AND VISUAL ARTS and PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)

- These programs will continue to be run by Isobel Harding in the Creativity Centre. The sessions will be split into two parts where we will focus on Child Protection and then delve into a topic based exploration through the Literacy and Creative Arts Syllabuses.
- Our creative topic is CONNECTION! What are we connected to and why? How do we connect with living and non-living things? How do we and can we connect with who we are and where we are? Are we always connected to something? Are we always aware of our connections? This is such an exciting topic with much to ponder deeply so we will be following its enquiry for the whole semester. We will explore literature that helps us to delve further in to the topic, use circle time, drama, team building and problem solving and a range of mixed media and building material to help explore the topic. I very much look forward to exploring the theme CONNECTION with your child and wondering where it will lead us all!
- With the Child Protection course of study, we will cover the themes Recognising Abuse, Power in Relationships and Protective Strategies with focus areas being; identifying safe and unsafe situations; feelings and warning signals; rights and responsibilities; safety strategies and networks of support.
- Sport takes place each Friday morning and activities include school sport, Tennis, PSSA: AFL and Softball.
Class Timetable

Monday       New homework (beginning in week 4)
Tuesday      Scripture
             Enrichment and Support Maths Groups
Wednesday    Library
             RFF with Ms Harding
Thursday     Music groups
Friday       Sport

Homework
We will begin our homework program in week 4. Homework will be set in a four to six week booklet. It should take approximately 35 minutes to complete each nightly task and reading. Homework must be brought in to mark on Friday mornings. Tasks will also include Mathletics, Spellerdrome, Reading Eggs and public speaking. All students will be reminded how to access their school email from home and a printed copy of the email will be provided for those who do not have internet access. Students can also see or email me with any questions they may have regarding the homework.

Preparing for Class and Taking Responsibility
Students are expected to be prepared for class each day and to collect notes, return notes and money and to collect and return homework. When students are prepared for class, we are able to get to work earlier and spend more time learning.
To help us, please ensure that your child has their homework in their bag each Monday and Friday and that their pencil case is fully stocked with the necessary basics.

PENCIL CASES

- lead pencils
- pencil sharpener
- red pens or pencils
- glue stick
- USB stick
- eraser
- 30cm ruler (with millimetres)
- black pens
- coloured pencils
- coloured textas

Please attempt to limit the size of pencil cases and ensure that pencil cases and their content are clearly labeled with your child’s name and class.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES – greatly appreciated!
In addition to the above essentials, it would be a huge help if you could supply the class with one box of tissues and any of the following items:

- liquid handwash
- cleaning cloths
- paper towel
- environmentally friendly cleaning products

A Few Friendly Reminders
All absences from school must be explained with a note/doctors certificate. Please send this with your child when he/she returns to school.
Upon late arrival, please report to the office and collect a late slip to give to the classroom teacher.
Students should come to school dressed in their completed school uniform, including a school hat and appropriate school shoes.
No Hat, No Play policy applies. Please ensure your child wears their school hat to school daily.
Keep in Touch!

Educational research highlights the impact regular and positive parental involvement has on student achievement. Please keep an eye out in the school newsletter, on the school website and on our facebook page for dates and information regarding the many events of this term.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to see me or to arrange a call-back if you have any questions or queries about your child’s learning or events happening in our classroom.

You can also contact me via email at:

darren.j.hills@det.nsw.edu.au

I look forward to meeting you at the Parent Information evening.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Darren Hills