



BLACKHEATH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Leichhardt Street

BLACKHEATH NSW 2785

Phone: 47878253 **Fax:** 47878320

Email: blackheath-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Parent Information 2019

Stages 2 & 3

Welcome to Stage 2 & 3, 2019. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you our plans for your children in 2019.

TEACHERS AND CLASSES:

The Stage 2 & 3 team consists of:

Mrs Kristin Hardge 5/6H (Stage 3 coordinator) Mr Philip Yeong 3/4Y (Stage 2 coordinator)

Mrs Kim Lynch 5/6L

Ms Kate Blackwell 3/4B

Mr Stephen Morris 5/6M

Mr James Musgrave 3/4M

Mrs Angela Tomiczek 5/6T

All classes are parallel classes, which means they consist of students of different academic abilities across all Key Learning Areas.

EXPECTATIONS:

We expect that Stage 2 & 3 children will:

- * Show respect to fellow students, teachers and others in our school
- * Come to school/class punctually
- * Come to school prepared for their lessons with all materials and equipment required
- * Respect their own property and the property of others.
- * Give their best effort in all class activities
- * Become active and responsible members of the BPS community

TEACHING & LEARNING:

Stage 3: We began the year with a mini unit of work on our class names. We chose living indigenous cultures to celebrate the United Nations Year of Indigenous Languages. In Term 1 we will be completing a unit of work on Deserts. The study of this topic will connect outcomes across several KLA's e.g. English and Visual Arts as well as Geography and Science. Children's reading, writing and talking and listening activities will engage them in texts related to the topics.

Other units of study for this year will include:

Term 2 - The Australian Colonies – Settlement and Expansion (History)

Earth's Place in Space (Science)

Term 3 - Australia as a Nation – Federation / Developing Australian Identity (History)

Forces & Energy (Science)

Term 4 - Factors that Shape Places (Geography)

Sustainability / Salinity (Science)

Stage 2: In Stage 2 we also began the year with a mini unit of work on our class names. We chose living indigenous cultures to celebrate the United Nations Year of Indigenous Languages. In Term 1, we will be completing a unit of work titled 'Then and Now: Community Change and Growth'. We will look at local Aboriginal history, changes in Blackheath and the first crossing of the Blue Mountains. There is also a significant area of study looking at Australia in terms of mapping and sites of significance. The study of this topic will connect outcomes across several KLAs e.g. History, Geography, English and Visual Arts. Children's reading, writing and talking and listening activities will engage them in texts related to the topic.

Units of study for this year will include:

Term 1 – Then and Now - Community Change and Growth (History)

Changes of State (Science)

Term 2 – Australia – Our Ancient Wonderland (Geography)

Friend or Foe (Science)

Term 3 – World Explorers (History)

Night and Day (Science)

Term 4 - National Parks (Geography)

Beneath Our Feet (Science)

ENGLISH

This key learning area involves speaking and listening, reading, writing (including spelling, handwriting and grammar).

The English syllabus requires the inclusion of quality literature from a variety of sources and cultures. The focus is on students reading, viewing and responding to text, thinking creatively, expressing themselves and reflecting on their own learning.

Literacy groups will run in each class and will involve a range of reading, writing and spelling activities. They enable teachers to work in turn with a small group of children on focused activities.

In writing, we focus on persuasive, informative and imaginative texts. Each week we have a common time when we complete a writing task. We sometimes plan, write and edit our work together as a Stage. Our learning and support teacher, Louise Bishop, will be involved in writing sessions in each stage.

Children have the opportunity to read from a variety of novels at their ability and interest level. By engaging with a range of 'rich' texts we provide students with opportunities to increase their vocabulary, provide models of 'good' writing and thereby improve their literacy skills. Children will have opportunities to analyse and discuss the texts they read, looking at techniques of writers, author's purpose and the use of literary devices to create effective texts. Multi modal and digital texts also form part of the English syllabus.

In Stage 2 & 3 this year, we will once again be involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge. We aim to encourage as many students as possible to complete the challenge. The challenge will be run and organised by our school librarian, Ms Lamond.

In Stage 3 this year, we have once again set students the challenge of reading 40 books within the year. We aim to encourage students to become independent and critical readers of a variety of books – fiction, factual, poetry, etc. and to enjoy sharing their experiences with others. The Premier's Reading Challenge is easily incorporated into the 40 Book Challenge.

MATHS

Stage 3

Children have been grouped within Stage 3 for Maths. They have been graded and grouped according to achievements in 2018 and pre-testing this year. All children will be accessing the same content from the maths syllabus but at a level appropriate for their development. Assessment in maths will be ongoing and adjustments made to groups where necessary. A major part of the Mathematics Syllabus is Working Mathematically. Children are taught to reason, explain and justify their solutions to Maths problems as well as having an understanding of maths facts and processes.

Stage 2

This year, Stage 2 students will remain with their class for Maths and their learning will be differentiated through a range of activities that are designed to engage and challenge students of all abilities. There will be student groupings in class, informed by their achievements in 2018 and testing at the start of the year. All classes will be delivering a common Maths program that aligns to the NSW syllabus with continual assessment to support student learning. A major part of the Mathematics Syllabus is Working Mathematically. Children are taught to reason, explain and justify their solutions to Maths problems as well as having an understanding of maths facts and processes.

This year we will be using an alternate online mathematics program called Matific in all Maths classes. Regular completion of Matific tasks will be part of Maths homework for both stages. Matific offers an engaging platform that supports students to develop their mathematical skills and thinking through problem solving. Students involved in a trial of Matific at our school in 2018 found the program to be highly engaging and supportive of their learning.

CREATIVE ARTS

Activities in Creative Arts will generally be linked to our study in History, Geography, Science, etc. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Lanyon in our school and this year she will be teaching Music, Drama and Dance in RFF sessions. Mrs Tomiczek and Ms Blackwell will be running dance classes, leading to participation in the Nepean and Upper Blue Mountains Dance Festivals.

PD, HEALTH, PE

Fitness sessions of 30 minutes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These sessions focus on developing stamina, skills and endurance. In Term 1, we are focusing on aerobic fitness and skills development.

Sport is held each Friday afternoon. Children are organised into cross-stage groups and have the opportunity to participate in a range of sport's activities, including Newcombe Ball, AFL, cricket and T-Ball. Children exhibiting great team spirit, sportsmanship and skills are awarded sports

awards each week. Five sports awards qualify for an invitation to the sports lunch held at the end of each term. It is important to keep those sports awards in a safe place.

Sports shirts are available for purchase from the uniform shop to wear for sport on Friday.

In Personal Development this term, we have targeted positive ways of developing good relationships, effective communication and friendships. Each class has regular 'circle time', which reinforces these concepts. This will be supported by Peer Support, which will run this term and will focus on anti-bullying strategies & building positive relationships. Bounce Back (resilience) activities are included in each term's program.

Other PD focus topics for 2019 include:

Stage 3		Stage 2	
Term 1	Peer Support	Term 1	Peer Support
Term 2	Child Protection	Term 2	Drug Education
Term 3	Drug Education	Term 3	Child Protection

STUDENT WELLBEING

We continue to use Restorative Practices across the school. This program focuses on building and maintaining healthy relationships by minimising harm. The principles of Restorative Practices are based on fair process and the use of a common language and aims to separate the 'act' from the 'actor'.

In Term 1, we will continue to implement the "Bounce Back" program that aims to assist with building resilience in students. This continues to be taught across the school as part of the Kidsmatter initiative endorsed by the Upper Blue Mountains Learning Community.

As part of our focus on Positive Education we will also be implementing "Play is the Way" to expand our social and emotional learning.

'Play is the Way' is a program for empowering children by teaching them how to think, reason, analyse and problem-solve in the course of daily living. It directly teaches children positive behaviours such as good manners, perseverance, bravery, honesty, empathy and fairness. Students will be able to demonstrate these skills in a fun way with the ultimate goal that they will be intrinsically motivated to make ethical decisions. We believe this will be a powerful strategy in developing a healthy positive culture in our school

In term 1, alongside our "Bounce Back" lessons we will be focusing on 'Good Manners' and we would encourage you to support this at home. Good manners are already flourishing at Blackheath Public School, but this term is a chance to both celebrate and fine tune our good manners – both adults and children.

In term 2, we will begin the 'Play Is The Way' activities. Most of the teaching is through game playing, which taps into children's natural desire to play. Activities will take place during fitness time. A follow-up class session allows the teacher to reinforce the value or concept being taught.

There will be more opportunities for parents to learn about 'Play Is The Way' during the year.

LEARNING SUPPORT

We have the assistance of our Learning Support teacher, Louise Bishop, again this year. We have a number of students who benefit from individual support with their learning. Louise is currently organising programs to assist these students. We welcome the assistance of any parents who are willing to be trained by Louise to assist in the implementation of these valuable programs.

PROGRAMMING

In Stage 2 & 3 the teachers work as teams. We program our units of work together. The same units of work will be taught in each classroom. The students attend the same excursions, which are organised to enhance their understanding of the concepts and content being taught.

HOMEWORK

Stage 3: In Term 1 we are taking a new approach to class homework. Students will be completing a project based learning assessment task in their library class time which relates to our unit of work on Deserts. During these classes they will receive support from Ms Lamond to research and complete their assessment task. The task will be broken down into sections which need to be submitted by due dates spread across the term. Should a student not complete all of their work in their library lesson, they will be required to complete this at home by the due date.

Other homework may include the finishing of other incomplete class work, kindness challenges and other learning opportunities as they arise in class activities. As always, students will be expected to read each night and record their reading on their home reading record card. Students should bring the book they are reading to school each day for in class reading opportunities. Should a student wish to practise their weekly spelling words at home they can ask their teacher for a copy of their weekly words.

Maths homework will comprise of completion of Matific tasks assigned by your child's maths teacher. Alternative worksheets will be provided for those students who are unable to access Matific at home. There may also, at times, be a project-based approach to Mathematics homework tasks.

Stage 2: Homework will commence in Stage 2 in Week 4. Homework will comprise of a weekly spelling list, Maths and nightly reading. During the term, students will be given a 'project-based' homework where they will be given a criteria reference sheet to assist them with completing the homework. The project home will be explained and discussed with in class before it is sent home. Children should, however, be provided with assistance and guidance by you. Ms Blackwell has also kindly offered to run a weekly after-school clinic for project-based homework two weeks before projects are due, for students who may need additional assistance.

EXCURSIONS & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Stage 3:

This year in Term 3, we will be taking our year 5 and 6 students on a 3 day/2 night Canberra excursion. Students will visit Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, the Australian Electoral Commission and Questacon. Other venues we will be visiting are still being finalised. This overnight excursion will further develop student's knowledge of the topics taught in History and Science this year and clearly connects to Stage 3 Syllabus outcomes. Costing for this excursion is estimated at \$395 per student and will include all travel, accommodation, food and entry to venues.

- Term 1: Sneak Peek at Katoomba HS (Year 6 only)
- Term 2: Sydney Writers' Festival (invited students)
- Term 2: Planetarium Incursion (dependent on cost and availability)

Stage 2:

This year in Term 2, our Year 4 students will participate in an excursion to the Popes Glen reserve where they will learn about its re-generation, learn gymnastics skills and coding in lieu of a camp to Brewongle.

- Term 1: Blackheath Community Walk
- Term 2: Popes Glen and Gymnastics Incursion (Year 4)
Sydney Writers' Festival (invited students)
- Term 3: Planetarium Incursion
- Term 4: To be confirmed

Other events for 2019

- Term 1: School photos – Week 4
Grandparents Day / Harmony Day – Week 8
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews – Week 10
Cross country – Week 11
- Term 2: Sydney Writers Festival (invited students)
Games Day
- Term 3 & 4: To be confirmed

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

NAPLAN testing for Year 3 and Year 5 students and will take place 14 -16 May.

The tests provide us with data to assist in developing programs to meet the needs of our students. They also provide information on how our students are performing in relation to the region, state and nation. Results from the tests help determine the allocation of support staff for the school.

Reports & Interviews

Written reports will be provided twice during the year, at the end of Semester 1 and at the end of the year. There will also be an opportunity for a three-way interview with your child's teacher, your child and yourself to discuss progress in the other KLAs and social development at the end of Term 1.

CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT

Please ensure that your child has the necessary equipment each day. It's a good idea to top up supplies regularly.

Please ensure, also, that all property is clearly labelled with your child's name. This includes jumpers, caps, lunchboxes, etc. Our Lost Property box is continually overflowing with assorted belongings that we are unable to return to the owner without clear identification.

CLASS CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contribution per child is \$50 for the year. Money collected is used to purchase essential equipment for each class. We greatly appreciate your support in sending in contributions promptly so that your child can benefit from these resources.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that children attend school regularly and arrive for school on time each day. Valuable learning time is lost and classes are disrupted when children arrive late. If your child is absent from school due to illness or other reasons, department requirements are that a note be sent to school explaining the absence.

A reminder that, according to DEC policy, parents wishing to take their child/children on a holiday during term time must make application to the principal for approval. Application forms are available from the school office. This also applies to any leave unrelated to educational activities at BPS (e.g. visiting relatives, private school orientation activities).

It is important to note that school carnivals – swimming, cross-country and athletics - are part of the school program and regarded as normal school days. All students are expected to attend and participate to the best of their ability.

FUNDRAISING

Stage 3 will, as usual, be busy raising funds for the Year 6 Farewell as well as the Year 6 gift to the school. Parents may wish to assist us with our fundraising, especially those parents of Year 6 students. At this stage we have planned a cake stall, barbeque and Games Day to be held early in Term 2. A bulb fundraiser will also be held in Term 1 and notes will be sent home shortly. We are very proud of our Year 6 Farewell as we raise enough money to have the event fully catered for and to purchase a quality gift for the school. All of Stage 3 attends this event and it has certainly become a highlight of our senior school year. We will be calling on our ever-supportive group of parents for assistance with our fund-raising in the very near future. Please sign up with Mrs Hardge.

PEER SUPPORT

Stage 3 students will again have the opportunity to be involved as leaders in our Peer Support program. Peer Support leaders are trained in the skills and strategies to assist them in their role as Peer Support leaders. Peer Support training will take place in Week 6, Term 1. Peer Support will occur in weeks 7-11 this term.

YEAR 6 JUMPERS

Notes will be sent home asking for a \$10 deposit before ordering. Upon ordering, they will take about two to four weeks to arrive. Estimated cost is about \$50 and delivery will be early Term 2.

OTHER PROJECTS

Stage 2 & 3

We are a **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden school**. All Stage 2 and 3 students enjoy cooking healthy food, with some of the produce coming from our garden. This year our vegetable garden should once again be producing fresh produce and that produce will be used to cook healthy simple food. The children have been an integral part of this project and we will definitely be enlisting parent support. All work done in the garden and kitchen will be directly linked to the syllabus. Many thanks to the staff and parents who helped prepare the garden at the recent working bee.

Each class or stage is involved in maintenance and development of the kitchen garden. We will be incorporating gardening as an activity within our weekly fitness program. If you have gardening expertise and/or would like to assist, please see Mrs Lanyon.

Each class will be cooking during the term. In order for this program to run effectively, parental assistance is essential. A note will be sent home shortly requesting cooking assistance.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parental involvement in our school. We would be delighted if you are able to assist in any way. Parents are welcome on excursions where we have seating available on buses, etc. Teachers will ask for assistance when required.

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Expression of Interest forms for entry into high school in 2020 will be available shortly. These need to be completed and returned to your child's class teacher before the end of term. This is a DEC requirement to enable entry of data onto the system and facilitate planning by high schools for the coming year.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any concerns regarding your child please do not hesitate to see us. The best approach is to initially address concerns to your child's class teacher. If you would like to discuss an issue with your child's class teacher, please arrange an appointment through the school office.

If you have concerns please contact Mrs Hardge (Stage 3) or Mr Yeong (Stage 2).

We are all looking forward to an exciting year, working in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

Kristin Hardge

Kim Lynch

Stephen Morris

Angela Tomiczek

Philip Yeong

Kate Blackwell

James Musgrave