



# Wheeler Heights Public School

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## Early Stage 1 Newsletter – 2024 (Kindergarten)

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome new and current parents to Kindergarten 2024. We hope you and your child have had an easy and enjoyable introduction to school at Wheeler Heights Public School. The Kindergarten teachers are all looking forward to a fun and busy year of learning ahead. For important information on events and activities and the dates that they will be taking place please refer to the school newsletter.

### WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO!

**KH** – Sarah Higgs

**KM** – Skye Migan

**KSB** – Megan Berryman and Julia Smith

**Assistant Principal and Grade Leader** – Julia Smith



### Sports Uniform

Tuesday (Got Game PE)

### Library Borrowing

KH - Thursday

KM - Thursday

KSB - Tuesday

### Overview of the curriculum:

#### English

**Phonological Awareness** is a critical skill for early literacy development. It refers to oral language and understanding the different ways language can be broken down into smaller parts. Activities you can do with your child to help support their development are rhyming games, breaking words up into syllables and talking about what sound you can hear at the start of a word, in the middle of a word or at the end of a word.

**Phonics** is about identifying and using sounds. It is an integral part of both reading and writing. This term Kindy will work on learning and applying all 26 letter names and their associated sounds. Later in the year, the focus will be on digraphs (2 letters together that make 1 sound e.g. sh) and blends.

You can assist your child by asking them what letter and sound they have learnt during the day. Ways in which you can help your child with their sounds will come home in the clear homework folder soon.

**Home readers** will be added to the Homework Folder when your child is ready to start reading at home. You will receive a Reading Log where you can record the books that have been read. You can also have lots of fun reading the library book your child brings home from Mrs Westwood's fantastic library lessons. Please remember to pack your child's library bag on their designated day so they are able to borrow.

**Writing** is an important skill for school and life. Our initial focus is on correct pencil grip, accurate formation of letters, writing their name correctly with only a capital letter at the start and what makes a good sentence. The students will be learning the 4 stars of writing...

- ★ A sentence must start with a capital letter
- ★ Use a finger space between each word
- ★ Put a full stop at the end
- ★ Reread it to make sure it makes sense



Students will be given the opportunities to be part of whole class discussion, small group and partner activities. Each term, students will give an informal presentation on a given topic in front of the class. We will also be doing impromptu presentations and reflections on learning in class on a range of topics.

## **Mathematics**

Our focus this term will be on whole number; recognising numbers to 10, counting forward and backward to 10, ordering numbers and identifying numbers before and after numbers to 10, combining two or more groups of objects to model addition and identifying and expressing equality of groups. We understand that working only to 10 sounds limiting, however like letters, the numbers 1– 10 are the foundation of all computation and so we need these basic building blocks to be as automatic as possible. For those of you whose child is counting beyond 50 or even 100, counting is just one very small part of understanding numbers. Concentrating on the numbers 1-10 will not limit your child's learning as our maths program is targeted to meet and challenge all learners at their level. As we progress throughout the year, we will be building on what we have learnt and ensuring we are catering for each child's needs. Additionally, Kindergarten will be covering basic concepts of position, length, 2D shapes, area, 3D objects, volume, time and mass.



## **Science**

This term in science, Kindergarten students are engaging in a unit of work entitled, 'The Changing Environment'. In this science and technology unit, students make observations and investigate how daily and seasonal changes affect us. They look at how people, animals and plants change depending on the time of day and/or the seasons. Later in the year, they will cover the Living World, Physical World and Material World science strands. Science is taught by our wonderful Mr Lee Hewes.

## **History & Geography**

During history lessons, students will explore the unit, Families Past and Present. This unit gives students the opportunity to build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different from the present. A warning though, they may come home wanting to know what it was like in the 'olden days' when you were a kid! So cheeky.

## **Information Technology**

This year the students will visit our computer room to learn the technology skills to help them log on and off a computer independently. They will also experiment with the computer mouse and keyboard and will explore simple software programs.



## **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)**

Kindy will enjoy our gross motor sports program every Monday this term. The classes will be rotated around different activities each week and conducted by the Kindergarten teachers. Students will also participate in Got Game sport lessons every Tuesday. These sessions are run by trained specialists and will focus on team building, resilience and developing movement skills. In the classroom, we will be focusing on the importance of positive health practices, the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, conflict resolution, safety and Child Protection.

## **Creative Arts**

Kindergarten will have many opportunities this year to develop their fine motor skills and creativity through a variety of art and craft activities with their teachers. Students will be participating in a range of drama and dance activities as well as engaging in specialist music lessons provided by Amplify music led by our Kindy teachers. These lessons have been written by trained music teachers, are interactive and lots of fun!

## **Communication**

Please check the fortnightly school newsletter for upcoming events and ensure you are linked to the correct stage (Kindergarten) and class on Flexischools. A class parent will be allocated as soon as possible to pass on group messages from teachers to parents throughout the year.

All absences must be explained within 7 days of the first absence, either in writing, through the Flexischools app or by phone to the office. Should you require a meeting with your child's teacher, please contact the school by phone or email to organise a time.

Warm Regards,

Sarah Higgs, Skye Migan, Megan Berryman and Julia Smith

