



# Wheeler Heights Public School

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## **Stage 3 Newsletter – 2024** **(Years 5 & 6)**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 1, 2024. We are looking forward to a productive and positive year ahead in Stage 3.

### **WEEKLY ORGANISATION**

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5J		<b>GOT Game PE</b> - Sport Uniform <b>Science</b>	<b>Assembly</b> - Even Weeks	<b>Library</b>	<b>PSSA/School Sport</b> - Sport Uniform
5OM		<b>GOT Game PE</b> - Sport Uniform <b>Science</b>	<b>Assembly</b> - Even Weeks	<b>Library</b>	<b>PSSA/School Sport</b> - Sport Uniform
6O		<b>GOT Game PE</b> - Sport Uniform <b>Library</b>	<b>Science Assembly</b> - Even Weeks	Year 6 wear 'Year 6 shirts'	<b>PSSA/School Sport</b> - Sport Uniform
6B		<b>GOT Game PE</b> - Sport Uniform <b>Science Library</b>	<b>Assembly</b> - Even Weeks	Year 6 wear 'Year 6 shirts'	<b>PSSA/School Sport</b> - Sport Uniform

### **English**

Students in Stage 3 study 5 week long units of work which align to Department of Education scope & sequences. The units are structured around 2 'components' that support cumulative, explicit and systematic teaching:

- Component A (foundational literacy skills)
- Component B (conceptual understandings of English)

These units exemplify the importance of learning about and enjoying literature through the study of quality texts, as well as support teachers to identify, plan for and teach 'connected content' in ways that reflect latest research.

### **Mathematics**

Stage 3 mathematics units have a duration of 2 weeks. They aim to:

- make connections within and between mathematical concepts including making connections to real-life experiences.
- highlight and reinforce the role of working mathematically and student reasoning.
- include rich mathematical tasks, resources and opportunities for assessment and differentiation.
- address all syllabus outcomes for Stage 3.

Students will also engage in stage based, differentiated maths groups each week. The content of these groups will initially focus on developing student's multiplicative strategies.

### **History/Geography**

In Semester One, students will investigate how people change the natural environment in Australia and other places around the world. They will also explore how the environment influences the human characteristics of places. Stage Three will examine ways people influence the characteristics of places, including the management of spaces. In Semester Two the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1901, is examined. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time.

## **Science**

This term in science, Stage 3 students are engaging in a unit of work entitled, 'Sudden and Extreme Changes to Earth's Surface'. In this science and technology unit, students will investigate major geological and extreme weather events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, drought and cyclones. Students will also investigate food and fibre, creating electrical circuits and reversible and irreversible changes.

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

The personal development and health lessons this term will focus on health, wellbeing and relationships, in particular conflict resolution. Across the year, students will study personal health choices, nutrition and sun and water safety. In physical education, students are participating in weekly sport lessons run by Got Game, their classroom teacher and during PSSA/school sport.

## **Creative Arts**

This year, students will be developing their understanding of visual arts, drama, music and dance. Students will complete artworks using a range of mediums and explore music through the 'Amplify Music' program. These activities will be completed in individual classes.

## **Information Technology**

Students will continue to develop IT skills as they use their laptops in a variety of lessons. Students will progress and develop their skills in Google and Microsoft programs as well as focus on researching and paraphrasing internet content. In order for students to access technology at school, they must complete the 3-6 Student ICT User Agreement which has been shared via School Bytes.

## **Afternoon Sport/PSSA**

Summer PSSA will run from Term 1 Weeks 5-8, Term 3 Weeks 8-10, Term 4 Weeks 1-4 . The competition will run from 12:45-2:20 with all students back at school by 3:15pm. Non-PSSA students will participate in sporting activities at school.

## **Library**

Please encourage your child to borrow, read and return books on a fortnightly basis. We actively encourage students to be involved in consistent reading as this will assist children in gaining a love of reading. This in turn greatly impacts upon their reading progression.

## **Camp**

This year Stage 3 is scheduled to visit the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber for a 3 day/2 night camp in Week 1 of Term 4. The camp aims to provide a 'back to nature' experience, as well as give students an opportunity to challenge themselves in a safe environment. More information will be provided closer to the date.

## **Communication**

Please check the fortnightly school newsletter for upcoming events and ensure you are linked to the correct stage, class and extracurricular groups 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.

## **Technology at school**

The school Mobile Phone Policy has been distributed. Under no circumstances should children have their mobile phone switched on during school time/on school grounds. Students seen with mobile phones out of their school bag will have their phone handed to the office to be collected by a parent. Smart watches such as iWatches and Fitbit Versa etc with communication and photography features are not permitted.

## **Homework**

Each child will continue to be encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes a night. The reading journal should be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Information about homework projects will be released later in the term. If you would like your child to do additional activities, please engage with the online learning program provided by the Department of Education. <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/guided-learning-packages>

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child and the school.

Kind Regards,

**Mr Angus Bird** - 6B Class Teacher & Stage 3 Assistant Principal

**Miss Emily Ossington** - 6O Class Teacher

**Mr Chris Jolly** - 5J Class Teacher

**Mrs Justine Olrog** - 5OM Class Teacher (Mon, Tues, Wed)

**Mrs Holly Miller** - 5OM Class Teacher (Thur, Fri)