Early Stage 1 News

Term 1, 2021

Welcome to the new school year and the first term of school for Kindergarten students. For new parents to the school, we welcome you to the Mascot Public School community. We look forward to getting to know you and your child/ren better throughout the school year. This newsletter aims to inform you about the teaching and learning programs and upcoming events in Early Stage One. Please contact Miss Hamilton if you have any comments about this newsletter or if there are any topics you would like included in future editions.

Calendar of Events for Early Stage 1 Term 1

22/2/21	Meet the teacher night 5pm— KH 5:30pm—KN, KS, KK
9/2/21—24/3/21	Yoga—Tuesday and Wednesdays
1/4/21	Last day of Term 1
19/4/21	First day of Term 2

Early Stage 1 Teaching Staff

KH	Miss Cherie Hamilton—Assistant Principal
KK	Ms Elizabeth Karanikolas
KN	Mr Shaun Ninyo
KS	Miss Madeleine Stack

CURRICULUM INFORMATION - KEY LEARNING AREAS

All stages will be working towards outcomes in the NSW syllabus for the Australian curriculum. Our focus in Term One is to make Early Stage One students feel comfortable and settled in to their new classrooms, while we begin to introduce them to more structured learning experiences. Topics this term include:

English

Speaking and Listening
Super Speakers—see over page
Reading and Viewing/ Writing and Representing
Phonological/ Phonemic Awareness— see over page
Phonics: Get Reading Right—see over page
Writing—see over page

Mathematics

Whole Number
Students count to 30, and order, read and represent numbers in the range from 0 to 20.
Patterns and Algebra
Students recognise, describe and continue repeating patterns.
Position
Students describe position and give and follow simple directions using everyday language.

Science and Technology

Material World—What's it made of?
This unit provides opportunities for students to explore, through hands-on activities, what things are made of in the school environment and the properties of the materials used to make them.

Geography

People Live in Places
Students explore the places they live in and belong to. They develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people.

Students learn about the importance of looking after places and explore how the location of places can be represented.

Creative Arts

Music
Students will participate in music lessons in Term 2.
Visual Art
Students will participate in 2 'Art Days' per term. One in Week 5 and one in Week 10. They will be exposed to a variety of art styles and mediums and gain an appreciation for art in their environment.
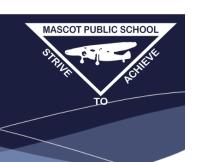
PDHPE

PDH—Grow Your Mind
Grow Your mind is a school-wide program that addresses how mental health and well-being can be enhanced and strengthened at an individual and community level. The program supports students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to manage their own mental health and well-being and to support that of others.
PE—Yoga and Stage Sport
Yoga —Once per week, students will participate in Yoga lessons run by Yoganauts.
Stage sport—On Fridays, all Kindy students will participate in stage sport, increasing their fundamental movement skills, fitness and teamwork.

EARLY STAGE 1 PROGRAMS

Phonemic Awareness

SRA Phonemic Awareness is a complete program for developing phonological and phonemic awareness. The program follows the developmental sequence for teaching all levels of phonological awareness, including phonemic awareness. Phonological awareness is critical for learning to read any alphabetic writing system. Research shows that difficulty with phoneme awareness and other phonological skills is a predictor of poor reading and spelling development. The SRA Phonemic Awareness program will be implemented for 15 minutes, once per day to build students skills and understanding in phonological awareness.

Get Reading Right—Synthetic Phonics

The process of reading with synthetic phonics involves breaking words into separate phonemes that can be blended together to read a word. Part One of the Get Reading Right Synthetic Phonics Toolkit will be taught within all Kindergarten classrooms, throughout the year. It teaches children:

- the first 31 phonemes of the basic code and how they can be represented;
- to blend phonemes all through a word;
- to segment words into phonemes to spell unknown words;
- to respond to letters and pronounce phonemes quickly and automatically;
- that reading and spelling are reversible processes;
- to read and spell simple words;
- to read and spell irregular, high frequency words and
- to work independently and in groups during guided reading.

The Get Reading Right synthetic phonics program will be implemented for 30 minutes, once per day.

Writing

In Writing students work with the teacher to explicitly scaffold and write a sentence, using "Camera Words" (sight words) and phoneme words from the Get Reading Right program. As the students become more confident writers, they will explore imaginative and informative texts as well as write recounts of personal experiences. Writing will be taught daily in Kindergarten.

Super Speakers

From Week 5 onwards, students will be provided with a weekly topic to talk to their class about during Super Speaking time, as part of Speaking and Listening. Students will be allocated a day and given a scaffold to work through at home, to prepare their speech. In Term One this is extremely informal as students develop their confidence to speak in front of their peers.

Developmental Exploration

In Development Exploration, students are provided with a range of hands-on learning experiences, encouraging the development of skills through play. All kindergarten classes work together in the shared learning area, giving students the freedom to choose their activities and peers they would like to work with. Developmental play will run for an hour, every Friday afternoon.

Crunch and Sip

This is a program which aims to encourage students to eat more fruit and vegetables in their day and to drink more water. Each day at 10am, students will have time to eat fruit or vegetables, brought from home. We would appreciate your support in providing your child with food to eat at this time.

Stage 3 Buddies

All Kindergarten students will be paired with a buddy from Year 5 or 6. Once per week, buddies will be coming to the shared learning area to read books with their buddies. The Year 5 and 6 buddies will also be assisting kindergarten students with a range of programs throughout the year such as online maths assessments and transitioning onto the playground.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Homework Reading

Homework reading will begin in Week 5. Children will be bringing books home to read with you. We would appreciate you taking the time to help your child read their book each night and then completing the Reading Log which will be kept in their plastic class folder.

Ways You Can Help Us

- Please ensure that you label all of your child's belongings.
- Please make sure that you return school notes promptly, placing any money in an envelope along with the permission slip. Mark the envelope with your child's full name, class and purpose for the money and place it in the K-2 box, located in the office.
- If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. This is for the safety and protection of all our students and staff.
- Please send a letter to school explaining any absences your child may have had or is about to have.

Class Routines for Early Stage 1	
Scripture	Thursday— 1:50—2:20pm
Assembly	N/A due to COVID Restrictions
Crunch n Sip	Daily in all Kindergarten classes—Morning session
Library **(Library bag needed to borrow books)**	**KH** Wednesday **KK** Tuesday **KN** Thursday **KS** Monday
Yoga	**KH** Tuesday **KK** Tuesday **KN** Wednesday **KS** Tuesday
Computer	**KH** Monday **KK** Wednesday **KN** Tuesday **KS** Friday
Sport	**Students should wear sports uniform on these days:** Tuesday (KK, KH, KS) / Wednesday (KN) — Yoga Friday — Kindy sport