Welcome to 5/6M- Term 1- 2015

Dear 5/6M Parents,

My name is Mr Ryan McMahon and I have the privilege of teaching your child in 2015. Welcome to 5/6M. We have a great term planned and are looking forward to School Camp and the Swimming Carnival. Our class is very fortunate to be joined by Miss Lindsay Taylor from the University of Technology Sydney. She is studying to be a teacher and will be in our class starting this term. I hope you all had a great holiday and I am excited to be working with your kids.

Dates for Term 1:
- Week 2: Classes assigned and benchmarking begins
- Week 3: Homework, Literacy and Numeracy Groups begin, Miss Taylor in class
- Week 4: Inquiry-Based Learning begins, Swimming Scheme
- Week 5: Swimming Carnival (Feb 26th)
- Week 6: School Camp (2/3/15-6/3/15)
- Week 9: Parent-Teacher Interviews

A brief overview of topics this term.

**English**

**Talking and Listening**
Students are encouraged to participate in ‘Learning Circles’ on a weekly basis. I will soon inform each student of the various discussion topics and rosters. Prepared public speaking topics are set each term.

**Reading**
Students read for 20 minutes each day in class and also participate in the home reading program each week beginning Week 3. We will also be looking at comprehension strategies to assist our reading.

**Writing**
Students will learn to write different types of text and also learn the purpose of a piece of writing. This will help Year 5 for NAPLAN testing and consolidate for Year 6 ahead of their Year 7 tests in 2016.

**Mathematics**
In Maths we will be preparing for our NAPLAN testing with practice questions and strategizing for Year 5. We will start Maths groups based on Whole Number. These groups are based on benchmark testing from term one.

**Human Society and its Environment**
Students will be studying ‘Gold and The Eureka Stockade’ this term with Miss Stewart on a Tuesday afternoon. This involves trialing parts of the History syllabus which will be implemented in 2016!

**Languages**
Students will be studying Chinese Mandarin with Miss Watson from Narrabeen Sports High School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our class to learn a new language and obtain a new life-long skill.

**Sport**
Sport is on a Friday and we are encouraged to wear our full sports uniform to school. Students also (if selected) participate in PSSA sport at various venues.

**Timetable for RFF, and library**
We have Science and Technology with Mrs Graham on Tuesday from 11:15 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Library is on a Monday at 12:15 p.m. and students will need to bring in their library bags and books every week.

**Inquiry-Based Learning**
Our class will be piloting inquiry-based learning scenarios and exciting student-lead work. Stay tuned!

Please contact me regarding any concerns at ryan.d.mcmahon@det.nsw.edu.au or at school on 99137077.

Sincerely,
Ryan McMahon
5/6 M Classroom Teacher