Welcome to 5/6C
Term 1– 2016

Dear 5/6C Parents,

My name is Nathan Casey and I have the privilege of teaching your child in 2016. Welcome to 5/6C! We have a great term planned and are looking forward to School Camp. I look forward to meeting you during the year and I am excited to be working with your wonderful children.

Dates for Term 1:

Week 3: Homework begins
Meet the Teacher Evening
Week 7: School Camp (7/3/16 - 11/3/16)
Week 10: Athletics carnival
Week 11: Parent-Teacher Interviews

Timetable

Monday: Library (Please remember to bring in a library bag each week)
Wednesday: Scripture and Science
Thursday: Mandarin
Friday: Sport

English

Speaking and Listening Students are encouraged to create speeches and engage in debating through our literacy group activities on a weekly basis. 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, with a particular focus on Super 6, to assist our reading and understanding.

Writing Students will learn to write different types of text and also learn the purpose of a piece of writing. Students will be given opportunities to engage in writing 2-3 times a week.

Mathematics

In Maths, our activities will start with an emphasis on Whole Number followed by addition and subtraction strategies. We will have a focus on times table challenges each week. It would be great if you could challenge your children to a speed test at home!

Human Society and its Environment

Students will be studying Antarctica this term.

PDHPE

Our focus this term is on Road Safety. 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.

Homework
Homework will start in Week 3. It will be given out on a Monday and due back on a Friday. If the week has been particularly busy then it can be returned on a Monday morning. This will consist of a personalised list to practise each day with look/cover/write/check and other tasks. A unit of Mentals and a times table challenge. There will be a project which will have a series of tasks that are due at different times throughout the term. As well as regular reading, Reading Eggs and Mathletics. Please let me know via email or note if there is any problems.

Leadership

This is a big year for your child and there will be many opportunities for them to be involved in leadership activities. The most important one for Year Six at the moment is supporting our new Kindergarten students on a day-to-day basis. We will have a leadership program running for Year Five in Term 3, with an emphasis on team-work, leadership qualities and building children’s confidence to speak to an audience. This is in preparation for leadership nominations in Term 4. There is also the opportunity for a select group of Stage Three children to have a leadership role earlier in the year through the Premier’s Sporting Challenge program.

Year 6 shirts

A note will be coming home soon regarding the special Year 6 shirts. We will be voting on a design and organising this in the next few weeks.

Inquiry-Based Learning

Our class will be piloting inquiry-based learning scenarios and exciting student-lead work. This term our focus will be on Road Safety. Later in the year we will be looking at a History unit. Stay tuned for more details.

Fundraising!

There will be many opportunities for our Year 5 students to raise money that will go towards the Year 6 Farewell. We will also be asking for assistance from year 5 parents to help organise the Farewell later in the year. Year 6 will also be raising funds for the end of year gift to the school. More information to follow.

21st Century Learning

We are looking at decorating our classroom in a manner that promotes working in various ways and trying to steer away from the traditional desk work. Creating spaces such as standing areas and cushions, mats, bean bags, exercise balls and couches would brighten up our room immensely. If you have any of these lying around at home that are still in a reasonable condition we would love to take donations. Please send me an email with a photo and measurements and we’ll see if it fits.

5/6C will be utilising an App called Seesaw. This is a secure method of sharing work with you directly and they will be able to produce a portfolio of work in which they can look back on throughout the year. There will be more information on this in coming weeks.

Seesaw

Stage 3 students will also have access to Chromebooks which will be trialled initially by 6Z in coming weeks. Students will explore Google Apps and have the world at their fingertips in a secure manner.

Please contact me regarding any concerns at nathan.casey1@det.nsw.edu.au or at school on 99137077. It would be great if you could all email me in the next few days in order to create a contact list.

Kind regards,

Nathan Casey

5/6C Classroom Teacher