

## Year 5 and 6 Opportunity Class (OC) - Term 3, 2022

Dear 'Treehouse' Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 3 at Balmain Public School! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break.

As per the SkoolBag notifications that have been sent out, we will be conducting parent-teacher meetings during Week 2 and 3 of this term. We look forward to meeting with you then, to discuss your child's progress and Semester 2 learning goals.

### English

In Term 3, all students will participate in our in-class NSW Premier's Spelling Bee competition. In preparation for this, students have been advised on how to access the senior (Stage 3) word lists via our Google Classroom page. For homework over the holiday break, students were encouraged to access and practise these words, in anticipation of our class competition during Week 1. One finalist per class will be selected to advance to the stage competition, which will take place in Week 2. The stage winner will then represent Balmain Public School at the next competition level, competing against other local schools.

Our English literature unit for Semester 2 (Term 3 and 4) will be driven by the overarching theme of 'space'. Our learning will be guided by the core texts: 'I, Robot' and 'Robot Dreams' by Isaac Asimov. (Please note that students are NOT required to purchase these texts). Both these texts encompass a series of short stories, in the science-fiction genre. Students will engage with these texts, along with other multimodal texts such as information reports, websites and videos, to explore and critically analyse the different ways that humans interact with the 'space' around them. Students will complete various 'Speaking and Listening,' 'Reading and Viewing,' as well as 'Writing and Representing' tasks related to this theme.

Students will also continue to engage in literacy rotations, encompassing guided reading and writing with a teacher, spelling, grammar, reading comprehension, goal setting, handwriting and Sustained Silent Reading (SSR). We would like to remind students to make sure they always have a book of interest kept in their tote bags, to draw upon during these sessions.

### Mathematics

During Term 3, students will engage in the explicit teaching and learning of the mathematical sub-strands:

- Whole Number
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions and Decimals
- Patterns and Algebra
- Length
- Area
- Volume and Capacity

The learning across these sub-strands will be consolidated with problem-solving sessions, as well as mathematical investigations. These sessions will be designed to support students' ability to work mathematically across different topics, as well as to effectively communicate their mathematical understanding and reasoning.

## Geography

This term, students will begin our geography unit. Students will explore the impact bushfires have on Australian people, places and environments, as well as propose ways that people can reduce the impact of natural disasters, such as bushfires, in the future. Students will also explore the inquiry questions: 'How do people and environments influence one another?', 'How do people influence places and the management of spaces within them?' and 'How can the impact of bushfires on people and places be reduced?'

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

### PDH – Drug Education

This term, students will learn about the impacts and consequences of personal lifestyle choices, as well as safe practices that are appropriate to a range of situations and environments. Students will be guided to develop skills to make informed decisions, understand how to enjoy a sense of belonging, as well as explore ways to enhance their collaboration and contribution, when working cooperatively with others.

### PE – PSSA, PCYC and school sport

On Fridays, students will continue to participate in either PSSA soccer, PSSA netball, fitness at the PCYC Balmain or school sport. For PSSA soccer and netball, students have been given new permission notes. Alternatively, students have also been given fitness options offered at PCYC Balmain. This information has been shared with parents and carers via SkoolBag. As both the PSSA and PCYC options involve payment, students will also have the free option to engage in structured sport activities at school with classroom teachers.

## ProjectNEST

ProjectNEST is a project-based learning unit that looks to integrating Key Learning Areas. This semester, the driving question for this unit of work will be: 'How can we care for our places and spaces?' This unit will be underpinned by both English and geography syllabus outcomes, and students will produce a series of 'Mini-Outcome' products to demonstrate their understanding and learning.

- Mini-Outcome #1 – Information report
- Mini-Outcome #2 – Creative end-product of student choice

## Music, Visual Arts, STEAM and library

Each fortnight, students will participate in:

- Music for 1 hour with Ms MacDonald
- STEAM for 1 hour with Mrs Loxton
- Visual arts for 1 hour with Mrs Bowman
- Library for 1 hour with Ms Whelan

## Hard Copy Planner and Homework

We would like to remind students to bring their hard copy planner to school every day. We will continue to use these planners during our morning admin sessions, to keep track of homework tasks, as well as note upcoming school-based events. Please note that these due dates and reminders are also available through our online 'Google Calendar' accessible via the 'Student Portal.'



## Stationery

As we begin a new term, we request that all students take the time to check their belongings, to replenish any needed stationery items. Specifically, students should come to school with their own lead pencils, coloured pencils, blue or black pens, 30 cm ruler, eraser, glue stick and whiteboard markers.

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Kind Regards

Mrs Annabel Sun and Miss Rose Reedy

Stage 3 OC Teachers, Balmain Public School