

Year 5 and Year 6 Opportunity Class – Term 3, 2020

Dear 'Treehouse' students, parents and carers

Welcome to Term 3. We hope you have had a restful break.

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Miss Sarah Weston will be leaving Balmain PS for the role of Assistant Principal at Summer Hill PS. She will be with us up until Friday 14 August (Week 4). It was the intention that Miss Katrina Kelly would take the position of 5/6W classroom teacher starting in Week 5, however, due to unforeseen personal circumstances, that will not be proceeding.

Instead, Miss Holly Wright, who has been working at Balmain PS throughout 2020, will transition to the 'Treehouse' in a full time capacity. Since mid-Term 2, Miss Wright has been working in the 'Treehouse' space throughout the week, team-teaching with Miss Weston and Miss Yau, as they alternate in undertaking executive duties. We are excited to have Miss Wright officially join the 'Treehouse' team.

We would also like to acknowledge the reality of this school year, in that students have not had the same opportunities they might have had, had COVID-19 not occurred. At this time, we would have attended Stage 3 camp and friendships would have solidified. It is important to note that students, particularly Year 5, are still settling in. It is very much a common denominator amongst the cohort, that students are still finding their feet. This settling in is somewhat 'normal' for some students at this time of year, however COVID-19 has prolonged this process. Teachers are extremely mindful of this and we are working to ensure students feel safe and happy at school. We encourage parents to organise play-dates where possible, keeping in line with advice from NSW Health.

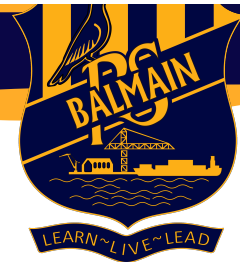
Year 5

During Term 2, students completed 2 Mathematics Selective Schools Ranking Tests and 2 English Selective Schools Ranking Tests. Throughout Term 3, Year 5 students will continue to complete the remaining 6 tests. If you have any questions in the interim, please refer to the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that was sent to you via Skoolbag.

Year 6

Congratulations to the Year 6 cohort, who have received their results from the Selective Schools Placement Test during the holidays. We hope that you are proud of your achievements, because we know how hard you have worked. Just remember, a test cannot measure your creativity, your kindness or ambition. These results will support your future but will not define it. A big 'well done' from your teachers.

During Term 2, Year 6 students commenced Year 6 meetings, to begin discussing the upcoming events and fundraisers leading up to graduation. Throughout Term 3, we will continue to run these meetings to ensure that we are organised and ready for a fun and eventful final semester of primary school! As we are currently unsure of what the future holds in regards to the upcoming graduation, the school will keep parents and carers up to date with organisation. At present, the 'save the date' has been scheduled for Monday, 14 December.



English

In Term 3, our literature unit will be guided by excerpts from *Robot Dreams* by Isaac Asimov. This text encompasses a series of short stories in the science-fiction genre. We will also read *The Night They Stormed Eureka* by Jackie French, to support students' learning in History. Students **are not** required to purchase either of these texts. Students will engage with these texts through a variety of reading and viewing, writing and representing, and responding and composing opportunities.

Literacy Rotations will encompass spelling, language conventions, CARS & STARS (reading comprehension), SOLE presentations, guided reading with a teacher, as well as guided writing with a teacher.

Mathematics

During Term 3, we will continue to embed investigation tasks, underpinned by the concept of Working Mathematically, within our mathematics program covering the 3 strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Please note, we will continue to use Mathspace as a program to consolidate the learning that has occurred in the classroom. Students will often be required to complete set tasks for homework.

Freedom to Learn

Students will commence a new Freedom to Learn unit of work, that will span over a 10-week period. The theme of this semester's Freedom to Learn unit is 'space', in any sense of the term. Aligning with our English and Science unit, also commencing this semester, Freedom to Learn tasks will feature a focus on embracing sustainability.

PDHPE - Drug Education

Students will learn about the consequences of personal lifestyle choices and safe practices that are appropriate to a range of situations and environments. Students will be developing skills to make informed decisions, enjoy a sense of belonging and act in ways that enhance the contribution of self and working cooperatively with others. In our 'You Can Do It!' program, students will be learning about the notion of confidence and how it can be applied in different contexts, such as developing increasing social and academic independence, taking learning risks and growing from past experiences.

STEAM

Students will continue to participate in STEAM for 1 hour per week with Ms Barcenilla, exploring the topic of space, using future-focused processes to support 21st century learning and design thinking.

Music

Students will participate in Music for 1 hour per week with Ms Biggins.

History

In history, students will be learning about the topic of 'The Australian Colonies', specifically the gold rush. This unit of work will be integrated into ProjectNEST.



Investigative Learning - ProjectNEST

ProjectNEST is a unit of work that focuses on the integration of Key Learning Areas (KLAs). In Term 3, our ProjectNEST unit will be driven by English, history and science outcomes. The driving question of this unit of work will be: "What is our connection with Earth and beyond?"

Mini Outcome 1: Diary Entries from the Gold Rush Era (History and English)

Mini Outcome 2: 3D models (History & Art)

Mini Outcome 3: Planet Profile (STEAM)

To assist the creation of Mini Outcome 2, creating 3D models of a goldfield during the Gold Rush period, we would like to request that students start bringing in recyclable construction materials that can be shared and used for our designs.

Please **DO NOT** bring in egg cartons or toilet paper rolls (paper towel rolls are fine).

Upcoming events and homework due dates

A reminder that all upcoming events and homework due dates are written on the classroom reminders board (physical whiteboard within the classroom space). Students are encouraged to check this space regularly, to assist with their self-organisation of upcoming events and due dates. Students are encouraged to use a **hard copy diary**. We will keep reminding students to bring their diary to 'The Gathering' each morning, so they can use that time to write down reminders from the board.

Kind Regards,

Miss Weston, Miss Wright and Miss Yau
Balmain Public School