



Stage 2 – Term 4, 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome to Term 4 at Balmain Public School. We hope you've had a restful and relaxing school break.

English

Literacy Rotations

Term 4 English will continue to involve literacy rotations. During literacy rotations, students will be involved in differentiated, skill-based learning tasks, which aim to consolidate the teaching and learning from the week. Students will have regular opportunities to work in a focus group alongside the classroom teacher.

Literacy rotations will consist of 6 stations:

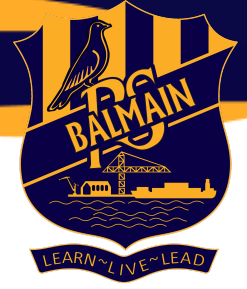
- Guided reading
- SoundWaves spelling program
- CARS and STARS (comprehension program)
- Self-Organised Learning Environments (SOLE)
- Grammar
- Writing

Literature

Students will participate in literature, which will encompass the study of a variety of quality texts. We will be focusing on the theme of 'Myths and Legends'. We will have a focus study of four different myths and legends - Pandora's Box, Boo'ambillyee - The Story of Shark Island, Pied Piper and King Midas. To coincide with these text studies, we will be implementing explicit writing skills from 'Seven Steps to Writing to Success'.

Grammar

Our grammar program will cover a range of topics, including the use of complex sentences, connectives, quotation marks, indirect and direct speech, similes and metaphors, emotive language, modal verbs, synonyms and antonyms, as well as some revision on paragraphs and tense.



Mathematics

Students will cover all three mathematical strands: number and algebra, measurement and geometry and statistics and probability. Students will participate in activities to support and extend their knowledge in small groups, individually or with the teacher. They will also have the opportunity to partake in mathematics investigations and problem-solving tasks.

All students will be pre-assessed on each sub-strand to cater for individual needs, as students have knowledge of varying degrees. Post-assessment will also be implemented after the completion of each sub-strand, to see how student learning has progressed. Assessment is either summative (end of semester) or formative (during the learning session), depending on the nature of the lesson.

Geography

Stage 2 students will study the topic of *Neighbouring Significant Places*. This unit will look at: examining the diverse characteristics of Australia's neighbouring countries; exploring different climates, settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places; exploring the climate, natural vegetation and native animals of Asia; and exploring how perceptions of places are the basis for actions to protect places and animals.

PDHPE - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

PDH

In this unit, the students will focus on their safety and their right to feel safe. The unit will encompass three safety strands: Water, Personal and Sun safety. They will understand how safe practices promote personal wellbeing, understand the factors that influence personal health choices,

PE

During Term 4, students will engage in the program of Gymnastics run by *Sport Pro*. This program will be conducted over 8 weeks. This program will incorporate the learning and development of essential fundamental skills of gymnastics, which will be modified for new and experienced students.

Creative Arts

Music

Students in 3/4B and 5/4M will continue to participate in music for 1 hour per week with Mrs Biggins, exploring percussion, group composition and appreciation of all genres.



Visual Arts

Mrs Bowman will teach visual arts to 3/4M and 3/4R this term, as students develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in making artworks. This will be informed by their investigations of the world as subject matter, use of expressive forms, as well as consideration of the audience for their works. Lessons will aim to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in appreciating their own artworks and those of others, recognising some relationships between artists, artworks, audiences and how the world is interpreted.

STEAM

Stage 2 students will continue to participate in STEAM for 1 hour a week with Ms Barcenilla, exploring the topics of ocean pollution and sustainability. This unit is an ideal way to link science with literacy in the classroom. Students will be addressing the conservation of life below water, through the sustainable use of our oceans and marine resources.

Homework

Students will complete homework activities through the homework learning grid. Students have a list of 'must-complete' activities each week as well as optional creative tasks. Homework is designed to be completed over a two week cycle and the activities are designed to consolidate the learning that occurs from within the classroom. These activities will include writing, reading, spelling, speaking and listening, and mathematics opportunities. Students will also have access to MathSpace. MathSpace is an interactive online mathematics program that consolidates and complements the mathematical concepts taught in class. Every 2 weeks, new tasks will be set for students to complete, which will correlate with content learnt in class.

Classroom Items

Please take the time to replenish any items that might need replacing. For example, blue ballpoint pens, lead pencils and glue sticks.

Kind Regards

Mr Baumann, Ms Martin, Ms Matthews and Ms Reedy
Stage 2 teachers