Welcome to the 2015 school year. In Stage 3 we are looking forward to an engaging and exciting year for children, teachers and parents! Here is some useful introductory information regarding life in Stage 3.

**Stage 3 consists of 6 Stage classes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/6L</td>
<td>Lincoln McBroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6F</td>
<td>Natasha Fistr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6H</td>
<td>Louise Heaslip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6T</td>
<td>Jason Tierney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6K</td>
<td>Kim Hosking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Lydia Smith</td>
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**Maths Groups**

Students will be divided into graded, year level classes for maths. These groups will commence in Week 3.

**Home Reading**

Children are encouraged to read on a daily basis. Regular home reading is a fantastic way to support your child’s vocabulary development, word accuracy, comprehension and reading fluency, so it’s important for book choices to be appropriate. Each Stage 3 classroom has a large collection of books that are available for borrowing each day if your child isn’t using books from your home collection or the school/town library.

**Homework**

Students will be given both English homework (starting Week 2) and Maths homework (starting Week 3) each Monday. Homework is designed to encourage thinking and revise work from class. Home reading is also an integral element of homework. It is the child’s responsibility to return homework to their English and Maths classes by Friday each week.

**Sport**

The annual Primary Swimming Carnival is on Wednesday 18th February at Dubbo Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Cross-Country will be held in Term 2. The Athletics Carnival is scheduled for early Term 3 at Barden Park. In Terms 1 & 3 students will be involved in Stage organised activities at school. In Terms 2 & 4 students participate in across-Dubbo primary schools PSSA sport. There will be a cost of $3.50 associated with any bus travel.

**Assemblies**

Whole school K-6 assemblies will be held Friday afternoons after lunch (1.35pm) every even numbered week in the school hall. Each class will have the opportunity to perform an item during the year at a whole school K-6 assembly. Dates of performances will be relayed to parents via the newsletter and individual class teachers. Stage 3 assemblies and SRC meetings will be held on odd numbered weeks on Friday afternoons from 2:30pm. SRC meetings involve members of the Student Representative Council, class captains and all the students in Stage 3 in the everyday running of the school.

**‘Fruito’**

At 10:30 each morning before Maths Groups, ‘Fruito’ is eaten to encourage healthy lifestyle habits. Please ensure your child has a piece of raw fresh fruit or vegetable each day. It should be able to be eaten whilst the students move to their Maths Group classrooms. It is also a good time to mention we have a number of students in our school community with serious food allergies/anaphylaxis, so please save peanut butter sandwiches and other food products containing nuts to enjoy at home, rather than at school.
Hats and water

The school has a ‘NO HAT, NO PLAY’ policy. Hats need to be worn while outside at all times. They are not worn or taken to whole school assemblies, stage meetings, performances and special assemblies. Children are encouraged to bring bottled water to school, especially during the warmer months.

Excursion

The excursion this year is to Sydney for 3 days and 2 nights in late Term 3 or early Term 4 (dates and cost to be confirmed by mid Term 1). Expressions of interest and information packages will be sent home later in the term to allow payment by instalment throughout the year.

Scripture

Classes are held in non-denominational groupings once a week for half an hour and are provided by the Ministers Fraternity. Please inform your child’s teacher if you do not wish them to participate in Scripture.

Child Protection

This is a mandatory section of the Personal Development Program and will be covered in PDHPE with Mr Delyall. All students will participate in these important lessons.

Absentee Notes

Please send a note to your teacher within 5 school days following a school absence. This note should outline the reason your child was absent or it will be recorded as an unexplained absence on the class roll. For your convenience, the Dubbo South PS school app is a free download for smartphones and has a link for parents to email an absence note directly to the school. Absences due to illness for 2 or more consecutive school days require a doctor’s certificate. It is important for your child to maintain high attendance to achieve their full potential at school. Occasional absences can be unavoidable due to illness or circumstance, however 10 or more absences during a semester (without approval from the Principal) is considered unsatisfactory.

Collection of Money

When sending money to school with your child to pay for shows, excursions, PSSA sport, material costs etc, please put the money in a sealed envelope with your child’s name and class clearly marked, as well as what activity the payment is for.

Appointment with Teachers

Parent interviews will be held in Week 7 this term. If you have important information to relay to your child’s teacher before then, ring or send a note in with your child so a mutually convenient time can be arranged. Stage Assistant Principal, Lincoln McBroom, can be contacted via the school office or a note. Please note that staff members are engaged in meetings before and after school and are often involved with lesson preparation, administration, organisation and playground duties before, during and after school and it may not be possible to attend to your inquiry immediately. We thank you in advance for your understanding and willingness to be flexible when requesting appointments.

ICAS Competitions

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are held throughout the year. Stage 3 children are encouraged to take part in one or more of these. The schedule, including costs and sitting dates will be sent home at a later date with the school newsletter.

Requirements

All students need; a pencil case, lead pencils, blue pens, red pen, scissors, glue stick, coloured pencils, pencil sharpener, textas, highlighters, ruler and eraser. A USB drive may also be useful (no larger than 8Gb). Books for subjects are supplied by the school, and students are expected to follow the Stage 3 book code, treating their books respectfully, keeping bookwork tidy and free from graffiti. Some teachers may send books home to be covered. Please return these to school as quickly as possible.