



## *STAGE 3 Parent Information Guide*

Welcome to Castle Cove for what we know will be an exciting year of learning. We especially welcome all Stage 3 families and students who are new to our school, and hope that that you and your children have settled in well.

### **Contact Information**

#### **Stage 3 Teachers**

Anne Layton-Smith, Assistant Principal, Senior L (M, T, W) - [anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au)

Tim Blazey, Senior L (Th, F) - [tim.blazey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:tim.blazey@det.nsw.edu.au)

Emma McLeod, Senior M - [emma.mcleod9@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:emma.mcleod9@det.nsw.edu.au)

Ashleigh Ruppin, Senior R - [ashleigh.ruppin@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ashleigh.ruppin@det.nsw.edu.au)

If you have any concerns or wish to make an appointment for a meeting please email class teachers directly. Any urgent matters can also be communicated to the office.

### **The Middle Schools Years at Castle Cove PS**

This program aims to support each student's growing sense of responsibility and independence as a learner in preparation for high school. We differentiate learning to cater for a range of abilities across Stage 3.

Teachers support the students in managing their own learning. The Year 6 students develop their leadership skills through additional responsibilities, as big buddies to Kindergarten students and being role models to the Year 5 students in their home class. We also have a keen awareness of the changing emotional, social and physical needs as students move from childhood to adolescence and how these changes impact the students as learners.

The students are taught in grade groups for both English and Mathematics lessons. Lessons are differentiated according to ability. The programs across the classes are similar, but it is the depth and breadth of learning experiences which vary in differentiated group within a class, which are designed to suit the needs of the students.

Stage 3 students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills. In 2021 we are continuing our Year 6 Peer Leader committees – Environment, Sport, Buddies and Communications. Year 5 will be given an opportunity to participate in the Peer Leader program in Term 4.

## **General Organisation**

### **Birthdays**

If your child wishes to celebrate their birthday with the class, please bring in cupcakes, biscuits, ice blocks etc to share as these are easier to distribute. When providing treats for your child's birthday, please be mindful of students with allergies. Individually wrapped items such as ice-blocks and small packets of popcorn are often very popular birthday treats. We promote a nut-free environment at CCPS.

### **Library**

Please make sure that your child has their library bag on the day their class will be visiting the library for a lesson and to borrow books of interest to read at home for pleasure. Part of our English program is the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students will log their books through their student portal.

### **Scripture and Ethics**

Scripture (combined Protestant, Catholic, Jewish) and Ethics lessons take place each Wednesday. Students whose parents do not elect a Scripture or Ethics group for them will go to non-Scripture, where they will be supervised by a teacher.

### **School Reward System**

Castle Cards, Merit Certificates and A-Day Awards are given throughout the year. Once your child receives 10 Castle Cards, please return them to the class teacher in a named envelope/zip lock bag, for a Merit Certificate (this will be handed out in class). 10 Merits (include any A Day awards) earn a Bronze Award, another 10, a Silver Award and a following 10, earns a Gold Award. This award system continues throughout a student's school life at Castle Cove.

### **Attendance/Late Arrival and Early Leaving**

If for any reason, your child is unable to attend school, please log their absence on the Parent Sentral app as soon as possible. If you are unable to access the Sentral app please email or phone the office. An explanation of any absence must be provided to the school within 7 days of that absence, as school rolls are legal documents.

If your child is late to school (i.e. after 9.25am) or has to leave early, (i.e. before 3.25pm) a 'Late Arrival' or 'Early Leavers' note must be obtained from the school office.

## **Timetable and Routines for Stage 3**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Chess Club		
English groups	English groups	SL Creative Arts SM Creative Arts SR History	SISA (odd weeks) English (even weeks)	English groups
Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	
Maths groups	Maths groups	Home class 12:35pm 3-6 Scripture/Ethics	Maths groups	Maths groups
Lunch Earth Kids	Lunch Senior Band	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
PDH	SL Science SM History SR Library	SL Library SM Science SR Creative Arts	SL History SM Library SR Science	Sport

## Homework

Homework is an increasingly valuable part of learning for students moving through this stage. It trains students to plan and organise their time and to develop a range of skills in identifying information resources. It establishes good study habits, concentration and self-discipline and aids students in their transition to high school. Students have the opportunity to use an online diary through the student portal.

Students can expect the following homework on a weekly basis and over the term:

### Reading

Students should read 20-40 minutes each night. Reading can include the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students who are not yet independent readers have access to Wushka online levelled readers at [www.wushka.com.au](http://www.wushka.com.au).

### Mathletics

Tasks are assigned weekly and reinforce the content taught in class.

*The Castle Cove Public School's Homework Policy is currently being updated and will be posted on our school's website soon.*

## English

### **Reading and Viewing**

In Years 5 and 6, students are developing the skills of critical analysis through novel studies, increased awareness of inferential meaning and learning a variety of strategies to develop understanding at a deeper level. The students will participate in the online program CARS (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies) and STARS (Strategies to Achieve Reading Success) which assesses comprehension strategies and develops reading skills at a level targeted to student ability. As part of our Library program, students will learn to locate and evaluate information from different sources, including the internet.

### **Speaking and Listening**

Students will learn effective strategies for oral presentations, public speaking and debating. The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition is held in Term 2 and all students will participate by preparing and delivering speeches on a selection of multicultural-themed topics. Learning to be an effective listener is also an important part of the program. Presentations may be linked to HSIE themes or content from other subjects.

### **Writing and Representing**

The Stage 3 students will be developing their skills in a range of writing styles. Students will learn to draft, revise, edit and publish their writing, with focus on more sophisticated vocabulary, a variety of sentence structures, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

The Year 5 students will be participating in the NAPLAN assessments early next term. While the official writing genre has not been disclosed, we will continue to prepare our students with the essential writing skills and ensure the students are familiar with the format of the assessments. Year 5 students will be participating in the Willoughby Council Local Wildlife Writing Competition. In Term 1 Year 6 students will be entering the Australia My Country Forestville RSL Writing Competition.

## **Mathematics**

Students will develop conceptual understandings and strategies to apply their knowledge to solve problems through mathematical investigations. Explicit instruction of problem solving strategies is fundamental.

Our Mathematics program is complemented by the Mathletics website: [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com) and weekly assigned tasks are a compulsory homework activity. Students are expected to be able to quickly recall times tables facts up to 12 as it is essential for fast mathematical processing. The students will be completing their Maths Mastery Badges which are the knowledge and skills aligned to the syllabus outcomes.

A group of students will be participating in the challenging Australasian Mathematics Olympiad and two Australian Mathematics Trust competitions. Another group will be involved in the similar Maths Games competition which includes problem solving challenges suitable for mainstream Year 6 students.

Term 1 focus areas:

<b>Number &amp; Algebra</b>	<b>Measurement &amp; Geometry</b>	<b>Statistics &amp; Probability</b>
Whole Number	Length	(to be taught later in the year)
Addition and Subtraction	Area	
Multiplication and Division	Time	
Fractions and Decimals	2D Space	
	Angles	

## Human Society and its Environment

Our topics will be drawn from the History and Geography syllabus and are taught in a two year cycle. This year, students will develop their research, organisation and presentation skills through two main studies:

### History

Australia as a Nation – becoming a nation, democracy and citizenship, stories of migration and contributors to our development - Canberra camp

### Geography

Factors That Shape Places – factors that change environments, environments shapes places, humans shape places and natural disasters.

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

The Sports in Schools (SISA) team will be conducting fortnightly lessons to develop the students' fundamental movement skills and their ability to participate effectively in physical education. Please note that students are to wear full, regular school uniform (including black shoes) and not sports uniform on this day.

In Personal Development and Health, students will learn about safety, health, active lifestyles, growth and development and relationships.

## Science and Technology

### Science

Science will be taught by Anjali Rao and students will learn about 4 topics throughout the year.

Term 1: Adaptations and the Environment which includes a short research project due to be submitted in Week 7.

Term 2: Chemistry and an individual investigation which doesn't have to relate to chemistry.

Term 3: Product Life Cycles which includes a short research project due in Week 8.

Term 4: to be advised

Details of science homework and assignments can be found at [www.castlecovescience.com](http://www.castlecovescience.com)

### **Technology**

Stage 3 students have the use of a school laptop which is kept at school and the student takes from class to class. Students have responsibility for the care and safe use of their laptop and have signed an agreement prior to receiving it. Responsible and safe internet use will be taught frequently throughout the year.

ICT outcomes are embedded in all Key Learning Areas. Foundation computer skills are taught in home class lessons and include skill development and application in a variety of programs as well as file management. Stage 3 students will be using Google Classroom as a platform for many of their lessons. Seesaw will be used as a digital portfolio.

Students will be learning to use an online diary. If your child would prefer to use a paper diary, this is acceptable too.

In Term 2, we will begin workshops that focus on a variety of skills required when planning and filming short films. This will prepare students for entering the short film festival, **Chatzfest** with Chatswood PS and Mowbray PS.

### **Creative and Practical Arts**

The Creative Arts program provides opportunities for students to learn to work within and learn about the art forms of visual arts, music, drama and dance. These will complement and enrich areas of study in other subjects. Each term there is a particular focus on an area of the arts. In term 1, the main focus is visual arts.

### **Extra-Curricular**

Students are offered a broad range of extra-curricular activities, including dance, debating, chess, band, library monitors, sport, Robotics, Earth Kids and Tournament of Minds. They are encouraged to participate to enrich their final Castle Cove years.

### **Mobile Phones**

The students are not to bring mobile phones to school unless necessary. If they need to bring a phone to school they must take it to the school office where it will be kept in the school safe. The phone can be

collected at the end of the school day and may be used once the student has left the school grounds. Phones are not to be left in school bags during the day. If a child needs to contact a parent during the school day, they will need to go to the school office.

This procedure complies with Department of Education guidelines and is designed to maintain student focus at school, keep students safe while under our care and to develop positive relationships.

## NAPLAN

In 2021 our NAPLAN assessments for Year 5 will be pencil and paper, not online.

The dates are:

11 May – Language Conventions and Writing

12 May – Reading

13 May - Numeracy

Additional information about the assessments can be found at <http://nap.edu.au/>

Lessons for Year 6 students will remain unaffected while Year 5 students participate in NAPLAN.

## CAMP

This year we have a two night camp in Canberra to complement our history study of Australia as a Nation. The camp is in Term 1 Week 8, from Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th March 2021 and is a memorable event in the Stage 3 program. We will be holding an information session for parents on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8:45am. Details will be advised soon.

***We look forward to a great year working with you and your child. Should you have any concerns, please book an appointment with your child's home class teacher or subject teacher.***

Kind Regards,

Anne Layton-Smith, Tim Blazey, Emma McLeod and Ashleigh Ruppin