

5/6H CLASS NEWSLETTER – Term 1 2020

WELCOME!

Welcome back to a new year at Cudgen Public School. My name is Brooke Houlahan and I will be the classroom teacher for 5/6H. I grew up in Murwillumbah and I have been teaching locally at Pottsville Beach and Centaur Primary Schools over the past 5 years. I look forward to meeting you all and working with you to support and nurture the students of 5/6H.

CLASS DOJO

Some of you will be aware of a school communication platform called 'Class Dojo'. For the uninitiated, it started as a **behaviour tool** (using small 'monster' characters) that you could personalise to suit your classroom. You could **reward positive behaviour** through giving points to specific students or groups and obviously deduct points for unwanted behaviour – all of which was accessible by parents.

It has since grown to include a series of short animation videos about 'Perseverance', 'A Growth Mindset' and 'Empathy' and a way for parents to **stay connected** to the classroom and teacher.

Class Dojo also allows me to **post updates, share photos and video, or send private messages** to keep you in the loop about what is happening in the classroom.

Please join our **virtual classroom** by downloading the app and entering in your unique code (included in this envelope).



ClassDojo

TIMETABLE AND ROUTINES

Our class routines have begun this week and students are becoming aware of the expectations we set in the classroom. This includes completing our work, following teacher directions and being supportive of each other if we ever need help.

Our timetable includes:

- **Library with Mrs. Punch** (Tuesday at 12:05pm)
- **Music with Mrs. Laurie** (Tuesday at 1:05pm).

For the rest of the week, students will remain in their own classroom but we aim to open the dividing door a few times per week to teach a Year 5/6 group.



HOMEWORK

Students will be given a Spelling sheet to practice and complete each week and will be encouraged to read and keep a record. This will be monitored by me each Friday.

I am hoping to implement *some* homework throughout the year that incorporates numeracy, literacy and creative thinking skills to challenge students. When these are set, I would really encourage some 'at-home' support and that every child participates.

LIBRARY AND READING

At least two books must be borrowed each Tuesday afternoon when students have Library. One will stay at school for when students simply read quietly, for enjoyment, during Silent Reading each day after lunch. The other can be taken home and read over the following week/s.

ABSENCES

Just a reminder that if your child is absent from school, a note must follow within a week to explain this absence – this includes arriving late or leaving early. The office staff and myself thank you in advance!

LEARNING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

LITERACY – This term, students will be doing a variety of literacy activities each week. This will include writing (narrative and persuasive) using techniques from the *Seven Steps to Writing Success* program. Class novels, spelling and reading groups will occur each day.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY – Students will learn about solids, liquids and gases for the first part of the term before moving on to some more discovery around digital technologies.

HISTORY – Student will begin learning about *Australia as a Nation* in Term 1 and again in Term 3 which explores Federation, government and the lives of people who migrated to Australia.

CONCERNS

If you have any concerns or information that will assist me in working with your child, please come in (or send a private message through Class Dojo) to arrange a time to meet.

We will have a chance to meet next week at a Parent Teacher Afternoon on **Thursday 13th February** for those that can attend. This will be a brief introductory catch-up of no more than 30mins that all parents from both classes are welcomed to attend.

Later on in Term 1, an interim report will be supplied to parents and a face-to-face catch-up can be arranged as part of a Parent-Teacher Interview if required.

It is my hope that communication will be fairly consistent throughout the year to deal with things that may arise.

CAMP

Year 5 and 6 will attend a Camp later in the year. Planning is underway in terms of what type of camp it will be as there are a few options that we are considering. To ease the financial pressure on parents we will also look to fundraise throughout the year.

Y6 SHIRTS

We are currently looking at options and suppliers for the Year 6 shirts this year. We hope to have these ordered soon so that students can wear them for the majority of the year.



I look forward to a great year with students in Stage 3 in 2020.

Brooke Houlahan
5/6H Teacher

Rod Cornelius
Principal