Year 3, Term 1 Overview 2016

We warmly welcome families old and new to Garran Primary! During this term, we will be working with the students to develop productive and stimulating classrooms, identify goals and learn new and exciting information and skills.

About the Year 3 Team

Ms Stacie Barry
Hi! I am Stacie Barry and this year I am very excited to be teaching Year 3 and working with the 3/4 team! I have special interests in Physical Education and Literacy, but I enjoy teaching in all areas of the curriculum.

Mr Andrew Beit
Greetings and salutations. My name is Andrew Beit and I am very pleased to have moved to Garran this year. My interests are snowboarding, astronomy (equal rights for Pluto!), English and History. I look forward to sharing my passion for learning with the students in my class and getting to know the Garran community as a whole.

Ms Gail Lamond
Hi! My name is Gail Lamond and I am looking forward to teaching Year 3 this year. I have a keen interest in Mathematics and word knowledge (vocabulary), but also enjoy teaching all subjects. Along with the students, I like to learn something different every day! I am looking forward to another exciting, productive year at Garran.

Miss Natasha Ecimovic
Hello! My name is Natasha Ecimovic and I am thrilled to be teaching Year 3. I love teaching Literacy and Visual Arts however enjoy all areas of the curriculum. I am looking forward to a productive and exciting year and cannot wait to get to know the Garran community.

Mrs Suzanne Prowse
My name is Suzanne Prowse. This year I will be teaching music from Kindergarten to Year 6 and also taking the senior choir. I enjoy leading a choir out of school hours and have expertise in a range of dance genres. I am an experienced teacher and have taught all ages from Preschool to Year 12.

Ms Marina Fowler
It’s with pleasure I continue to teach in the Garran community. Like other teachers at our school I advocate for the holistic development of every student. I bring with that vision energy, a determination for best practises and years of experience within the disciplines of Drama. I’m determined, driven and celebrate life with a good laugh. A former dressage rider and equestrian and currently training 3 young ponies, 2 puppies and 2 children in a rural setting... I am not frightened of much.

Mrs Sally Martin
My name is Sally Martin (Ibu Sally) and I am looking forward to teaching Indonesian this year in grades 3-6. I have recently returned from maternity leave as my husband (Trevor) and I have a 4 year old (Emilie) and a 1 year old (Oliver). Previous to that I was teaching at Monash Primary on a year 3/4 class. For nearly 5 years, I lived in Jakarta, Indonesia where I worked at an international school for 2 years. I also studied Bahasa Indonesia while I was there. We travelled to some lovely places in Indonesia, met wonderful people, and shared amazing experiences; all of which I hope to share with the students this year.

Mrs Mandy Lee – Team Leader
I am extremely thrilled to be at Garran Primary this year. I look forward to getting to know the children in Year 3. I enjoy PE and Mathematics and am excited to share my knowledge and enthusiasm with the students.
The Learning and Teaching Program

In the past weeks we have enjoyed planning together, to ensure that all students’ learning needs are catered for. A brief overview of this planning is outlined below.

English
Our English program covers the strands of reading, writing, spelling and speaking. In reading, students will be presented with a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and taught specific strategies to help develop thorough comprehension. Some reading texts will be selected to link with and enhance other areas of the curriculum, such as history and writing. Students are strongly encouraged to borrow library books, and will be provided with regular time to read independently for enjoyment. Writing to persuade will be featured this term. Specific skills, such as vocabulary choice and exposition structure, will be taught to enable students to write persuasively. In addition, grammatical conventions and sentence structure will be revised and extended over the term. Spelling will be targeted at individual student level, with a focus on patterns and spelling rules. The formal speaking task for this term will be a speech to the class about sustainability.

Mathematics
Students have been placed in maths groups allowing for a comprehensive and differentiated program that will support students’ individual needs. This term we will cover various concepts including place value, addition, subtraction, area, 2D and 3D shapes, word-based problem-solving and symmetry. Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught to students, to encourage recall of basic number facts. Mathletics is an excellent tool for practising concepts, and we urge families to make the most of this well-designed program at home.

Integrated Studies – History
This term our integrated unit is entitled ‘Mother Earth Father Sky’. The content focus will be on gaining a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders connection to land and country. We are looking forward to a visit from Larry Brandy, an Aboriginal story teller who is coming in week 6.

Science
This year we will continue to implement the Primary Connections program, which was developed by the Australian Academy of Science. Our term 1 unit, Friends or Foes?, encourages students to explore the special relationship between plants and animals, such as bees and ants. Through investigations, students will investigate life cycles, as well as the mutually beneficial relationships species have with one another.

Drama
Drama for Year 3 this term is all about introducing students to live presentation. The objective is to build confidence and focus when speaking to an audience and to create stories with imagination, action and dramatic meaning. They will recognise fundamental Drama terminology and build on these skills. The two interrelated strands will be about Making and then Responding, with an emphasis on the awareness of themselves and their peers.

Physical Education
Students will participate in daily physical education activities. Sessions will involve instruction in various fundamental motor skills, including throwing, catching, bouncing and dodging. Fitness activities and modified games will incorporate these skills and allow students to develop good sporting spirit. Students must wear a sun-smart hat during all physical education sessions.

If your child is unable to participate in the daily sessions please inform their class teacher in writing, including the expected duration of the exception period.

Bounce Back
This term we will continue with our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. The program explores topics related to student resilience including: developing positive and pro-social values; developing strategies for coping and bouncing back; finding courage in everyday life as well as in difficult circumstances; optimistic thinking and looking on the bright side; developing relationship skills; and skills and attitudes for being successful. A whole school focus will occur in assemblies each week and then be unpacked through explicit teaching in class groups.

Indonesian
Students will create their own comic/cartoon strip using formulaic expressions and modelled language learnt during Bahasa lessons, which will be centred around greetings, numbers, colours, interests, family and home. In doing so, students will be given opportunities to interact with others using routine phrases and expressions, translate basic texts using textual cues, respond to questions and instructions, as well as contribute orally to class activities.
Music
In Year 3 the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask will be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. Beat, rhythm and pitch will be the main focus for Term 1. Students will look at 4/4, 6/8 and 3/4 time through dance and song to demonstrate and awareness of beat and rhythm. Tuned and non-tuned percussion will be used as accompaniments to the songs and dances. Using the Kodaly method students will create counter-melodies (harmonies) and ostinato to accompany songs. The Curwen hand signs will be taught.

Library
The help of parents and carers in providing students with a library bag is very much appreciated. Encouraging your child to fully utilise the Library helps to promote an enjoyment of reading, and enables access to useful and informative texts to support integrated units.

Homework
Homework goes home every odd week Thursday starting in Week 5. This will include spelling, reading, maths, integrated unit, music and Indonesian activities. Due dates will be included on each homework grid.

Important Information

Student Requirements – It is important that students have a broad brimmed or legionnaire style sun-smart hat at school every day for recess, lunch and PE sessions. We encourage students to bring water bottles and a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for fruit break in the morning.

Absence Notes – It is a directorate requirement that a written note be provided following a student's absence from school. An email to your child’s teacher or the front office is also acceptable, as is a message sent via the Garran Primary School app. Whilst a phone call to the school is appreciated, it does not meet the legal requirements for notification of absence.

To contact your child’s teacher by email - firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au

Important Dates

Nude Food Day every Thursday

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 February</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Birrigai Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 February</td>
<td>Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House</td>
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<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Larry Brandy Performance, Hall 11.30am-12.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 11 March</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival (Year 3-6)</td>
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<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>Canberra Day</td>
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<td>Friday 18 March</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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<td>Tuesday 22 March</td>
<td>Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23 March</td>
<td>CEIS</td>
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<td>Friday 25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Monday 28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 April</td>
<td>Cross Country: 9am -11am (Year 3-6)</td>
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<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am</td>
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Kind Regards,

Stacie Barry, Andrew Beit, Gail Lamond, Natasha Ecimovic, Suzanne Prowse, Marina Fowler, Sally Martin and Mandy Lee – Team Leader
2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school’s staff room.

Term 1
• 24 Feb
• 23 March

Term 2
• 18 May
• 15 June

Term 3
• 10 August
• 7 September

Term 4
• 2 November
• 30 Nov

You are cordially invited to attend.