Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We are looking forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. The children have settled into their new classes quickly and rules and routines are being established. Teaching and learning programs are ensuring that the individual needs of the children are met. This letter provides an overview of the Term 1 program across Stage 2. Further details are available from your child’s class teacher.

Teaching and Learning Programs

English
The Year 3 English focuses on writing imaginative and persuasive texts. Increasing narrative skills is emphasized in Year 4. A range of activities to develop students’ skills in the areas of speaking and listening, reading and viewing, writing and representing and the use of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will be explored. These include individual, paired and group activities.

Mathematics
By the end of Term 1, the aim is that Stage 2 students will count, order, read, write in words and record numbers. They will use informal and formal mental and written strategies to solve addition, subtraction and multiplication problems. Students will name, describe and draw two-dimensional shapes. They will be able to collect, organize and interpret data. Year 3 students will estimate, measure, compare and record area using formal units. Year 4 students will read and record time in hours and minutes, convert between units of time and solve simple problems involving time.

Science
“Feathers, Fur or Leaves?” is the title for our Science and Technology unit for Term 1. Students will learn how to classify living organisms by their characteristics using a variety of branching keys. Ultimately they will create and classify their own organism using their own branching key. The unit will involve finding and identifying organisms from the school grounds. Appropriate care will be taken to ensure students are safe during these activities.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Assembly</td>
<td>18/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice in Wonderland Show for Stage 2 students</td>
<td>26/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Up</td>
<td>4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Hot Parade</td>
<td>22/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>25/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>28/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>31/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
<td>8/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History
For History in Term 1, students in Years 3 and 4 will study "First Contacts". This unit will begin with the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and students will explore what life was like for indigenous Australians before the arrival of European settlers. Students will then examine European exploration and colonization in Australia and throughout the world up until the early 1800s.

Personal Development, Health & Physical Education
Each class participates in physical education lessons each week. Students are taught the skills they can use in many different sports. These include throwing, hitting, kicking and movement skills. A weekly sports program is undertaken each Thursday morning (for Year 3) and Friday morning (for Year 4) where students will be involved in a range of sporting activities to further develop their skills during PE.

Library
In Year 3 the learning in the library supports literacy development in the classroom. In Year 4 students learn to research information and present it in a variety of formats. Both Years 3 and 4 students will continue to take part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

National Assessment Program (NAPLAN)
Students in Year 3 will sit for National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of May 2016. NAPLAN assessments are opportunities for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class. Students’ results will be useful information for parents and teachers. Additional information about NAPLAN may be viewed at www.nap.edu.au.

Opportunity Classes
Opportunity Classes provide intellectual stimulation and an academically enriched environment for academically gifted and talented children in Years 5 and 6. The Opportunity Class Placement Program is administered by the Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Unit. Additional information is available at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/ocplacement.php. Please contact Mrs. Cuasay or Ms Leitch if you would like to talk about OC placement.
Crunch & Sip
The "Crunch & Sip" program is implemented every day across our school, K-6. This is a set short break to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Please ensure that your child brings cut fruit or salad vegetables to eat in the classroom. Children need to re-fuel in the morning to assist physical and mental space performance and concentration in the classroom.

Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competition
Eastwood Public School has entered the Years 3 and 4 division of the Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competition. It aims to heighten awareness of multicultural issues among primary students while developing their interests and skills in public speaking. We aim to send two Stage 2 students to represent our school at the local finals in Term 2. Further information about the competition within the school will be provided at a later date.

General Information

Absences
If your child is away from school, or if he/she arrives late or needs to leave early, please complete the appropriate form available at the front office. This is a legal document for the Department of Education and Communities. In addition, we would like to remind you that the playground supervision starts at 8:40 in the morning and students must be picked up at 3:10 in the afternoon. Students are not allowed to be left in the playground unsupervised after school.

Term Costs/Money
Each term your child will receive a note outlining costs for the term. Please pay these costs by the date indicated. Please send all money in the envelope provided with your child's full name and class clearly marked. Place envelopes into the letterbox in the office.

Emergency Contact Forms
Blue General Information Cards were sent home with your child last week. Please ensure that they are completed and returned to your child's teacher as soon as possible. We appreciate your support and wish to remind you that if you have any concerns please feel free to make an appointment through the office to organise a meeting to discuss these concerns. All information is treated confidentially.
School Uniforms
Please send your child to school in the complete school uniform. It is Eastwood Public School Policy that every student must wear a hat whenever they are outdoors. This includes before school, recess and lunch time and during sport activities. Encourage your child to wear their hat every day. It is also helpful if your child’s clothing is clearly labelled with their name.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent teacher interviews for all classes will be held in the last two weeks of Term 1. During the interview, teachers will provide information about student progress in all areas of their learning especially English and Mathematics. Please contact your child’s class teacher as soon as possible if you have any concerns about your child’s progress or their interactions with other students in the playground or classroom. Do not wait until the end of the term.

School Website
For all information, parents should regularly view the school website and subscribe to the weekly newsletter at http://www.eastwood.nsw.edu.au.