Introduction

Dear Families,

Hello and welcome to P3. My name is Melanie Sims and I am delighted to have won a position at Kidman Park Primary School as a Middle Years teacher. I have been teaching Middle Years for the past four years in the Limestone Coast region and although I absolutely loved my time there, it was time to come back to Adelaide to be close to friends and family. I really enjoy teaching, especially Middle Years students, as they are so inquisitive and are able to surprise me every day with their abilities. I have really enjoyed meeting all of the students this year and it has been great to meet a few parents and family members too!

General Routines

MORNING ROUTINE
When the first bell rings at 8.30 the classroom will be opened for the students to get organised for the day. This includes placing their diaries in the inbox, getting their equipment organised in their book boxes, unpacking anything from their bags that they will need in the class (books, fruit, water, lunch orders, notes). Once they are organised they can begin their Independent Learning Time which is an opportunity for them to catch up on work or reading.

VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR
I’m sure you will understand that I expect the best behaviour from every student at all times. In P3 we will continue to focus on the school values of respect, achieve, care and responsibility. Our classroom rules are based on the ‘Life Rafts’ of the Play is the Way program. These Life Rafts are tools the students can use to help manage their behaviour.

• Treat others as you would like them to treat you
• Be brave - participate to progress
• Pursue your personal best
• Have reasons for the things you say and do
• It takes great strength to be sensible

BOOK WORK
A big focus in the Middle Years is producing high quality book work and putting maximum effort into every piece of work that we produce. Here are our class bookwork expectations:

• Heading on the top line
• Writing starts at the margin
• Sheets trimmed before gluing in
• Personal best handwriting
• Mistakes have a neat, ruled line
• Work has been carefully edited

HEALTHY SNACKS AND WATER
Each day we have a fruit break to refuel our brains to continue on with our learning. Students are encouraged to bring along something healthy for this time such as fruit or vegetables. Students may bring a water bottle to school, which can be kept in their lockers inside the
classroom. It is vital for students to drink lots of water, especially during Term 1 when it is hot outside. Please keep other drinks such as juice and cordial for treats at home.

ABSENTEES
If your child has been absent please write a quick note in their diary, give me a phone call or pop in to explain why.
Long absences, such as family holidays, need to be arranged through the Principal.
If your child is late to school or needs to be collected early, please sign them in/out at the front office.

LABELLING PERSONAL ITEMS
Please make sure all personal items such as jumpers, hats and stationery are labelled to avoid any confusion.

LIBRARY
Library borrowing will be on Thursdays. Students need to remember to bring their books back to return so that they can borrow new books for the week.

HOME FOLDERS
Home folders will be sent home at the end of every term. This is an opportunity for you to share your child’s learning with them. It would be appreciated if you could make a comment on the front comments page and then return the folder to school as soon as possible so that we can start organising them for the next term.

READING
Students can borrow up to 4 books from the library and time is made available for them to borrow weekly. It is particularly important for students to borrow books independently and ensure they have a book for reading as part of our daily reading program.
Please ensure a novel is being read at home at least 4 times a week. The student does not have to read aloud (unless they request to) but please check that they are reading by asking what the book is about.

FITNESS
Students will require appropriate clothing and footwear for fitness and sport. Fitness is part of the curriculum and every child will participate. If your child has an illness or incapacity to participate, a note in the diary is required.

Curriculum Areas

This year the students in P3 will be offered learning experiences in the following areas of study: Mathematics, English, Health and Physical Education, Technology, Science, The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Japanese and Positive Education. Attached is a document outlining what will be covered this term.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS
During the first few weeks the students have been involved in a variety of learning experiences to encourage and develop a positive classroom environment. The have been involved in team building activities, developing character strengths such as kindness, getting to know other class members and setting up routines.

ENGLISH

WORD STUDY
In wordy study the students will be learning about the purpose of spelling and will discuss different strategies they have used for spelling in the past. The students will then move in to focusing on topic specific vocabulary, word origins and morphemic rules. Each week the
students will have a different spelling focus and will work through different activities relating to that focus.

WRITING
In writing this term the students will be setting up their Writer’s Notebooks. In the notebooks students will be recording personal thoughts, ideas and strategies. They will work on developing and extending their thinking, building writing stamina and developing an enjoyment of writing. Once student’s notebooks are set up they will move in to learning about persuasive texts within the framework of the notebook. They will explore a range of texts, play with various persuasive techniques and use scaffolds to guide their writing. Students will have a minimum of two one-on-one writing conferences with the teacher each term.

READING
Reading will be a big focus in P3 this year with an initial focus on a range of comprehension strategies. We have started our first class novel, 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid', and the students have all selected their own reading material for read to self. The aim in term one is to foster and develop an enjoyment and appreciation of reading.

MATHMATICS
In Mathematics this term the students will be focusing on number including multiples and factors, the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers, estimation and rounding, all four operations and number strategies. During the second half of the term the students will begin looking at different areas of measurement including length, area, capacity, volume, mass, perimeter and area. Students will be involved in a range of problem solving lessons and investigations which will require critical thinking and reasoning skills. They will begin each lesson with a ‘warm-up’ to promote mathematical fluency.

INQUIRY
This term’s area of study will be Geography. The students will be investigating the following inquiry questions:
• How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?
• What are Australia’s global connections between people and places?
• How do people’s connections to places affect their perception of them?

Specialist Areas

HEALTH

ABOUT ME
My name is Teresa Marshall, I have been teaching here at Kidman Park Primary for 8 years. My previous role was as one of the year 6/7 teachers. I am passionate and dedicated about supporting the development of health and wellbeing of our students. I encourage parents to visit our Health Learning Environment in P5 on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays throughout the year to see some of the learning we are currently working on.
Contact me any time on teresa.marshall159@schools.sa.edu.au

YEAR 5 & 6
In term 1 students will be identifying personal health related goals to help them recognise how persistence can support success.
Year 5 & 6 students will also be analysing sun smart related health messages in the media and comparing these with peers.

POSITIVE EDUCATION (JOY PROJECT)
The purpose of teaching Positive Education at Kidman Park is to assist students to flourish, to enable them to explore Positive Psychology concepts related to their wellbeing, to help students “know themselves” and “understand others” and specifically to develop and practise skills which are relevant to their lives and to demonstrate to the students the importance of Personal Wellbeing.

The mission of the Joy Project is to give all students the tools and strategies to manage their emotions, help them solve their own problems and enable them to feel great about themselves. It is important for children to understand that our thoughts and feelings are not bad, even when they are upsetting – they are a part of what makes us who we are.

This term we will focus on Character Strengths both in classes and the P.E.A.R.L room.

What are Character Strengths?
Character strengths are the positive human qualities that serve as pathways for living a good life. Character strengths are not what you are, but what you do.
During the term we will focus on how to make each area a strength and develop an understanding of each of the different strengths.

Team Work
Working well as a member of a group or team

Gratitude
Being aware of and thankful for the good things that happen; taking time to express thanks

Self Regulation
Regulating what one feels and does, self management, self direction, to engage in independent learning

Humour
Liking to laugh and joke, bringing smiles to other people, seeing the light side

Kindness
Generosity, compassion and care. Doing favours and good deeds for others, helping others, taking care of others

 Forgiving
Forgiving those who have done wrong, giving people a second chance

Love
Valuing close relations with others, in particular those in which sharing and caring are reciprocated and being close to people

Character strengths are the psychological ingredients for displaying human goodness and they serve as pathways for developing a life of greater virtue. While personality is the summary of our entire psychological makeup, character strengths are the positive components …WHAT’S BEST IN YOU.
Desy Pantelos

JAPANESE
In Japanese this term during the first few weeks all classes are learning about Oshōgatsu – Japanese New Year activities including the animals of the Zodiac. This is alongside focussing on the skills of being a successful language learner, tying in beautifully with our four school values. Our second cultural focus for the term will be a look at Hanami – Cherry Blossom Viewing - and its importance in Japanese seasonal life.
Our language foci for the term, different for each area of the school, will begin in week 4.

Year 5-7
Through the theme of “Terrific Tenki (weather)” students will interact with their peers and the teacher to describe aspects of daily life such as weather types, celebrations, and special days; to express preferences; and to show interest in and respect for others. They will be able to collaborate with their peers to plan and conduct shared activities such as presenting a school performance. Students will gather, classify and compare information from a range of sources related to concepts from other learning areas (e.g. science), create and present or perform texts for a variety of purposes and audiences and recognise some single and whole word katakana whilst developing the ability to use hiragana and kanji in a single text.

Homework

Homework is an important aspect of Middle Years schooling as it provides students with the opportunity to improve their time management skills. Most homework is flexible and can work around after school activities. Students are expected to do up to 30 mins (Year 5) and up to 45 mins (Year 6) of homework Monday to Thursday. This will be made up mainly of reading, word study and work to finish from class. Students will need to record their homework in their diaries each day. Please let me know if your child is finding the homework requirements unmanageable and we can negotiate other arrangements.

EDMODO
Edmodo will be used as an ongoing communication tool within P3 this year. It can be accessed from home or school. Reminders, homework tasks and assignments will all be uploaded to Edmodo. If you would like to sign up as a parent to view the class page, please pass your email address on to me and I will send you the invitation.

Visit www.edmodo.com to sign up.

Student leadership

Middle Years students are expected to be role models for younger students in the school and every class has a buddy class to help develop positive relationships, good communication and leadership skills.

Diaries

Diaries are used within P3 as a communication tool. They are intended to be used daily and it is expected that the students will hand them up every morning for me to check. It would be great if you could check them every day too, as it is a place for us to communicate. If there is a note from the school please sign it so that we know you have seen it. Please sign diaries over the weekend for me to check on Mondays. Any notes/slips/money can be placed in the blue plastic folders provided to be handed in once the students arrive at school.

If you have any major concerns, please email or come and talk with me. Please make an appointment in your child's diary or send me an email.

Can you help?

Your child’s learning needs constant reassurance so that concepts can be understood and applied. Your help in conferencing homework, monitoring reading and drilling tables would certainly benefit your child.
If you have a DCSI clearance and are available to assist in anyway in the classroom e.g. have talents or resources to share, can listen to reading, work with individuals and small groups, provide transport, help supervise on excursions or have ideas to share, please let me know.

It would be appreciated if each student could bring a box of tissues for the class to share.

**Important Dates**

1st March - 2.00pm Assembly
3rd March - Clipsal 500
21st March - Harmony Day
24th March - Kidmanathon

Please feel free to come in and chat at any time about any concerns you have about your child. I am available before and after school every day to speak in person or on the phone. If you would prefer to contact me via email that is fine too.

Kind regards,
Melanie Sims