Welcome to the class of 1B
2013
Location E Block – Room 2
Teacher: Ms Clair Savage

Classroom Organisation
In 1B all students have their own desks with tidy trays which they are encouraged to keep organised. Most books are kept on shelves in the classroom after marking and feedback has occurred. Throughout the year we will alternate between rows and group formations. Lessons also take place on the carpet area every day. There are 3 computers for 1B students to access for extension activities, reward times and Literacy and Maths Rotations. There is also a data projector and speakers which are increasingly being used as a regular interactive teaching tool across all Key Learning Areas. 1B students join with 1E students using a cooperative team-teaching approach for Science lessons on Thursdays and Visual Art on Fridays. We also share modelled reading lessons twice a week to enable each teacher quality one-to-one time with students for conferencing, feedback and assessment purposes.

Morning Routine
Every morning 1B students get ready for the day by tracing their full name, then writing a diary entry given on the board. This is to get into good work habits of neat and accurate handwriting using Year 1 red and blue lines. If all work is completed including any outstanding work from previous day, quiet cooperative or individual constructive play with class resources is allowed. We look at the calendar every morning together and practise our Time and Number skills.

Weekly jobs
Each week a rostered selection of students are allocated one of the following jobs, with two students per job: Tuckshop, Office runner, Teacher’s helper, Line leaders.

Setting goals
All 1B students are asked to set academic goals each term in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Maths. These may be jointly set with me, for example: Improve reading fluency, write 2 simple sentences, know all my single sounds, count and recognise all numbers to 100.

Incorporating ICT (Information Communication Technologies)
I am a strong believer in using, and encouraging students to engage with ICTs when possible, to enhance and enjoy learning and teaching. I have been, and will continue to take photographs of students’ evidence of learning throughout this transformative year of their lives. These images will be compiled into a digital portfolio at the end of the year and presented as a gift. All students will
be given opportunities to use a digital camera for certain tasks. Every student has been given a Studyladder login to engage with learning experiences to assist or extend learning if parents are happy with computer time at home. Students will also be asked to use interactive Learning Objects during whole class teaching and individual computer time. As their handwriting improves, students will be rostered on for before school times to enjoy the class computers.

**Communication with the Teacher**
My preferred mode of communication with parents and carers is face-to-face, before school between 8.30 and 8.50, or just after school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to email me as well, or schedule an appointment. My email is csava20@eq.edu.au. I try to check my emails daily.

**Positive Behaviour Support**
1B’s behaviour rules and expectations align with Kirwan State School’s rules – Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful. Positive behaviours are continually reinforced in my classroom and encouraged through our Superstar and Reminder system. I ask students to put a tick beside their name on the white board, which is easily seen by all, if they have shown effort and positive behaviours. Five superstars earn students a ticket in the prize box draw every Friday. Constant acknowledgement of good behaviour, positive work habits and effort take place through praise, constructive feedback, stickers and stamps from me.

Consequences for disruptive behaviours and lack of effort are Reminders. If three Reminders are given to a student, their name is place in the red zone of our traffic lights. This results in loss of playtime, or time out in the thinking chair. Children are encouraged to work their way out of the red zone by correcting and modifying undesirable behaviours.

**1B Class Rules**
1. Follow instructions
2. Hands up to speak
3. Listen carefully to all speakers
4. Use inside voices
5. Walk inside
6. Keep your hands to yourself
7. Use kind words

**Parent Helpers**
If you can spare some time parents and carers are very welcome to assist with Home Readers. Thank you already to my amazing team of helpers who have signed up. We will also establish our Guided Reading groups and Maths Rotations later in the term, which also require some helpers.
Homework
Each night (Monday – Thursday) students are expected to read a book, matched to their reading level, to an adult. Parents/carers are asked to listen and encourage their child whilst reading, then sign the Reading Log to allow a new book to be issued for the following night. Daily reading of 5-10 minutes and a discussion about the book is highly recommended for improving reading skills.

In addition to the Home Reader book, Sight word lists have been glued in each students' book. I ask that students learn these words weekly. There are certain sight words which are learnt only by memory. Students learn these words primarily by looking at the whole word rather than sounding them out. This is because these words do not always follow phonetic rules.

Specialist lessons
Physical Education – Monday 8:50 am
Music – Monday 9:20 am
Religion – Tuesday 12:00 noon
Library – Thursday 12:30 pm

Curriculum Overview
1B’s weekly timetable is in accordance with the new Australian Curriculum requirements regarding the Key Learning Areas (KLAs). This being: 7 hours minimum of English, 5 hours of Mathematics, 1 hour of Science and 1 hour of the new History curriculum each week.

Kirwan State School has adopted the LEM Phonics approach to the teaching of spelling and decoding reading skills. A summary of all single and multiple sounds have been attached to students’ homework books. Proficiency in knowing and matching these sounds to their letters is essential for reading and writing in Year 1 and the rest of their lives.

Australian Curriculum – Key Concepts Term 1
English – Identifying Emotions in Characters, making connections to their own lives and speaking in a book talk
Maths – Numbers to 100, addition and subtraction, Time, days, weeks, months, hours, Shape, Money
Science – External Features and Living Things, and Needs of Living Things
History – Personal History

I can honestly say I have really enjoyed teaching the class of 1B, 2013 so far. It is a beautiful cohort of students who always show respect to others and a commitment to learning. I’m looking forward to a busy, challenging and rewarding year watching and contributing to their growth and learning.

Regards, Ms Clair Savage