



Seven Hills West Public School

Respectful, Safe, Responsible Learners

Welcome Back to Term 3

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 3. These are exciting times for us as we introduce an innovative whole school program to enable best-practice learning, design thinking, creativity and STEMS project-based activities.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to congratulate Mrs Louise Gatt on gaining permanency as a teacher at Seven Hills West during the school holidays. We are also very fortunate to welcome Mr Rob Blood (Assistant Principal – STEMS Specialist Teacher), Mrs Jenny Johnston (Design & Information Integration Specialist) and Mrs Shalini Gupta (STEMS Specialist Teacher – with a focus on Gifted and Talented) – who are all highly experienced teachers.

As we commence the new term, I would like to officially thank Mr Harris, Mrs James and Miss Prasad as they depart our school and commence permanent positions at their new school. With their departure, we have needed to make some changes to our 2020 class structure. In close consultation with our Director of Educational Leadership, Executive team, teaching staff and P&C Executive, the Term 3 classes are listed below:

Preschool – Mrs Condello

KC – Miss Craig

KZG – Mrs Gardiner

1G – Mrs Gatt

1N – Mr Nunan

1/2B – Mr Blume

2R – Mrs Radhakrishnan

3P – Miss Pizarro

3/4 JP – Mrs Jade-Pierce

4R – Mrs Rosario

5H – Mrs Hanley/Mrs Myers

6C – Ms Curran

Support Classes:

K-2G – Mrs A. Gupta

K-2K – Miss Kiddle

2-6M – Mrs Moon

3-6C – Mrs Chhungani

3-6J – Ms Jenkins

We understand that class changes can be disruptive to students, especially in a year that has been so challenging for everyone. However, we are confident this decision will best support students, benefiting them both educationally and socially. Our priority will be to support the learning needs and academic progress of each student to ensure they are working together with their stage-based peers to achieve quality student learning outcomes.

We thank you for your understanding. For more information about our new and returning class teachers, please read the staff biographies on the next pages.

Great News

During the school holidays, we received the fabulous news that 5 of our SHWPS students were accepted into Selective High Schools for next year! This is a credit to the students, staff and families of our students. Congratulations to these students and families on this great success.

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I am also delighted to announce that our whole school RFF will now be a future focused STEMS program, underpinned by global capabilities, ICT innovation, collaborative project-based learning and andragogy. The new RFF program will support gifted and talented, as well as extension programs for our students.

Introducing an exciting Learning, Wellbeing and Support model for our students

We will be creating an aligned Learning, Wellbeing and Support strategy from Term 3 onwards.

The Learning, Wellbeing and Support Team will now encompass Counsellor Support, Learning and Support identification and strategies, Gifted and Talented programs, and Positive Behaviour for Engaged Learning whole school processes. We are doing this to create a more integrated, whole school approach that supports the personal, emotional, social and academic development and achievement of our students. Student wellbeing, engagement and self-concept is as equally important to their academic development. We hope our 'new look' approach supports all students in achieving their personal best at Seven Hills West Public School.

I would like to thank **Peta Swanson and Alainya Zollinger** for agreeing to take on the Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) roles. Peta will focus on Years 3-6 and Alainya will focus on Years K-2. We have increased the Learning and Support time to 6 days per week so that our updated Term 3 classes receive additional resources and student support.

As we transition to this new model, I would like to acknowledge the support, great work and leadership of **Paris Jade-Pierce** in coordinating this new model.

Modified Bell Times for Recess and Lunch

To support the safe and timely management of our students during morning tea and lunch, we will be changing our Recess and Lunch times. Students will eat their Recess and Lunch in class followed by 30 minutes of playground activities. Students can select to eat their recess or lunch at the time that suits them best. Our new break times are listed below:

Recess (Break 1) – 11.00-11.30am

Lunch (Break 2) – 1.30-2.00pm

Reminder of School Operations for Term 3

School Operations for Term 3 will continue as per the COVID-19 guidelines for Term 2. We request that parents drop off and pick up their child outside the designated gates and follow the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

Instructions for Drop-Off and Pick-Up

School will continue to commence at 9.00am for students. Supervision before school will continue to commence from 8.30am, as per normal procedure.

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Drop-off at the start of the day – Students will enter the school through the following designated gates:
Gate 1 (Pedestrian/New Hall Gate) – Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students
Gate 2 (Bus Stop/OOSH Gate) – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students
Gate 3 (Sackville Road Gate) – Preschool, Support Unit students (not on Assisted Transport) and Family Groups

Pick-up at the end of the day – Students will exit from the same gate as the morning. We request that parents meet their child outside the designated gates and follow the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

*Please note that students receiving Assisted Transport will continue their normal drop-off and pick-up routines.

All families will be asked to regularly check the Seven Hills West Facebook, school website, Schoolzine and their class communication platform (Google Classroom/ Seesaw/ Class Dojo/ Edmodo) for further updates if there are changes to school operations related to COVID-19 health recommendations.

Introducing our new and returning staff at Seven Hills West Public School

Mr Robert Blood – Assistant Principal (Specialist Programs) and STEMS Teacher

Good day to all students, staff, parents and the wider Seven Hills West community. I am extremely happy to greet you all and return to SHW. In my time away from Australia I have had the amazing opportunity for the last 4 years to teach and more importantly learn from an array of teaching professionals and engaged students in the United Arab Emirates.

Teaching overseas in a school which was established over 10 years ago and focused on implementing the Australian Curriculum to expatriates and local students from a variety of cultural backgrounds in the UAE, was extremely rewarding. The amount of professional development undertaken to improve student engagement in all aspects of their learning was a focus and I cannot wait to share that knowledge with the students in our school. As a teacher who has not only taught at Seven Hills West for many years, but was also raised and educated in Blacktown, I am looking forward once again, to being an active participant in our community.

Mrs Jenny Johnston – Future Focused Learning, Design & Information Integration Specialist

G'day Seven Hills West community! It's so wonderful to be returning to SHW. I'm sure I will see some familiar faces amongst the new. During my time away, I went on exciting adventures around Asia and hope to share some stories with the children. I also taught at an International Baccalaureate school in Hong Kong. As a Literacy Coach, I supported teachers and students through a rigorous reading and creative writing program that was developed by Columbia University. Students and I also explored inventive STEAM projects, and fun Maths concepts in special clubs. I am looking forward to having this opportunity to continue the learning journey with you and your children as the Design & Information Integration Specialist. I would like to welcome you into the library, should you have any queries about me, STEAM initiatives, and/or information literacy.

Mrs Shalini Gupta - Science/STEMS/Gifted and Talented Specialist Programs

Hello fabulous Seven Hills West students and parents! My name is Shalini. I'm going to be your Science teacher for the upcoming semester, but I'm not limited to Science, I also love playing cricket and chess. During my teaching career of 18 years, I have taught in both small and large schools and across all stages in Sydney and internationally. During my research degree, I focused on gifted and talented students and ways to differentiate learning activities according to students' needs. I love science experiments and I am looking forward to hands-

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on science projects this semester. Together we will find the answers to your curious predictions and inquire about our world. I'm so excited to see our wonderful students in my science classroom and work with the Seven Hills West PS community members to create an enriching learning environment. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Mr Daniel Nunan – Teacher of 1N

My name is Daniel Nunan and I will be taking 1N for the remainder of the year. My experience at Seven Hills West Public School started as a professional practicum, which led into casual work at the school during the end of 2019. Since the start of 2020 I have had the pleasure of teaching RFF to all stages and am excited to transition into the role of classroom teacher. My expertise is on future focused learning, Mathematics and Science. My teaching involves treating every student as an individual, allowing me to cater to their needs and strengths as opposed to teaching towards the class as a collective unit. I look forward to getting to know all the students, their families and associated community.

Mrs Anshu Radhakrishnan – Teacher of 2R

I joined the Seven Hills West Public school family in 2018 and have 24 years of teaching experience. I believe in providing a stimulating and caring environment in which students can develop their skills and talent and become productive, self-disciplined members of the society. I value the importance of developing a passion for learning, scholarship and self-confidence in my students so that they can face the challenges of the world and make worthwhile contributions to the community. My focus is on the holistic development of the student and I take pride in ensuring that every child is known, valued and cared for. I very much look forward to teaching 2R.

Alainya Zollinger – Learning and Support Teacher K-2

I have been at SHWPS for three years now. I have worked a range of roles in Kindergarten during this time. I started as RFF, Learning and Support, and EALD. Next, I was lucky enough to have job shared a kindergarten class with Mrs Gardiner for the last year and a half. I am now transitioning back to the **Learning and Support** role for Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2. I am really looking forward to working with some of the children I have taught over the last three years.

Peta Swanson – Learning and Support Teacher 3-6

Hello SHW community! I have been teaching at the school since 2016 and I am so excited to be the Learning and Support Teacher for Years 3-6 during Semester 2. I have a passion for ensuring all students have access to the curriculum and empowering them to develop a love for learning. Working closely with students and classroom teachers allows me to provide specialist assistance and help students achieve their individual learning goals. I am looking forward to developing students' skills and watching them grow throughout 2020.

I hope you feel impressed by the qualifications of our new and returning teachers, whose local and international successes will further benefit our school. I look forward to supporting our school in establishing a future focused learning and educational model that prepares our children for lifelong success, not just in Australia, but also globally. I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy term ahead. Sincerely,

Ms Shanti Clements
Principal
20.07.20

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