

English as an Additional Language or Dialect

Welcome to 2017.

Dear Families,

Welcome to or welcome back to Mawson Lakes School.

We hope you had a restful holiday break and enjoyed special celebrations with family and friends.

First term has many different celebrations including:

- Australia Day 26th of January
- Chinese New Year- 28th January. 2017 is the Year of the Rooster.
- Harmony Day -21st of March. Harmony Day celebrates the inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. Schools, community groups and organisations across Australia host Harmony Day Events.
- Holi-(Hindu Festival) Monday March 13th
- Carnevale – (Italian Festival) 28th of February
- Easter- Good Friday is the 14th April; Easter Sunday is the 16th April.



Many classes focus on one or more celebrations at this time of year. It would be great for you to share special celebrations with your child's class if or when occasions arise. Please speak to your child's teacher to organise a time to do this. Your experiences are valued and welcomed. They promote understanding and inclusivity in a school that is so rich with a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds. Our information shows that over 45 different languages and cultures are represented in our school for 2017.

Here is an A-Z of countries, cultures or languages represented in our school:

A-Afghanistan, Albania, Aboriginal, Arabic
B-Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Bosnia, Bagla
C-Croatia, China, Cambodia, Congo, Coptic, Cantonese
D-Dari, Dinka
E-Egypt
F-Filipino, Fiji, Farsi
G-Germany, Greece, Gujarati
H-Hindi, Hungary
I-Italy, India, Indonesia, Iran
J-Jordan, Japan
K-Korea Republic (North and South), Kenya, Kurdish, Kannada, Kirundi, Khmer
L-Lebanon, Lao
M-Malaysia, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi
N-Nigeria, New Zealand
O-Oman
P-Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Punjabi, Persia
Q-
R-Russia
S-Spain, Sikh, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Sudan, Serbia, Singapore
T-Tamil, Telegu, Turkey, Thailand, Tagalog
U-Ukraine, Urdu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates
V-Venezuela, Vietnamese
W- Z

For the first six months Gloria our full time EALD teacher, will be working in the Education Department as an EALD

consultant. We congratulate Gloria on her new role and wish her the very best.

This year there will be 2 EALD teachers, Sofia and Caroline. Sofia has worked in the EALD role at Mawson Lakes School for 3 years. She will be working 4 days per week on Monday - Thursday mainly in the primary school supporting primary teachers and EALD students in the classroom mainly focusing on grammar and text types. Sofia has worked as an EALD teacher for many years with students in primary schools junior schools, high schools, New Arrival Centres and TAFE. She is very excited to be working again at Mawson Lakes School.

We welcome to our school another EALD teacher Caroline Thornton who will be working 3 days a week mainly with the junior primary students and teachers. Caroline has worked in many state and private schools as an EALD teacher. She is looking forward to supporting junior primary teachers and their students in the classroom and brings with a wealth of knowledge in text types and grammar. She is pleased to be working at our school.

Caroline and I (Sofia) will be working in classes with teachers and students in a variety of ways in 2017. The EALD program is about providing Literacy support to students. It should be noted that the strategies and programmes support all students including EALD students.

Support can be provided for teachers and students in:

- planning and programming to meet the learning needs of students
- assessing students' written or oral work samples
- increasing knowledge of different text types and text forms
- aligning literacy programs with the Australian Curriculum English
- providing resources for teachers to refer to and use

We will work with students in their classes. In a few cases, students will work with one of us in a small group in another room. Our preferred way of working is in classrooms with class teachers and students. Class teachers have the highest contact with students and are in a position to support them at all times of the day, not just lessons in isolation. This means that students are not often withdrawn from class to be with EALD teachers.

We will also be organising interpreters for parent and teacher interviews. Whole school interviews will be held at the end of this term.

We look forward to a successful year of powerful learning and friendships.

Cheers to all,
Sofia and Caroline