

# English as an Additional Language or Dialect

Welcome for 2021.

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: 26<sup>th</sup> of January
- Chinese New Year: 12<sup>th</sup> of February. 2021 is the Year of the Ox.
- Harmony Day: 21<sup>st</sup> 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): 28-29th March.
- Carnevale (Italian Festival): 19-21<sup>st</sup> February
- Easter: Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April; Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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. There are 45 different languages and cultures represented in our school for 2021.

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



This year there will be 2 EALD teachers Alison and Sofia and an EALD School Support Officer (SSO) Marg. We are very pleased to be working together as the EALD team at Mawson Lakes.

We welcome Alison Esselbach as an EALD teacher, working alongside Sofia and Marg. Alison comes from Bellevue Heights PS and has a wealth of experience in the EALD role. She has both EALD and Intensive English Language Centre (IELC) teaching experience and has also worked as a Specialist Language teacher. She is highly motivated and energetic in her role. She will be working 3 days a week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday R-7.

Sofia has worked in the EALD role at Mawson Lakes School for 8 years. She will be working 3 days per week on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, R-7. She is very excited and enthusiastic to continue in her role.

All the EALD roles involve supporting teachers and EALD students in the classroom in a variety of ways. The EALD program is about providing Literacy support to students, mainly focusing on grammar and text types. It should be noted that all students including EALD students benefit from the strategies and focussed teaching provided in the program.

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 if needed. Whole school interviews will be held at the end of this term.

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

Cheers to all,

*Sofia, Alison and Marg* (EALD team)