

Monday, January 30, 2017

Dear families,

I would like to welcome you and your family to my class at Ingle Farm Primary School. My name is Mel Chatfield and I will be your child's teacher this year. I am happy for the students to call me Mel.

I am excited to be joining your community this year and getting to know your child and your family. I may already have met some of you as I was a regular visiting teacher at Ingle Farm School last year.

I have been teaching for more than twelve years in a variety of roles including Junior Primary, Primary and Adult Education in both the city and country. Within these roles I have experience in Aboriginal education and adult and youth justice. Outside of teaching I have worked on housing renovation projects, in public relations and communications and as a journalist and consultant in community, not-for-profit and disability organisations. I am passionate about teaching and learning with a commitment to social justice and student voice. On a personal level, I am a single parent with a ten year old daughter. Our family life usually revolves around the sports of Surf Life Saving, swimming, rugby and basketball.

Our classroom may look a little different to many traditional school rooms. This flexible learning space allows students to choose the seating position that works best for them. We have couches, stools, cushions, high and low tables. As the term progresses we will experiment with various other seating options.

In the first couple of weeks of term the students and I will be examining what our school's values look like, sound like and feel like. We will establish routines and procedures for learning and discover how we can all become more Powerful Learners with a Growth Mindset. Relationship building, teamwork and collaboration will also be a focus during the first two weeks.

More information about timetables and the curriculum, your opportunities to volunteer and become a part of the broader school community and other policies will be sent home soon.

I am looking forward to seeing the students come to school with a positive attitude and dressed neatly in full school uniform which includes a hat for first term.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to chat to me before or after school or send a note through your child's diary.

Kind regards,

**Mel Chatfield.**