



Speech & Language Class ~ SL5

Teachers: Nicolle Bennett – Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Margaret Budreika - Thursday & Friday

SSO: Christie MacGregor – Monday to Friday

Speech Pathologist: Abbie Van Pamelen – Monday & Thursday

January 2019

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome our new student Ryan and his family to the Speech and Language Class, and welcome back our students and families from 2018. The class is an intervention program from Reception to Year 2 and caters for a maximum of 8 students who have significant speech and language difficulties. We have a full time SSO and a Speech Pathologist who works 2 days a week in the classroom. The low teacher/student ratio allows us to provide the students with the individual assistance they require.

The aim of the SL Class is to provide intensive support and intervention so that students can transition successfully into a mainstream class after they have made significant gains with their speech and language development skills and learning. Students in our class are integrated into the mainstream classes at various times to ensure they receive the benefits of working in a larger, more general group. The SL Class curriculum provides a high degree of routine, structure, repetition and visual scaffolding.

Teaching Practice

We provide an environment where students feel they belong, are safe, confident and valued. We encourage student input, self-reflection, responsibility and creativity. Students participate in meaningful tasks that are relevant to their life experiences and connect with their world beyond school. Assessment is used to inform teaching and students receive constructive and informed feedback regarding their progress.

The Curriculum

We use the Australian Curriculum to develop teaching and learning programs that build on students' interests, strengths, goals and learning needs. We personalise learning through adjustments to the teaching and learning program, according to individual learning needs and entry points. All students' personalised goals are documented in their **One Plans** which are updated at least every 5 weeks. Students' academic and personal goals will also be displayed in the classroom in a format selected by the students. Your child will have access to the same subjects that are available to a student in a mainstream class.

We provide explicit instruction with visuals, demonstrations and hands-on learning tasks within each subject area. Students work individually and in small groups with an adult throughout the day. We use play and children's story books/texts across the curriculum to engage children and establish a shared context for learning.

At the beginning of each term we will provide you with a timetable of our lessons and a term overview. **There is an acquaintance evening on Tuesday 12th February where you can tour the school and meet Inclusion Teachers and Specialist staff.**

Learning Areas

English - This term we will focus on the **Recount** text type. During the literacy block children will rotate through learning stations. They will:

- Read each day with an adult.
- Listen to texts being read aloud.
- Participate in guided reading.
- Participate in alphabet and sight word learning.
- Complete fine motor tasks and handwriting.
- Engage in Phonics learning.
- Give oral recounts.
- Complete recount writing tasks.
- Share/give feedback about their learning.
- Set learning goals.
- Use the computer intervention program "Reading Doctor".
- Participate in speech therapy.
- Participate in structured play (for speech, vocabulary and grammar learning).

Mathematics - We will explore the topic "Number and Place Value". The learning tasks presented will be based on your child's needs and year level requirements. We will be using strategies from Ann Baker's "Natural Maths Program" which includes problematised situations that encourage students to work mathematically with open-ended "real life" situations and construct their own ideas. These lessons include a reflection session where mathematical language is used to describe successful strategies.

The Arts – Your child will participate in an Arts lesson with Ruth Lock on **Tuesdays 1:35-2:25pm** focusing on singing, movement and playing percussion instruments.

Science – This semester your child will participate in a Science lesson on **Wednesdays 1:35-2:25pm** with Erin Reed. Students will be exploring the importance of water as a sustainable resource. Students will be exploring the water cycle with a focus on precipitation, evaporation, collection, and condensation. Students will continue their learning by conducting a water walk around the school to discover ways we use water in our daily lives. Students will consider how water is accessed and used by humans. Students will explore water pollution and the importance of clean water.

Physical Education - This semester your child will participate in a Physical Education lesson on **Mondays, 1:35-2:25pm** with Hannah Long. This term in PE students will be practicing personal and social skills to interact positively with others through play. Students will also be getting ready for sports day practicing team and tabloid games.

Speech Pathology

Your child will receive targeted support from the class Speech Pathologist, **Abbie Van Pamelan**. She will work in the class on **Mondays and Thursdays**. Speech & Language intervention depends on your child's needs and usually involves individual, small group work and in-class support. The Speech Pathologist will work in collaboration with us around oral language and a speech program that links with the classroom learning areas.

Some structured speech/language homework will be provided. Regularly reinforcing targets in daily life is a very important part of promoting communication development. We understand that this is a time of adjustment for some students and families, and readiness for structured work will vary. We are happy to discuss any needs or concerns you have around Speech Pathology homework. We are always happy to talk things through or demonstrate how to do tasks if you need help.

General Information.

Your child will be given a communication book. It is a communication link between school and home. Please use this book to inform us of any of your child's future activities (eg. medical appointments, good new stories, special events etc.) or to explain any absences from school. Please also use the book to write down any messages, concerns or questions you have. If you prefer you can communicate with us through the Seesaw App via the private inbox. **This year we will use Seesaw to send most of the information out to you.** However, incursion or excursion notices that require your written consent will be placed into this book. Your child will receive a new Ingle Farm Primary School communication folder. This folder will be used throughout your child's schooling at Ingle Farm Primary School.

Homework -Your child will take home **3 readers each week** and some letters of the alphabet/sight words to learn over the week. These will be placed into your child's homework folder and put in the IFPS communication folder with your child's communication book. We consider homework as an opportunity for you to sit with your child for a short time to reinforce and celebrate their learning at school. **Your child will not be given homework during the first two weeks until some review assessments have been completed.**

Fruit - Please provide your child with a piece of fruit or some vegetable sticks to eat around 10am. When your child arrives in the morning, **we will encourage them to unpack their bag and place their fruit in our class fruit bowl.**

Tissues – If possible, please donate a box of tissues for our class so we can use our class budget on resources for learning.

Library – All Junior Primary students across the school can borrow 2 library books and 3 readers each week. Our class will borrow library books on **Tuesday during Lesson 6.** Students will be given a bag to keep their library books in. If your child loses a library book or a reader, you will be sent an invoice for \$10 to cover the book replacement costs. We have a library book box in the lockers outside our classroom for the children to return their books. If children have any overdue library books they will not be allowed to borrow.

Swimming- We will have a swimming lesson **every Tuesday at 9:45am** (Terms 1-4) in a heated indoor pool at Clovercrest Swimming Centre **starting in week 2.** A private bus which is paid for by the school will collect us at 9:25am and return us to school around 11:45am. **It is important that your child arrives at school on time and they are wearing their bathers underneath their uniform.** They must bring a towel and their underwear in a named bag every Tuesday.

Inclusion – Your child will participate in a mainstream class **every Thursday during Lessons 4 and 5.** Most children will attend Inclusion with another child from the class. Inclusion provides the children an opportunity to interact with peers of their own age. It provides them with role models to hear and learn language, develop social skills and build new friendships. It is excellent preparation for their mainstream schooling after their time in the SL Class has ended. We will give you more information about your child's Inclusion class during week 1.

Ladies of Variety (LOV) Excursions - We are very fortunate to receive invitations to some special events over the year, such as to an Easter Party at the Zoo, a Surprise Party at the Adelaide Convention Centre and a Christmas Party at the Wayville Showgrounds. We will notify you when the dates of these events are made available.

Class Management

Positive behaviours – A “star of the day” and a “helper” are chosen each morning to take the roll and carry out our classroom duties. Children are given feedback for positive behaviour with encouragement and behaviour enhancers such as stickers, stamps and certificates which include whole class and individual incentives. Each child will have a reward grid. When their grid is filled with stamps, they can select a small prize from the reward box.

As a school community we have identified the following core values:

- ★ Honesty
- ★ Persistence
- ★ Respect

Our school behaviour statements are:

- ★ We are powerful learners
- ★ We tell the truth
- ★ We are brave
- ★ We keep trying
- ★ We use safe behaviour (safe hands, feet and words)
- ★ We are respectful

We use social stories and create PowerPoint presentations to support students who need some extra practice (for example solving social conflicts).

During the first few of weeks of term our focus is on building and strengthening relationships. Developing students' understanding of our school values and behaviour statements and establishing a class identity. Through games and activities, we aim to reinforce positive social skills and a Powerful Learner mindset.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please let us know. We strongly welcome and encourage your participation in your child's learning.

Kindest Regards,

Nicolle Bennett and Margaret Budreika

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