

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## From the teacher

I would first like to introduce myself. My name is Mr Allan Peska. I have been teaching for 13 years and 8 of those have been at Maddington Primary School. In addition to my standard qualifications, I have also completed a Masters in Education, specialising in Behaviour Management.

I have two children myself, a 3-year-old boy named Charles and a 1-year-old girl named Alessandra. When I have time for hobbies (not often as you can imagine), they involve either weightlifting, martial arts, reading or some good old gaming.

## Specialist Classes timetable for Term One

**Monday:** Media Arts

**Tuesday:** Physical Education

**Thursday:** Library

**Friday:** Indonesian and Science

## Save the date!

**Labour Day Public Holiday:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Last Day of Term:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Assembly:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March


## Attendance

It is a legal requirement that your child comes to school every day and on time unless there is a reason for their absence. The classroom door opens at 8:30am, with learning beginning at 8:45am. School finishes at 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; with Wednesday being an early finish (2:10pm). For student absences, please ensure you contact the school providing a reason. If your child is late, you must provide a reason for their lateness and if they arrive after 9am, they must obtain a late note from the office, before going to class.

Please note that vacations during the term are considered an "Unauthorised Absence" by the Department of Education and will impact your child's learning. If you intend to take your child on a vacation during the school term, you are required to fill in a travel form (at the front office) and provide a return date.

## School Uniforms

All students are required to wear the school uniform, including appropriate footwear. This includes black shorts/skort and a maroon polo. In cold weather, pants must be plain black and jumpers are maroon. Students must always be in full school uniform. Students must wear a bucket/broad brimmed hat when they are in the sun. We are 'Sun Smart' school, therefore, the 'No hat, play in the shade' policy is in place. This means if your child does not have a hat, they will not be able to participate in Phys. Ed. or morning fitness.



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## *Crunch and Sip*

For optimum learning and health, there will be an allocated time in the day for Crunch & Sip. This break allows students to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water, in the classroom. I encourage students to come to school with healthy food, according to Department of Education's Healthy Food and Drink Policy. Crunch and Sip will typically be in the first period, at approximately 9:45-10am, during our literacy period.


## *Literacy and Numeracy Programmes*


A structured literacy and numeracy program has been created and will be a part of the students' everyday classroom routines. To enhance students' learning in these areas, programs such as Soundwaves, Scholastic Literacy Pro and Targeting Maths will be utilised. Each day, students will engage with reading, writing, spelling and comprehension using a variety of levelled texts. This will also be targeted throughout other curriculum areas. Each week, students focus on a new concept in Maths, with a large focus on using manipulatives and games to optimise understanding and engagement.

## *Behaviour Management System*

A common behaviour management system is implemented throughout all Maddington Primary School classes. This system aims to encourage positive behaviour through positive reinforcement and incentives. Throughout the day students will move up the behaviour chart for positive choices, reaching the stages of "good job", "great choices," "fantastic effort" or "outstanding day".

The students then receive faction tokens, certificates and badges, acknowledging this positive behaviour. If a student demonstrates unexpected behaviour in the classroom, they may be asked to reflect on their choices, be sent to a partner room or directed to the office. If the behaviour is severe, the student will be sent directly to the office and the parents will be contacted.





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## *At Home*

### **Homework**

Although homework is not compulsory at MPS, it is encouraged that students use this time to practise some essential skills. The skills I would like students to practice are:

- **Reading:** Reading at least four times a week (15-20 minutes minimum).
- **Spelling and Vocabulary:** Each week students will receive a new set of words from our Soundwaves program. Building on their word bank is an important part of education and talking about the words your child has learned during the week and putting them into context and sentences will help them learn and retain those words.
- **Times tables:** Students are encouraged to practice their times tables (to fluency), throughout the week at home. This year we will be introducing 8 and 9 times tables to students, with constant revision on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 times tables.

## *Issues or Concerns*

Open communication is imperative to a good education. If you have any issues or concerns regarding your child, please don't hesitate to contact me through email. I make a conscious effort to check my emails daily and will reply to you in good time. My mornings before school are usually busy setting up for the day, so please ensure you email me to make a time suitable for a phone or face to face meeting.

Contact email: [allan.peska@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:allan.peska@education.wa.edu.au)

*Many thanks and welcome. We look forward to a happy year!*

*Allan Peska*

