Welcome to a new year at Warners Bay Public School. My name is Sarah Wheeler and I have the pleasure teaching your child this year. Our class is called 3W and there are 29 students in the class. I am excited about teaching your child and am looking forward to building a partnership with you as parents. I am working hard to ensure that this year is a very rewarding and productive year for all involved.

First and foremost it is important to me that I create an environment at school where your child feels happy and safe to come to school each day. Please, if anything is worrying your child, you need to speak me to let me know. Problems are best dealt with when they are small, and I can't help if I don't know there is a problem. In saying that there will be times that I will need your support! Please know that I will always have your child's best interests at heart. Year three is a busy year and the transition to primary is a big change. Students are required to become more organised, independent and use initiative. Some students will need to be pushed to reach their potential academically.

Following our class and school rules
As you can well imagine 29 students is a huge task for one teacher. I would appreciate you taking the time to talk to your child about following class rules, taking turns and not talking over the top of others. We are spending time talking about the need to work as a team and making sensible choices. It is also important that your child understands that if someone tells them to do something they know is wrong and they choose to carry out that task anyway. They will be held responsible. Already this year we have had a few occasions where students tried to defend bad choices by blaming others. Reinforcing at home is important so that students know we are on the same page.

Bullying
All children should feel safe at school. Please make sure your child considers other students' feelings. Nobody has to be best friends but all students do have a responsibility to treat each other with respect. This also stands if your child knows that someone is making someone’s life miserable. It is your child’s responsibility to bring that to the teacher's attention. We will contact you if your child has been involved and work together to fix the problem. Please read Warners Bay PS Bullying Policy and sign it and return it to school.
Timetables

1. Library/Ms Beard - Monday Afternoon (Students will need a bag to take books home)
2. PDHPE - Mr Toohey
3. Scripture - Wednesday (Every 2nd week). Please send a note if you do not wish your child to be involved.
4. Stage 2/3 Assembly - Every Second Tuesday at 12 noon.
5. Big Picture - Friday (Your child will plan their 5 week project at school and will then ask you to supply any materials they need. The first 5 week project topics are All around me.
6. Timetables for dance, guitar, gymnastics, aerobics and drumming have been completed and they will all take place on a Friday.
7. “The Chalkboard” our newsletter is handed out on a Monday. (A note has been sent home giving you an opportunity to have it emailed to you if you would like. If by chance you missed it, send me a note and I’ll organise it for you).

Playground

1. Morning duty starts at 8:40am (no student should be at school before this time)
2. Morning bell rings at 9:05am for students to stop play and go to the toilet
3. Second bell at 9:10am marks the start of the daily announcements
4. Lunch 11:10-11:50am
5. 11:50 am bell signals for students to stop play and go to the toilet.
6. 11:55am in lines ready to go back into class
7. Recess 1:35-1:55pm again with the opportunity to go to the toilet
8. Home time is 2:55 pm

Crunch and Sip

3W have fruit break every day. Please ensure your child has a small piece of fresh fruit or vegetable every day and a drink bottle (not a screw top bottle) filled with water at room temperature because condensation causes all sorts of problems with leaking on their work.

Toilets

Please encourage your child to go to the toilet before school and in break times at school. Please let me know if your child has special needs. I will always allow children to go to the toilet but my aim is to ensure your child is not missing key learning concepts.
Seating Plans

Our school encourages a strategic cooperative learning approach. Children are placed into carefully planned seating arrangements, which may or may not be your child’s preference. Students do not choose their group. This is an excellent opportunity for students to work with different personalities, meet new friends and show respect to others whilst being in the very best place for them to learn.

Homework

Homework is handed out on a Monday and is to be returned by Friday of the same week. Each week children will be given a word list to practise as part of their homework. Each child has been given a target number to get right each week but will still need to work on the other list words to increase their vocabulary. Friday is test day for spelling words. In addition to this Mathletics and Reading Eggs are software programs that each child can access on the internet with login and password. Each week varying tasks will be set for your child to complete. A record will be kept and those children who fall behind in completing homework on 3 occasions will have a note sent home to alert the parents. This note is to be signed and returned.

Reading

Students will be participating in a range of reading activities throughout their literacy sessions; novel study, Lexile reading with reading response time and yellow/blue box activities. Students are encouraged to take part in the Home Reading Program four times per week. Home Readers need to be handed in on a Friday. Children should be reading at their own level or beyond. Borrowing a book from the Library at their Lexile level is very important.

Lexile

A Lexile is a scientific approach to measuring text difficulty and reading ability, putting both texts and readers on the same scale to accurately match readers with reading materials. After reading a book, on most occasions there will be a comprehension activity to complete. This program is a way of improving your child’s reading. Children will borrow a Lexile book to keep in the classroom for DEAR time.
Textbooks
Grammar and Mentals are our two text books. A Home Reading Logbook is also included in this. If you have trouble meeting the costs, please see the ladies in the office to make some arrangements. Please cover these texts in clear contact so that they are protected and easily identified.

Workbooks will be sent home for covering over a weekend period. The idea of covering these books is to protect their longevity over the period of the year. Students have glued covers on each book, to make them easily identifiable, please cover them in clear contact. Please make sure that all books are returned to school after the weekend, as they need them each day.

Maths
Our school is following the New Maths curriculum. Please note that every 5 weeks your child will sit a pre-test that allows me to plan lessons that are relevant to your child’s needs. Your child will set a post test and I will evaluate their progress. Children are being encouraged to learn their times tables at home as well as in class. Tables are one of the foundations of maths and we will touch on them every day!

Mathletics is also a great program for children to take part in. It improves and reinforces children’s understandings of concepts completed in class. One of our computer lessons each week will contain some time for these activities to be completed. Tasks will be set for Homework each week, so completing tasks at home is an advantage.

Science
The first topic we are completing in Stage 2 is Space and Earth.

Book Work
I’m encouraging children to take pride in the work they complete, and in their books. Neat handwriting is important. Lead pencil is to be used in all books, drawing and labelling. Our principal will be asking to see students books throughout the year to ensure they are of a high standard.

NAPLAN
Year 3 completes this test in May. We will be completing activities to prepare the children for the style of questions asked. These books can be purchased from newsagencies if you wish to work with your child at home.
Equipment Lists
Please take the time to carefully look over your child’s equipment list requirements. Please remember to clearly label all of your child’s equipment clearly. Also label your child’s hats, jackets and jumpers as the lost property collected in the library continues to grow.

Uniform
Children are asked to wear correct school uniform which includes a school hat. Black school shoes are part of the uniform.
Please ensure if your child is late to school they go to the office before going to the classroom.
If you are taking your child out of school, you will need to go to the office to receive a note which you will then need to take to the classroom.
When your child is absent, please send a note or email to school.
Your child is in Year 3, so please encourage them to take responsibility for looking after their own possessions and packing their own bags. Lunch orders should be taken to the canteen before school, not in class time to save disruption.
If you have any problems or queries, please feel free to make an appointment to discuss these concerns. I have an administration meeting on Tuesday mornings and staff meetings Wednesday mornings and afternoons, I also have three children so you can appreciate the need to make an appointment. You may need to leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Medication
All medication is to be given to the office with a note detailing administration. Teachers need to be informed of medication. Please remember to let the school know when medical information is updated. Please let us know if your child is an asthmatic as some procedures have changed in schools that you should be aware of.

Notes and Money
All notes and money need to be returned to the school office with your child’s name clearly labelled and the purpose for the payment. Our office staff is rolling over into a new state wide system that puts some payments out of our control. No longer do we have the ability to accept late note and payments. Which will cause distress to all involved, if payments or notes are not in on time as they WILL NOT be able to be accepted and the student will miss out. Please pay attention to notes and due dates.

I’m looking forward to a successful year with 3W. I am keen to help your child grow, develop and learn new skills throughout 2016.

Thanking You for your Support
Sarah Wheeler