

# 日本語 NIHONGO

(Japanese) 2018



Welcome back to the school year. I am looking forward to being back, returning from maternity leave. That time has certainly flown very quickly.

I am returning 3 days a week, Monday to Wednesday and Rebecca Gilbert has joined the Mawson Lakes staff as the other Japanese teacher 2 days a week, Thursday and Friday.

In 2018, Japanese will be looking a little different for students, compared with the last 2 years. Students are returning to an average of 45mins per week of Japanese, instead of an average of 90 mins per week.

Please see below for Rebecca's introduction.

こんにちは。わたしのなまえはレベッカギルバートです。どうぞよろしくおねがいます。  
konnichiwa. watashi no namae wa Rebecca Gilbert desu. douzoyoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Hello, my name is Rebecca. Pleased to meet you.

I am very excited to be teaching your child Japanese this year on Thursday and Friday. I have joined the Mawson Lakes staff after working overseas for 2 years in Osaka, Japan and for 4 years at an Adelaide private school. This year I take on an Upper Primary role, team teaching with Tarnya in Year 7 and Specialised Language with Erin Sensei.

I first visited Japan on a secondary school trip to Himeji (Adelaide's sister city) and absolutely fell in love with the country, people, culture, food and language. Since then, I studied Japanese concurrently with my Business Management degree, and lived and taught in Osaka after completing my Masters of Teaching.

I hope to bring my passion and love of learning to our Mawson Lakes team and instil this in your child as they continue their language journey. I look forward to meeting you!

Rebecca and I will be based in TR2 (site west). Please feel free to come and introduce yourself on Acquaintance night, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 5:45-6.45pm.

Please feel free to contact us via the school or our emails:

[erin.bath601@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:erin.bath601@schools.sa.edu.au)

[Rebecca.Gilbert876@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Rebecca.Gilbert876@schools.sa.edu.au)

Regards,

Erin Sensei (Erin Miller) and Rebecca Sensei (Rebecca Gilbert)

## **JAPANESE AT MAWSON LAKES**

Throughout the year we aim to develop students' communicative skills in the Japanese language and their understanding of the life and culture of the Japanese people.

We aim to provide an environment that is rich and uses a variety of teaching and learning strategies, which enable students to be actively involved in producing and using the language to communicate. Students at all levels will have an opportunity to participate in producing big books, shared texts, board games and/or projects to help develop their literacy skills. Students will also have the opportunity to learn to respond to instructions, name objects, give short talks, play language games and engage in role-plays.

Students learn and use the Japanese language in meaningful activities. These involve the routine language of social interaction to introduce themselves, express their likes and dislikes and express ideas in short written texts or short verbal conversations.

The Japanese Program will be integrated with other learning areas such as English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Society and Environment and The Arts including Music and Drama.

## **JAPANESE WRITING**

There are 3 writing systems in the Japanese Language: Hiragana; Katakana and Kanji.

Hiragana will be introduced to varying degrees at different year levels. Junior Primary students will be exposed to this writing system through making connections between characters, words and phrases and through the recognition of key features. They will have the opportunity to copy and trace simple words and sentences.

Students in years 3 - 5 will be actively involved in learning Hiragana by learning to read and write the characters, as well as deciphering the meaning of words and phrases throughout the year.

Students in years 6/7 will continue to study Hiragana intensively throughout the year, as it is important to have a good grasp of this writing system before continuing with further study in Japanese.

Students will also be introduced to some commonly used Kanji and enough Katakana to recognise some common words and be able to write their names in Japanese.

## **JAPANESE CULTURE**

It is important that the students experience a variety of Japanese cultural practices and are able to make connections between values, practices and the language used in Japan. In looking at Japanese culture we will discuss and carry out activities associated with the many traditions and celebrations that take place during the year.

