

SPANISH NEWSLETTER TERM 1



Bienvenidos to term *uno* in *Español!*

Year Levels: PREP, Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3 and 4.

Queridos padres, cuidadores y familias,

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome to all, new and continuing, I hope you all had wonderful summer holidays, and enjoyed many summer-time activities with your children.

For those who are new, my name is *Señorita* Irene (Miss Irene), I am Spanish and I am from the province of Córdoba. I love travelling and I have always been interested by the depth of history of my language and culture, spanning not just Spain, but also most Latin American countries. There is currently a total of 21 countries that speak Spanish as their official first language, which makes it the second language most spoken in the world. I have the wonderful privilege of sharing my love of all things Spanish with your children, teaching them language skills interlinked with cultural activities through our school's Spanish program.

This first term promises to be an exciting start to the year, not just for me, but the students as well. For **Preps**, the lessons will be focused on introducing them to Spanish and each other and ensuring that their introduction to Spanish is most enjoyable. For **Grades 1 and 2**, the lessons will be focused on language skills previously learnt and building upon these to strengthen their confidence in using a second language. We are going to collaborate with Mr. Greg, our Music teacher, in the reading and performing of the story *¿A qué sabe la luna?* (What does the moon taste like?) and do lots of language activities in relation to this story. And for **Grades 3 and 4**, the lessons will involve more contact with the world of Spanish. In this case, students are going to explore some of the painters that are in our school Spanish Mural (next to the netball court), such as *Picasso, Maruja Mallo, Dalí or Miró*, and will learn specific language to describe their paintings. During the year, we will also celebrate a Spanish Fiesta Day, a day for the whole school community to have fun and enjoy learning about the vibrancy of the Spanish culture.

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Students will have their own personal Spanish notebooks, where they will put all their work from class activities. The Spanish Wall (located next to Mr. Artavilla's office) will display highlights from class activities and fascinating facts about the Spanish language and culture. Also, continuing from last year, students will be using SEESAW in all the specialist areas to showcase all the amazing work that they do in Arts, Music and Performing Arts, PE and Spanish. Join in our Seesaw community and enjoy navigating throughout your child's online blog! If you do not know how to log on, please see me or any of the specialist teachers and we will help you to connect to your child's Seesaw portfolio.

This year, we will be joined by a Spanish Assistant, Mercedes, who I am very excited to tell you about. Mercedes has come all the way to Australia after successfully securing a language assistant placement. Mercedes is from Sevilla in Southern Spain. She loves reading, travelling and getting involved with the local community. Mercedes will be working with us two days each week and will provide a fantastic opportunity for the students, who will gain from two-way Spanish dialogues in class and the additional language and cultural materials and resources that Mercedes will be working on. Mercedes is very friendly and would love to meet you all. If you see her around the school, please say a big '*Hola, ¿Cómo estás?*' and introduce yourself. Mercedes will be more than happy to meet you all.

Our schools' Club Español (Spanish Club) will of course be continuing its success built over the last few years at lunchtime every Friday. Members include some students from Grades 3 to 6 who have expressed interests in learning more Spanish and being more involved in the Spanish program at Sunshine Heights PS.

The sorts of general activities students will be doing (all grades):

- Speaking and listening; asking and answering questions.
- Using hand gestures; indicating, pointing and touching.
- Writing and filling in their Spanish notebooks.
- Participating in a variety of games aimed at encouraging the students to talk among themselves, have a go, and help them remember.
- Drama related activities including role-playing.
- Listening and singing Spanish songs.
- Craft activities; including drawing, cutting out pictures and being creative...
- Using Spanish apps on iPads and watching Spanish videos.
- And above all, having fun learning Spanish with a **positive Growth Mindset**.

I look forward to lots of fun in Spanish lessons with your children this term and I welcome you all to share in and enjoy the new Spanish being learnt.

Saludos, (Regards)

Señorita Irene and Mercedes

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