



## Welcome to Year 4 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcome you to another new school year and we hope that your child has settled into their brand new classrooms and class routines .

### Who We Are

Year 4 is divided into 3 home room classes with each having a roll of 18.

### The Year 4 Team



*Mrs. Shantini Saberi*

**Ms. Shan Saberi** received her training in Malaysia, Australia and Fiji. She has 8 years formal teaching experience and many more years of working with children of different age groups. Her passion for the education process extends to her community work with children and young people in neighbourhoods in Suva. Shan is an active member of the Baha'i community. Shan works to empower her students to think and be global citizens through carrying out positive actions that make a difference in the world. She enjoys music, drama and science and she loves travelling.



*Ms. Siobhan McGregor*

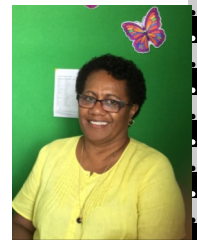
**Ms. Siobhan McGregor** holds a Master of Primary teaching from Australia. Siobhan is originally from Canada and has spent the last five years teaching in Australia, South Korea and England. By working with different curriculums and children from around the world, she has become flexible to the needs and strengths of her students. Siobhan strives to create a safe and happy classroom environment where diversity is respected and we work as a team. Families are a vital part of this team and I hope to have open communication with you in order to have the best year possible! She has come with a lot of fresh ideas and we welcome Ms McGregor to the Year 4 team.



*Mr. Navin Narayan  
Yr 4 Teacher Assistant*

**Mr. Navin Narayan** joined ISS 4 years ago and initially worked with the year 2 team. He is a new and enthusiastic member of the Year 4 team. Navin has had a range of work experiences including mechanics, science and information technology. His passion however, lies with primary education and he currently pursues a career in this direction. Apart from teacher assistant for year 4, Navin will also work with the IT team. Navin enjoys his sports and makes the effort to share his skills with students in Primary during after school soccer activity.

Ms Veniana Baledrokadroka has been a part of the ISS primary staff over the last 15 years. She received her training in Fiji, Australia and the UK. She also specialises in teaching blind and visually impaired students. She initiated main-stream education for disabled students into Fiji School. Veniana strives to create a happy learning environment where students feel respected, listened to and empowered to learn independently and to express freely. You can find her on the top floor, second room from the left.



**Ms Roshni Lata** has been an individual teaching assistant at ISS for the last 6 years and this year she has been assigned to year 4. Roshni has a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and is currently pursuing her Diploma in Special & Inclusive Education. She loves music, movies and making friends.



### Information Evening

**When:** Wednesday 1st February

**Time:** 5:30—6:50pm

**Where :** ISS Multi-purpose Hall/Year 4 Classroom

We hope to meet all our parents on the evening which will start off in the Multi-purpose Hall before parents are invited to the classrooms to meet with the Year 4 team and find out about our class programmes.

## How We Organise Ourselves

### Our Education Philosophy

As educators, we believe that it is our role is to scaffold students to uncover and construct knowledge through engaging, hands-on curriculum that addresses their specific needs as learners. We believe that children are like mines filled with gems of inestimable value. Through the education process, it is our duty to find those gems and polish them. Each child brings with them endless possibility which we hope to accompany them in finding and encouraging their talents and faculties. We hold fast to the philosophy that an informed approach to learning, together with a positive attitude provides a platform for taking action to make a difference.

We strive to promote a safe learning community of students that focuses on them on being **courageous**, good **communicators**, **inquirers**, **caring**, **open-minded**, creative **thinkers**, **knowledgeable**, **principled**, **reflective**, **flexible**, **leaders (visionary)** and **balanced**. We are also big on incorporating the learning of skills that enable our students in becoming strong “**self-managers**.”

We encourage students to be reflective of their own behavior and learning and set high standards of conduct within the learning community. We believe that building personal relationships with our students based on trust and mutual respect is essential to their success as learners.

### Transdisciplinary Learning

Our term overview will be available during our Year 4 information session at the *Parent's Information Evening*. This overview indicates the learning that will be taking place within the different subject disciplines during the two units of inquiry we will be investigating over the course of this term. Please also find attached our timetable for the first six weeks of this term. As our subject discipline focus changes with each new inquiry an updated timetable will be emailed to parents at the beginning of each unit of inquiry. We will be discussing this overview and our timetable at the *Parent's Information Evening* and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



*Students at the Namosi Camp*

### Assessment

Assessment in Year 4 takes many forms. At the beginning of the year students participate in standardized benchmark assessments that will enable the classroom teachers to make initial evaluations on how best to proceed with your child's learning. Throughout the year, regular assessment (in its different forms) is maintained in order to monitor your child's progress and to adapt programmes to best suit your child's needs. Summative Assessment for each unit of inquiry will be sent to you in the first week of the unit.

### Weeks 1-3 Overview

Over the next two weeks we will be getting to know your child as a learner. During this time the students will be

- completing a variety of baseline assessments
- Familiarising themselves with classroom routines
- Developing essential agreements

The 3 teachers will be sending home timetables for their respective classes.

## Telephone Trees & Notices Home

To ensure the correct information is put on our telephone tree, we are requesting parents to send in your preferred email address for all class communications.

In keeping with our efforts to limit our environmental footprint most notices (term or otherwise) will be sent home via email. Please nominate your preferred email address for all class communications on the contact details form.

In addition, there will also be notices and updates on the Year 4 Weebly page.

## Sports:

Year 4 will be scheduled for swimming during weeks 7 & 8 this term. It is compulsory for all students to participate in the swimming programme as it is part of our PE curriculum. Students are requested to bring a note from home if they will not be able to participate in PE or Swimming

On sports and swimming days, students are encouraged to bring an extra water bottle to school.

Swimming details will be sent to you at the end of week 6.

**Please label all your child's belongings.**



## Term 1 Calendar Summary of Year 4 events:

- Parent Information Evening Wed, Feb 1st .
- Parent/Teacher Interviews Wed. 1st —Thu. 2nd March
- Swimming March 6th –17th
- Primary Swimming Carnival Date To be confirmed (Week 9)

## Forms to Return

- Swimming note
- Contact Details
- Brain-pop Consent
- ICT Agreement form
- Getting Home Information

## Homework

Our official homework schedule will begin in Week 3. In the meantime we are encouraging students to read at home and borrow books from our class library. The school homework policy will be discussed by the interim head of primary on the information evening.

Each child has been issued with a school diary in which they record daily reminders. Included in their diary are

- personal goals that students have set for themselves which we will be revisiting.
- rules and guidelines that students are expected to adhere to. These may be found at the back of their diary.
- You could also use the diary to communicate messages to us.

We would appreciate your support in revisiting these guidelines and expectations.

A large percentage of our homework will be focused on in-class assignments and maintenance work on maths and language. It would be ideal for each student to purchase a USB to assist in the managing of their work to and from school. If students already own a USB then they are encouraged to bring it to school. The school sells embossed USBs for \$12 at the business office.

## Sun Hats

To protect our students from getting sunburnt, they are expected to wear an ISS hat at all times while playing outdoors including during P.E. (For hat requirements, please refer to the ISS Primary School Uniform Policy).

If your child does not have a hat during play time we will enforce the "NO HAT, NO PLAY" policy. Students are also encouraged to wear sun block during their play times.



## Incidentals your child will need to bring in

Please ensure that your child has brought in the following items by the end of week 2 (Term 1)

- Library bag
- 1 box of tissues (some have already brought these in)
- 2 drink bottles of water (daily during this hot weather)
- 1 plastic homework folder.(to put homework items in: images below)
- ISS sunhat (daily)
- Sunscreen (daily)
- Insect repellent (daily)
- Paint shirt
- Cushion (small - optional)
- One tea towel



To combat the onset of lice, students are to leave their hats in their bags at all times other than when they are wearing them at recess, lunch or during sport.

## Year 4 Camp

At this stage our Year 4 camp will be held in week 3 of term 2. We already have confirmation for the Coral Coast Christian Camp which is just outside Pacific Harbour.

More details will be forthcoming in the weeks to come.



## Swimming Help

Please fill in the following and return it to your child's teacher. In addition, please also send in the return slip for swimming sent out by Head of Primary, Wendy Harris.

At this stage I AM / AM NOT able to assist with **supervision** during swimming lessons this term.

At this stage I AM / AM NOT able to assist with the **teaching** of swimming lessons this term.

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to working with you and we hope that your child will have a great and enjoyable year in Year 4.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us should you have any concerns.

All the best  
Year 4 Teachers

**Ms Siobhan McGregor**  
[smcgregor@international.school.fj](mailto:smcgregor@international.school.fj)

**Mrs. Shantini Saberi**  
[ssaberi@international.school.fj](mailto:ssaberi@international.school.fj)

**Ms Veniana Baledrokadroka**  
[veniana@international.school.fj](mailto:veniana@international.school.fj)