Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2015 school year. We would like to wish you all a very happy new year.

During the first week of the year the students and teachers will work together to develop agreed class routines and a class behaviour agreement (rules and consequences).

The grade 3 & 4 teachers have worked together to plan what we hope will be an interesting term’s work that will cater to the learning needs of all students by providing support and challenges. A large focus for the grade three students is preparing them for NAPLAN, (National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy). This assesses students in the areas of writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy skills. It will take place during Term 2, 12th-14th of May. The grade 4’s have their first opportunity to perform in the school production and have many more opportunities to participate in sporting events.

During first term in English we will be aiming to foster an enjoyment of reading. We will have a strong focus on building the students comprehension through the development of reading strategies and skills. In Writing, we will focus on writing narratives (story) and exposition texts (developing arguments to persuade others). We will also be concentrating on the correct use of punctuation and grammar. Spelling will continue to be a major focus.

The Mathematics program for term one will include increasing students’ number knowledge through place value, basic number facts and strategies, times tables, skip counting, fractions and money. In Measurement, the students will measure and compare using metric units and will look at calendars. In Geometry we will revise 2D shapes and investigate the features of 3D shapes. The students will also develop their understanding of chance and will collect, organise and interpret data into graph format.

Our first inquiry unit will be based on Australia. Through this unit students will develop their knowledge of the states/ territories and capital cities in terms of geography and their flora and fauna emblems. We will be identifying major Australian landmarks. Students will also be developing an understanding of some symbols of Australia and key celebrations/commemorations.

To be organised, students should by now have all their book supplies at school. It would be terrific if each child could please bring a box of tissues to school. Thank you to the people that have already done this. Grade 3 students should also have their chair bag and reading satchel returned to school. Grade 4 students are also encouraged to use their chair bags if they have them.

Other things to consider this year are:
1. School Swimming Carnival, Friday 13th February (select students only)
2. Brainstorm Productions 3rd March
3. School Photos 5th March
4. School Cross Country - Whole School, Friday 20th March
5. Grade 4 camp to Ballarat, 9th-11th September (approx. cost $240.00 )
6. Grade 3 camp to Mt Morton Lodge, Belgrave, 28th - 30th Oct (approximate cost ($165.00-$175.00))

Please make sure that your child attends school in full school uniform each day, including a broad brimmed hat from September to May. If your child is absent please send a note to school as soon as they resume. Students are allowed to have a water bottle on their table. Rubbish Free lunch day will be on Wednesdays for all grade three and four classes.

Students will be required to complete homework tasks during the week starting on Friday and will return their books the following Friday. Please read the expectations and tasks pasted in your child’s homework book.

If you would like to pass on information about your child, discuss any concerns or just say hello, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. If not, we look forward to meeting you at the term one interviews.

Regards,
Grade 3 & 4 Teachers-
Gemma McCormick, Wendy Houlihan, Beth Tyrrell, Andree Rodwell, Denise Hall, Heather Gray and Allison Perry