Welcome back everyone. We hope the children are well rested and ready for a very busy and exciting Term 2.

Some of the special events this term include:

- Cyber Safety Performance - Tuesday 23rd April
- Start Smart Talk Commonwealth Bank - Monday 6th May
- Excursion to Sovereign Hill - Wednesday 8th May
- Mother's Day Stall - Thursday 9th May
- Art Show Opens - Friday 10th May
- NAPLAN Testing for Grade 3 Students - 14th – 16th May
- Jump Rope for Heart - Tuesday 21st May
- Curriculum Day - Monday 20th May
- Education Week - 20th – 24th May
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday - Monday 10th June
- Aboriginal Cultural Day - Tuesday 25th June
- Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences - Wednesday 26th June
- Last Day of Term 2 - Friday 28th June (students finish at 1:30pm)

HOME READING

Take Home Reading books and Library books are available for borrowing. Students are encouraged to read at home nightly and we encourage parents to set aside some time to hear their children read orally on a regular basis. This will be of great benefit to their literacy development. The Home Reading Diary needs to be signed by a parent or guardian each night. Please note that the Home Reading works on a system by the number of nights a student reads rather than the number of books read in a year.

Remember many of our library books can be used to help your child complete the Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Just record the title of the book and author on the recording sheet sent home in Term 1 and return it when your child has read the required 15 books.

LITERACY

The Literacy program covers the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. During the reading program, students read as a whole class, in small groups and individually, to develop reading with expression, accuracy and fluency. Students are encouraged to read silently and out loud and to read for meaning and understanding. Students are read to in class, to enhance their listening skills, reinforce the development of print and to learn how to extract meaning and information from writing. Students will be focusing on the comprehension skills of main idea, sequencing, fact & opinion and comparing and contrasting information.
In writing we will focus on the following genres:

- **Persuasive** - students write to convince readers of their point of view of a given topic
- **Information Report** - factual writing about gold (the Gold Project)
- **Procedural** – students will be making damper and then writing how to repeat the process at home
- **Letter Writing** - how to correctly write and address a letter to a friend, family member or company.

School dictionaries, class word lists and personal dictionaries are used during the literacy program to help students spell correctly. Students are given opportunities to develop writing skills in planning, drafting, editing and publishing.

**Grammar** will focus on pronouns, verbs, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks and speech marks and the correct use of punctuation. Spelling and word study activities will include student’s individual spelling words, theme words and words studied in chunks, letter groups and blends.

In **handwriting**, students are taught to develop fluent and neat cursive script. Pen Licences are issued in Terms 3 and 4 to Grade 4 students only.

**NUMERACY**

Mathematics is planned through a team approach to ensure all areas of the mathematics curriculum are covered. At the beginning of the term, Grade 3 students will be involved in preparation for the NAPLAN tests by focussing on reading, breaking down and answering questions from previous tests. The Grade 4 students will have their learning targeted toward problems that were identified on previous tests.

For the rest of the term the areas covered in Mathematics will include:

- **counting, pattern & order, skip counting**
- **number words and numerals** to 9,999 (gr 3) and extended to 99,999 (gr 4)
- **decimal numbers** to tenths and hundredths
- **automatic response** to 20 and beyond 20
- **subtraction** - subtracting 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers, addition and subtraction as inverse operations e.g. 10 – 3 = 7 and 7 + 3 = 10
- **multiplication** - multiples and factors of numbers, multiplying 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers by 1 digit
- **times tables** - looking at patterns, differences and similarities, automatic response of table facts
- **time** - telling time on a digital and analogue clock (o’clock, half past, quarter to and past, 5 minute intervals) and time durations on a bus or train timetable or television programme
- **length** - measuring the length of a variety of objects using formal units of measurement mm, cm, m
- **perimeter** - using a formula to measure the boundary/edges of a shape or object such as a book or the perimeter of the basketball court
- **area** - using a formula to measure the surface/inside of a shape or object such as a netball court, desk or floor space.
INTEGRATED STUDIES
The main topic for Term 2 is, the Gold Rush and the Effects it had on the Australian Colonies. The children will focus on areas including:

- What is Gold?
- The Gold Rush
- Panning for Gold
- Australian Life Before the Discovery of Gold
- The Eureka Stockade.

Students will also do work based on the excursion at Sovereign Hill, where they will experience firsthand what life in the goldfields may have been like. A project related to Gold will be completed at home using information gathered from the Internet, books from the school and local libraries as well as work studied in class.

ICT
Students have a 1 hour session in the computer lab and 2 sessions using the netbooks in the classroom each week. Sessions will focus on developing the students’ skills in logging on to the computer with their own personal code, being cyber safe and using Microsoft Publisher to label a map of Sovereign Hill and to create their own Gold Licences.

Students will also use internet sites such as www.kidcyber.com.au to do research for their project. Time will also be spent accessing the Mathletics website to complete set Mathematical tasks.

HOMEWORK
It is expected that times tables, reading and word lists will be practised daily. We rely on your help to listen to your child read and assist them with their tables.

Any homework sheets and projects should be supervised and returned by the due date.

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child achieves his/her personal best.

From the Grade 3/4 Team
Julie Hewison and Kathy Ristevska in Rooms 14 and 16
Natalie Jessop and Angela Pobjoy in Rooms 18 and 20
SPECIALISTS

ART – KARREN MONCUR
The children will be involved in a construction unit. As they are doing a Gold unit this term they will have to create a diorama that involves riches or finding gold. They will need to plan and create a 3D representation of their idea.

The second half of the term will be a collage unit. They will start by decorating a Chinese fan and making a pop up called floating layers.

MUSIC – BRAD JONES
In term 3 the grade 3/4 students will learn about song form and song writing. The students will be working in groups to write and record their own song using the techniques discussed. Students will learn about the different aspects that make up a song and will study some well known song writers.

PHYS/ED – LARA ARSANA
In Term 2, the 3/4 students will complete the Australian Fitness Education Award, which consists of the 20 metre Shuttle Run, Sit & Reach Test, Basketball Throw and Shoulder Stretch. Each student’s results will be recorded and presented to them with their Semester 1 Report.

Students will be participating in a skipping unit, in preparation for the school’s annual Jump Rope for Heart Day which will be held on Tuesday 21st May.

Students will also participate in Bat Tennis and Soccer units where they will learn the basic skills of each game, assess their peer’s skill level and compete in round robin matches.