Dear Parents / Guardians,
Welcome back to all our students, parents and guardians. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and well rested school break, ready for a busy and exciting Term 3.

Some of the special events this term include:
- Peer Support & Bike Education program weeks 3 – 7
- Westpac Competition – Thurs 2nd August
- Multicultural Day - Thurs 9th August
- Book Character Parade - Mon 27th August
- Literacy & Numeracy Week – week 7
- Maths Games Night - Wed 29th August

LITERACY
The Literacy program covers the areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. This term, Writing will focus on Poetry, Letter Writing and Report Writing. Students will be given opportunities to develop writing skills in planning, drafting, editing and publishing.

Grammar/Punctuation will focus on the correct use of apostrophes, adverbs, verb tense and commas.

Word Study/Spelling activities include student’s individual spelling words, theme words and words studied in family groups.

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.

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 aloud and to read for meaning and understanding. Students are often 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 are encouraged to borrow Take Home Books and Library Books available to them and to read at home regularly. Students should be aiming for 15-20 minutes of reading a day.
**NUMERACY**

Mathematics is planned through a team approach to ensure all areas of the Mathematics curriculum are covered. The areas of focus for this term are as follows:

- daily number fluency to revise concepts already taught
- revise addition, subtraction and multiplication equations and strategies
- introduce and develop division concepts
- fractions
- decimals
- problem solving strategies
- use of mathematical tools such as, calculators, measuring rulers & tapes and protractors
- shape & space (transform, reflect, translate and rotate, symmetry)
- angles
- location – mapping.

**INTEGRATED STUDIES**

The main topic for Term 3 is, The Australian Nation. The students will learn about key events in the development of the Australian Nation. Students will research Australia’s geography; the states, cities and landmarks, they will complete a project at school, based on 1 Australian state.

They will explore the contributions that people from diverse groups have made to arts, industry, medicine and science as well as food festivals and sporting events. They will also investigate some of the different cultural groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This year there will also be a focus on the Olympic Games which will be celebrated as part of our Multicultural week.

**COMPUTERS**

Students are given opportunities to gain and develop computer skills and knowledge through a variety of activities, using Literacy and Numeracy games, exploring educational websites related to topics studied in class and researching information on Australia. Programs the children will explore this term are Microsoft Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint.

Their project on an Australian state will be done at school using Microsoft PowerPoint. As well as weekly sessions in the Computer Lab, students will also have 2 weekly sessions utilizing the Netbooks in the classroom.

**HOMEWORK**

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

Students are encouraged to borrow books from the ‘Take Home Reading’ tub and/or from the Library and these must be changed regularly. Homework should be supervised and **returned by the due date.**
**SPECIALIST CLASSES**

**MUSIC**
In term 3, the grade 3/4 students will focus on playing a variety of instruments including the keyboard, guitar and ukulele. The students will aim to learn the basics of each instrument and will be able to play a number of simple songs on each instrument. The students will also be focusing on drama and performance and will participate in activities that use the different techniques essential to putting on a good theatrical performance. Students will also be presenting a performance to an audience towards the end of term.

**ART**
Students will finish the puppets started in term 2. The children sculpted heads out of air drying clay and these will be painted the first week back. Students will then sew the costume for the puppets.

The children will create prints, making print blocks out of printing foam and then create a print block out of card and string. Students will also transfer an image, firstly using an image from the newspaper. They will then draw an image and use glue to transfer the image to material.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
In Term 3, children in Grade 3/4 will be continuing to develop their Fundamental Motor Skills by practising the bounce and their Sport Specific Skills by developing bouncing skills into Basketball skills.

They will then participate in an AFL Football SEPEP program (Sport Education in Physical Education Programs) where they will experience organising their own competition.

The children will play 'Recreational Football'; a modified version of AFL that has been developed by the Australian Football League.

Towards the end of term, the 3/4 students will participate in a 'Movement to Music' unit that will explore a variety of dance styles, including Zumba, multicultural dance and creative dance.

Grade 3/4 students will also have the opportunity to participate in some extracurricular sports events:
- Basketball Clinic Tuesday 7th August
- a special '5-a-side' Soccer Gala Day on Thursday 16th August.

We’re looking forward to an exciting term working with your child.

The Grade 3 / 4 Team
Angela Pobjoy, Natalie Jessop, Kathy Ristevska and Julie Hewison