Welcome back to the new school year! We hope all our families have enjoyed a pleasant and safe summer holiday. We have many exciting activities planned for the students this year and it should be a fun time for everyone. The teachers in the 5/6 team this year are:

- Adrian Parisi Room 17
- Jeanette Kelm Room 19
- Dimitra Vassiliou Room 21
- Leo Alessi Room 22
- Pesio I’a Room 23

Term One is going to be very busy with testing, Interschool Sport, RMIT and Camp. There will also be lots of learning happening. Many of our grade five students find the move to the upper area of the school very challenging. There is extra homework to complete and students are expected to complete more work in class.

If you feel your child is not coping, or feeling stressed in any way at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher to make an appointment for a chat.

**Dates for your diary**

- Monday 18th Feb 3:40 - 8:00 p.m. - Meet the Teacher Interviews
- Tuesday 19th Feb 3:40 - 6:00 p.m. - Meet the Teacher Interviews
- Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March - School Camp (Lady Northcote)

**Behaviour**

We believe the school values of Cooperation, Respect, Honesty, Caring and Personal Best set the tone and standard to allow everybody to work together and at their best. Our classroom expectations will be developed in the grade with the students, as an important part of our Start Up Program.

These expectations will clearly set out consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. These will be used to deal with the students' behaviour throughout the year. Each child and parent will be asked to sign the classroom agreement to show they agree to the consequences. Once again we ask that you contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns.
Literacy
Our main focus for writing this term will be Persuasive Text. The students will learn to identify opinions and facts, develop arguments, debate a point of view and write a passage to persuade someone to adopt their thoughts and/or beliefs.

Our reading program will centre around Literature Boxes that focus on our Integrated Studies topic of ‘Marine Life’. Students will read books suited to their ability and answer questions that enhance their understanding of the texts.

Numeracy
Place value will be the major area of study for term one in Mathematics. Grade five students will work with digits including tenths (/10 or 0.1) to hundreds of thousands and grade six students will cover digits ranging from thousandths (/1000 or 0.001) to millions.

Our measurement sessions will focus on:
  - Time - telling the time accurately on digital and analogue clocks to one minute
  - Calendars & Timetables - reading, interpreting and measuring the duration of events. For example:
    - How many days from 9 March till 22 April?
    - How long does it take the train to reach the city if it leaves Epping at 9:03am and reaches Flinders Street at 9:54am?

All our students were urged to spend time over the holidays learning and improving the speed and accuracy of their times tables. We hope they have done this as all areas of Mathematics depend on this knowledge.

Integrated Studies
Our topic for term one is ‘Marine Life’. Most of the literature work will be based on books about this topic. Students will learn about oceans and seas, different marine animals, food chains and the need to care for our waterways.

Each student will complete a project later in the term about a marine animal of their choice, following carefully prepared guidelines. Much of the research will be done in class to show students how to find important facts and ways to present them. Note taking skills will be taught to enhance this process.
Homework
Homework will be set each week. The tasks will include Numeracy, Literacy and Integrated Studies work. A rubric will be given to the students to give them a wide variety of activities to choose from for Integrated Studies homework. This will be carefully explained so all students understand what is expected of them.
Please become familiar with your child’s homework and help them by setting a regular time and place for homework to be completed.

Interschool Sport/RMIT
Each Friday morning, beginning 8th February, all students will be involved in sport. We held the trials for the cricket, softball, bat tennis and rounders teams in term four 2012. The students who made those teams will compete against other schools in the area. All other students have the great opportunity to take part in the Alternative Sports Program (ASP) which is run by RMIT. This year these sessions will take place at RMIT University at Bundoora Netball and Sports Centre.
Please make sure the permission notes are returned on time so we can run the programs successfully.

Grade 6 Windcheaters
The orders for the Grade 6 Commemorative Windcheaters have been placed with the company. We are expecting delivery before the end of this term, just in time for the cooler months of term 2.

We look forward to working with you to give your child the best possible education
We are confident it is going to be an excellent year!
The 5/6 Team
Pesio I’a, Adrian Parisi, Jeanette Kelm, Dimitra Vassiliou and Leo Alessi
Specialist Programs

**Art.**

Karren Moncur

The children will start with a construction unit in which they will create individual fish out of foil and coloured paper. Working in groups the children will construct a fish tank or a coral reef and put the fish into their construction. The children will have to create all the little details that make a box look like a tank or coral reef.

The children will finish the term with a painting unit. Please provide your child with a smock if you are worried about paint on their clothes.

**Phys Ed - Lara Arsana**

During Term 1 the Grade 5 / 6 students will be learning and participating in Athletic events. These events include: sprinting, long jump, high jump, hurdles, shot put, discus, triple jump and relays. Students will be completing specific drills, for each event, which are designed to improve their skills and technique. All students will be given the opportunity to try out for the sprints, hurdles, 800 metres and field events for our District Athletics Sports to be held later in Term 2.

- Ruth Lanigan

Welcome to a new year of music. While Mr Jones is away I will be working with the Grade 3-6’s in the music room. This term, we’ll be focusing on music notation. Students will aim to develop their understanding of how to read music correctly. Using a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments we will work together to create a short piece of music to perform to each other. We will also be exploring some drama activities to help break the ice and get to know each other a little better.

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**TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

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