Term 1, 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 5/6. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. By now we will have met most of you at the Getting to Know You Interviews, or know you, having taught your child previously. We would like to reiterate that if you have any concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our first three weeks and two days of the 5/6 year was Bouncing Back to BUPs. Students completed activities based on Getting to know each other, including Five things about me, My Life Island, Selfies and developing Personal and Learning Goals. Through games and discussions we aimed to develop a sense of belonging – class, school and community, voted on class names and set standards and shared expectations for the year.

As part of our preparation for camp, we also attended Survival Swimming classes at Casey Arc and St John Ambulance First Aid presentation.

We are very much looking forward to camp at Wilsons Prom and thank parent helpers, Kathryn Smith, Scott Justice, David Setches and Rob Naismith and Integration Aide Joanne Walker, for volunteering their time to come with us.

Our school leaders – School Captains and Vice Captains have been responsible for presenting assembly, demonstrating excellent leadership skills. House Captains and Vice House Captains were outstanding on the Swimming Sports Day, encouraging competitors and assisting where necessary.

Junior School Councillors have attended an introductory meeting and have visited their classrooms to introduce themselves and ask for feedback and ideas from students across the school.

Environment Captains have been working with Mrs Clifford to plan and prepare for the year.

Students were presented with their leadership badges by Brad Battin at a special assembly attended by parents, family members and students on Friday 20th February.

Interschool Sport begins this term, with a bit of rearranging of days to suit all schools involved. Sports played for Summer Interschool Sport are; Cricket, T Ball, Volleyball and Basketball.

Thank you to the parents who have offered coaching and supervision assistance.

Excursions/Incursions/Special Events

Monday 9th February - Maths Roadshow
Tuesday 17th February St John Ambulance First Aid
Monday 16th, Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th February- Swimming at Casey Arc
Monday 23rd February – 27th Wilson’s Prom camp
Monday 2nd March School Photos
5/6 Class Afternoon Tea 3.30-4 pm
Friday 6th March – Interschool Sports (BUPS vs. Officer @ BUPS)
Wednesday 4th March District Swimming Sports
19th – 22nd March HPV Wonthaggi
Friday 20th March – Interschool Sports (BUPS vs. Chairo @ Chairo)
5/6 Joint Celebration Day – Reward for reading 40 nights  Date to TBC
27th March Clean Up Australia Day

End of Term
What’s Happening in Curriculum?

**Literacy**

Term One will see the grade 5/6 children focussing on Persuasive writing using the Seven Steps to Writing Success. We will be revising the steps which include, Plan For Success, Sizzling Starts, Tightening Tension, Dynamic Dialogue, Show Don’t Tell, Ban The Boring Bits and Exciting Endings. Focus will also include editing their own and other’s work.

As part of Bouncing Back to BUPS and our Health unit, children have created posters which are designed to give healthy tips and advice to make healthy lifestyle choices.

We will begin Reciprocal Reading when we return from camp. Students will be given a variety of texts and shown how to use headings and additional information to predict content, discuss and use a dictionary to clarify unfamiliar words, read, and summarise key points in their own words.

Students have been tested on spelling words and have individual lists of words including words from their own writing. Students will complete spelling tasks each week to practise their words in a variety of ways. Students are expected to practise their words at home as well.

We will watch episodes of Behind The News, where children will take notes of keys issues made and hold class discussions afterwards based on current affairs and world events. Children will be encouraged to share their ideas and opinions in a safe environment while also respecting the opinions of others and to take on the roles of Note Taker and Chairperson. Students will complete the Lexile Reading Test.

**Numeracy**

During Term One students will Complete Essential Assessment ‘Pre Test’ to further inform teaching. The following areas of mathematics will be investigated:
- Adding fractions and decimals and identify and locate decimals and fractions on a number line.
- Factors and multiples of whole numbers, looking at prime and composite numbers.
- Multiplication by one digit and beyond.
- Division by one digit numbers, including remainders with and without calculators.
- Students will be encouraged to solve problems using a variety of strategies and to use estimation and rounding to check the reasonableness of answers.

There will be explicit teaching sessions, clinic groups for common misunderstandings in topics.

Maths Menu sessions will be held weekly across all three grades involving group work and open ended problems and Question A Day based on common errors in past Naplan tests. Children are encouraged to use concrete materials to show full understanding before moving to written algorithms.

Times tables should be practiced on a regular basis as the automatic recall of these facts is essential to progress smoothly in Maths.

**Health**

Through a variety of tasks, students explored their own and others’ views about health. They discussed strategies for improving their personal health and those of others. Students were shown the Healthy Eating Pyramid and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and reflected on how they can be used to assist in decisions about food choices.

In other tasks students compared sugar content of popular drinks. They analysed international lunch menus and produced a visual of their typical school lunch and compared them. Students then analysed some common snack and cereal foods for health benefits, learned how to read labels for kilojoule, sodium, fat and sugar content per serve.

**Science**

For the latter part of term we will be studying Earth and Space Science.

Students will discuss and investigate how the Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun). They will compare similarities and differences between the planets and investigate how scientific knowledge and discovery has changed over time. With guidance, students will plan appropriate investigations to answer questions or solve problems.

**Homework**

As mentioned in the letter sent home on the 10th February, students are expected to read for 15-30 minutes daily, record this in their diary and have it signed by an adult. The reward for good reading practices is a class game, usually each Tuesday. To be eligible for the class game, students must read a minimum of 4 nights that week, record details in their diary, have it signed off by an adult and present their diary to their teacher each Tuesday. Students who do not meet these requirements will not participate in the class game; instead they will be required to read quietly during that time. This term students are required to read a minimum of 40 nights in order to attend the end of term Celebration Day. This will only be achieved by reading more than the minimum or 4 nights per week.

Have a great term!

Toni, Karine and Bec