Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big welcome to all of the students and parents who will be part of the ‘Grade 4’ team this year. The grades are as follows:

Grade 4A (Room 19): Miss Rebecca Parker  
Grade 4B (Room 20): Miss Ann-Marie Cutajar  
Grade 4C (Room 21): Mrs Sharon Day-Askham  
Grade 4D (Room 22): Miss Olivia Franco

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a hat, an art smock, a library bag and a tissue box on the first day of school. If any of these items have been overlooked, we would much appreciate them being brought into school as soon as possible to ensure a smooth and happy start to the year for students….and their teachers! 😊

**Some key dates for your diaries this term:**

Netbook Handover Evening – Tuesday 9th February 6:00 - 6.30pm  
School Swimming Competition (selected students only) – Friday 12th February  
Parent / Teacher Meetings – Mon. 15th & Tues. 16th February  
National Ride to School Day – Friday 4th March  
School Photos Day – Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th March  
Labour Day Holiday – Monday 14th March  
Grand Prix Reward Trip – Friday 18th March  
School Carnival – Friday 18th March  
Last day of term – Thursday 24th March, 2015

It’s a good idea to read the school newsletter to keep up to date with school activities, term dates, public holidays and curriculum days. Also check out the school website: [www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au) and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary](http://www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary)

**Parent / Teacher Meetings**

In order to provide the best learning opportunities for your child, we want to ensure the best home-school partnership possible. We are therefore keen for all parents to meet with their child’s classroom teacher at the start of the year, to discuss any concerns and plan the best learning environment for your child. We look forward to meeting you in Week 3 (notes will be out soon).
Netbooks
This year the Grade 4-6 students will continue with the 1:1 netbook program, building on from the great success of previous years.

We will be holding a ‘handover’ evening on Tuesday 9th February (6-6:30pm) for families who have completed netbook payment (for Term 1 or the whole year), where we will be able to give more information on the program and complete the netbook agreements, allowing children to take their netbooks home during non school-hours.

We look forward to receiving payments on time ($60 per term, or $200 for the whole year), in order for your child to have the use of their netbook to fully utilise the ICT tools, including use on weekly homework tasks. Those parents who paid $60 before the holidays can still get the discounted annual cost, by paying the remaining $140 balance this term.

Homework
Homework will begin in Week 2, so that the children can ease into the school routine the first week back. It will be handed out and explained on Monday, and will be expected back each Friday for correction. Homework tasks cater for different abilities to help consolidate learning in class. It will also include netbook options for those who have use at home.

Homework expectations are:

Daily: To read for 15 mins (noted in diary and parent signed)

Weekly: Complete one English task, one Maths task and one physical activity task.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities are intended to support class work, and it is valuable for children to complete each task to the best of their ability.

Ongoing communication – Student Diaries
Diaries will be given to all students and we ask that they are checked and signed by parents each week. This is a great way for students to organise their school and homework demands, also ensuring parents and teachers have effective two-way communication with each other. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher, please feel free to arrange an appropriate meeting time. Problems are usually easier to resolve if they are dealt with promptly.

If your child is absent/sick/late, please inform us in writing so that the office can maintain up to date records.

Grade 4/5 Camp
This year the Grade 4/5 School Camp will be held at the Y.M.C.A camp, Anglesea. This is our three-day ‘beach’ camp and takes place from Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th October. The cost will be approximately $240. We hope as many children as possible will be able to participate in this positive experience and we will be sending out notes of interest in Term 2.
**School Times**
School starts for all students at 8:20am and students have tasks to complete from the first bell, while rolls are taken and monies/letters are being collected.

**Late arrival can seriously hinder student progress and will make it hard for them to settle into the daily routines**

**TRUST licences:** Students will be issued with Trust licences throughout Term 1, as part of our Positive Behaviours program to encourage responsible behaviours. This program hopes to instill the leadership qualities we believe all of our students are capable of.

**Projects for the Year**

Term 1 Project – What Makes Me Click & School Carnival
An introductory project to help get the 1:1 netbook program up to full speed and set up our dynamic learning space. An opportunity for students to assess their different learning styles and develop a wider array of learning tools, with an emphasis on developing their ICT skills, utilising the netbooks to improve their learning potential. Also making preparations and running our School Carnival.

Term 2 Project - Living With Change
As part of our science unit based around biological science, our Grade 4s will have the opportunity to become hands-on scientists, testing out theories related to our science study. They will also look at life-cycles and foodwebs.

Term 3 Inquiry – First Contacts
This term we will be completing a history unit, learning about European settlement, first explorers and the First Fleet. Students will also learn about Indigenous life before, at, and after settlement. They will need to research a famous explorer and orally present it using either a digital medium, or in poster format.

Term 4 Inquiry – Materials Move
In Term 4 we have a physical science focus unit looking at the workings of basic machines, carrying out experiments and learning science concepts and theories. Students will research the work of scientists and produce a project about an area of science they have studied. A very hands-on topic to encourage inquiry and discovery!

**Specialist Programs**
Students will attend specialist classes in the areas of P.E., Art, Performing Arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). These will be rotated throughout the year, with students having three specialist sessions per week.

**No Hat, No Play Policy**
Please remember that Bellbridge is a Sun Smart school, and therefore during Term 1 all children are required to be wearing their school hat. These are to be either a navy blue broad brimmed hat or a legionnaire’s hat. If your child does not have a hat, they will need to be playing in appropriate sheltered play areas.
School Wide Positive Behaviours & Earn and Learn

Be SAFE  Be RESPECTFUL  Be RESPONSIBLE  Be a LEARNER

In keeping with the establishment of the whole school approach to student well-being, Grade 4 students will be involved in discussing common rights and responsibilities and how these impact on classrooms, and the school in general. Students will receive rewards through collecting individual bee tokens, whole-class beehives as well as the Grade 4 Earn and Learn incentive program. Rewards will include involvement in special excursions, such as a trip to the 2016 Australian Grand Prix!

Active Travel

Every Wednesday is ‘Wheel and Walk Wednesday’, where we encourage students to walk or ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard to school. For those that live too far from school, we ask that you get dropped off on one of our Active Paths and walk or ride the rest of the way. Each Wednesday, classroom teachers collect data on how our students travelled to school. We have seen great improvements in our school’s active travel rate since the implementation of this program last year, and we look forward to seeing this rate continue to improve.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year and having a very successful 2016. Regards, Grade 4 Team. ☺