

GRADE 5 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big welcome to all of the students and parents, who will be part of the 'Grade 5' team this year. The grades are as follows:

Grade 5A: Mr. Mike Sisson, Grade 5B: Miss Rebecca Clark, Grade 5C: Miss Belinda Onofretchok

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a book box, hat, art smock, library bag and 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:

Swimming Trials – Friday 13th February

Intro. Parent/Teacher Meetings – Mon. 16th & Tues. 17th February

School Photos Day – Thursday 5th March

Labour Day Holiday – Monday 9th March

Grand Prix Reward Trip – Friday 13th March

School Carnival – Friday 20th March

Last day of term – Friday 27th March

Parent/Teacher Meetings

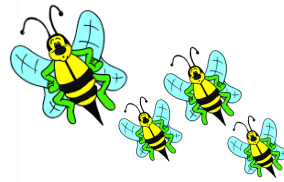
In order to provide the best learning opportunities for your child, we want to ensure the best home-school partnership possible. We are therefore keen for all parents to meet with their child's classroom teacher at the start of the year, to discuss any concerns and plan the best learning environment for your child. We look forward to meeting you in Week 4 (notes to follow soon).

Netbooks

The Grade 5s will be straight into the netbook program, building on the great work and skill development done in Grade 4. Please ensure home users bring their netbooks to school, each day, fully charged.



We look forward to full participation in our netbook program, including use of weekly homework tasks. Those parents who paid \$60 before the holidays can still get the discounted annual cost, by paying the remaining \$140 by Week 2.



Homework

Homework will begin in Week 3, with homework standards being set up in class in Week 2. It will be handed out and explained on Monday and will be expected back each Friday for correction. **It will also include netbook options for those who have the use of netbooks at home.** Homework expectations are:

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

Per week: Complete one literacy task, one numeracy task, one physical activity and one thinking activity.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities support what is being done in class and students should aim to complete tasks 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 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, can you 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 Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. This is our three-day 'bush' camp and takes place from Wed. 14th – Fri. 16th October. The cost will be approximately \$230. 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

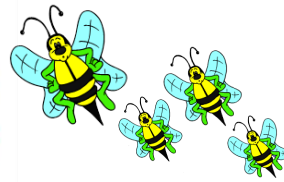
School starts for all students at 8:20am and students have tasks to complete from the first bell, while rolls are taken and monies/letters are being collected.



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

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





Term 1: Our Digital D.N.A. & School Carnival

A look at cyber-safety and how we can be proficient global citizens in an ever-changing world. This will involve looking at laws and rules and the roles of different levels of government, along with the rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen. We will continue to develop our 1:1 netbook program, building on the core skills from last year, and develop guidelines for working online, with the later intention of setting up class blogs. We will also make preparations for our School Carnival.



Term 2: Australia in the 1800s

Primarily a history focus, looking at how, and why, different colonies were set up across Australia in the 1800s, after European settlement. This will include a look at the Gold Rush in Victoria, the impact on immigration and the Eureka Stockade. Our students will also be tuned in ready for their NAPLAN tests!

Term 3: Our Place in Space

A science focus, looking at the configuration of our solar system, and the scientific developments that have helped us to better understand how it was formed. We will also study chemical science and the different properties of materials.

Term 4: Health Education and Puberty Program

Students will study physical, social and emotional health issues, with an insight into the significant transition between life stages and the changes associated with puberty.

Specialist Programs

Students will receive specialist tuition in the areas of P.E., Art, Library Studies and Performing Arts. These will be rotated throughout the year, with students having 3 Specialist sessions per week. There may also be the opportunity for Grade 5s to participate in Inter-School Sports with our Grade 6 students.

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 5 students will be involved in discussing common rights and responsibilities and how these impact on classrooms, the B.E.R. building and the school in general. Students will receive rewards through collecting individual BEE tokens as well as the Grade 5 Earn and Learn incentive program.



Rewards will include involvement in special excursions, such as trips to the 2015 Australian Grand Prix!

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year and having a very successful 2015 year. *Regards, Grade 5 Team.* ☺