Welcome to Term 3.

For our Year 6 students, it is their last semester at primary school before they go out into the big wide world of high school. It is their opportunity to think about what they want to achieve in learning and personal growth during these next few months; what their strengths and areas for improvement are; and how they will work towards achieving the goals they set for themselves; how they can gain the most out of the next few months, creating good habits and a strong, confident base for high school. In this venture, they have the close and full support of their teachers and of course, you as their parents. We look forward to sharing these next few exciting months with them.

For our Year 5 students, it is their last semester before they become the seniors of the school. Perhaps some of them might consider trying a new extra curricula activity offered, in or out of school, in order to broaden their experiences and uncover new interests and skills. Many of them are probably going to start thinking about what their roles and responsibilities might be next year and whether they will take on the challenge of applying for one of the many leadership roles that will be available to them. The teachers have noticed several good candidates for these roles. The students are encouraged to look for good role models among their friends in Year 6 and prepare themselves for the responsibilities ahead. They can strive to be excellent students by having a respectful and positive attitude towards adults and their peers; displaying diligent work habits; and always caring for others. They can be good role models for the younger students by exhibiting our school's three core values: Being mindful, respectful and endeavouring in all they do.

Congratulations to our Stage 3 incoming School Representative Council members for Semester 2:

6/5M- Shannelle L and Theodore J
6/5F- Maximilian Z and Marcus G
5C- Genevieve M and Alexander J

Congratulations to our Stage 3 outgoing School Representative Council members for Semester 1:

6/5M- Jason Z and Blair W
6/5F- Eric C and Mia M
5C- Dean A and Lainey B
Communication

The school website can be used to keep up-to-date with events that are happening throughout the year. Parents and students can also visit the website to get copies of notes that they may have missed out on or lost.


Dates to remember

Wednesday 22 July: School Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 28 July: Education Week Open Day
ICAC English Competition
Monday 10 August: Cyber Smart Week begins
Tuesday, 11 August: ICAS Mathematics Competition
Monday, 17 August and Tuesday 18th August: School Photos Days
Wednesday 19 August: Year 6 excursion to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Monday 24 August: Book Week begins
Friday 4 September: Fathers’ Day Breakfast

Learning Programs

English

This term, English skills will be developed through the English concepts of Context, Point of View and Positioning. We will be using a variety of texts including digital and multimedia texts as well as novels, short stories and film. Our texts will link with our Unit of Inquiry. The students will analyse author techniques which allow meaning to be derived from the setting, conditions and purpose of text and how word knowledge and vocabulary are supported by contextual clues in text. They will identify the particular perspectives brought by an author, responder or character to the text or to matters within the text. They will discuss how narrative point of view refers to the ways a narrator may be related to the story. They will unpack texts to highlight how an author positions responders by selectively using detail or argument, by carefully shaping focus and emphasis and by choosing language that promotes a particular interpretation and reaction. The ability to understand oral and written texts in this manner is an important skill when viewing the great variety of texts that the students will be exposed to as they continue towards adulthood.
This term Literacy Groups will continue with a focus on reading and writing skills. Literature Circles will begin as part of homework. This will involve reading a particular text as a group and completing a weekly response to the text in a variety of ways.

As part of our language program, there will continue to be a weekly focus on spelling including sounds, spelling generalisations, word origins and shades of meaning (including synonyms). These areas of learning, as well as the study of author techniques, help to enrich students’ own writing.

Mathematics

The areas of study this term continue to be from the strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. We will consolidate students’ understanding about multiplication, division, length and area. There will continue to be a focus on mental strategies and quick recall of multiplication facts. Our new learning will be outcomes from the substrands of fractions and decimals, 3D and 2D space, chance and time. Students will continue to work mathematically, using the strategy of Newmans’ Prompts to solve complex word problems.

Unit of Inquiry (UOI)

Our Unit of Inquiry this term will focus on the concepts of ‘Freedom and Responsibility’ and is from the curriculum area of Humanities and Social Sciences called Civics and Citizenship. Civics and Citizenship is essential in enabling students to become active and informed citizens who participate in and sustain Australia’s democracy. Through the study of Civics and Citizenship, students investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society. The key inquiry is into how governing systems promote or inhibit freedom for their citizens and the responsibilities of all stakeholders? The focus questions are:

- What are the rights and responsibilities of Australian and global citizens? How have people influenced society to make change?
- What are the decision-making processes at local, state and federal levels?
- What are the structures, roles and responsibilities of government?
- How does our knowledge of democracy help us to formulate plans and create possible solutions illustrating fairness and social justice for school, local, national and global problems?

It will be a very interesting and meaningful area of study which will culminate in our 3 day excursion to Canberra at the beginning of Term 4. Please take note that during this term many correspondences will be sent in relation to this excursion, including important forms to be completed and returned promptly.
**Student equipment**

Stage 3 teachers would like to strongly request your support in ensuring that your child consistently has the clearly labelled necessary equipment at school. Several students are coming to school unprepared with the stationery they need, which then causes difficulties for them during class work. They are constantly expecting to borrow from the teacher or other students when they require some item of stationery that they are missing. Some examples of basic essential equipment are **glue sticks, erasable pens, rubbers, lead pencils, a red pen, textas and coloured pencils**.

**Homework**

The completion of all homework continues to be an expectation for our Stage 3 students, especially Year 6 who are preparing for high school.

We need your continued support in this matter, as several students consistently do not meet the satisfactory standards expected at this level. The homework will continue to be English, Mathematics and Unit of Inquiry based. The students will be using Wikispaces this term to receive and complete homework. They will need access to computers and printers for much of their homework. Where an assignment is set, it will always be given a longer period of time for completion. We encourage you to get involved in helping your child with time management and request that school homework is completed to a high standard before other extra homework is attempted.

**School routines**

Stage 3 teachers would like to remind you that all absences and late arrivals or early departures need to be supported by an absence note. Best practise is to send the child with the note on the day for partial absences or on return for full day absences.

It is also a requirement that if for some valid reason your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, that they take it to the office on arrival and collect it from the office at departure time.

Thank you for your continued support this term.

Stage 3 teachers