

## WELCOME TO GRADE 5!

3rd February, 2017

All the children seem very pleased to be a part of the Senior School and have begun the year in a positive and responsible manner, which we are very proud of.

The grade 5 teachers are:

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For the first four weeks of term 1 the students will be participating in many team building and fitness activities. The title of our unit is 'Effective Teams'. This unit will incorporate a study of Kokoda, how mateship and team-work helped the diggers to overcome adversity. The finale of the study will be an excursion to the 1,000 Steps on Friday, 24th February. We will be requiring adult assistance for most of our activities so please tick the assistance box on the appropriate notices if you are able to help us out. Helpers are also required to have a Working with Children Check. Your support will be really appreciated; the more the merrier with these activities!

### Dates to put in your diary:

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February** – Grade 5 present at assembly

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February** - swimming trials 7.00-8:30am Pines pool (optional- notice must be in prior)

**Tuesday and Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February**- Meet the Teacher interviews (online booking)

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Quarry walk (please fill in the slip at the end of the notice if you can assist)

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February** – “Minute to Win it!” Rotational Games (please fill in slip if you can assist)

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February** – District swimming Pines Outdoor Swimming Pool

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Excursion to 1,000 Steps in Mt Dandenong

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Mt Martha Beach Program - grade specific days and times (on notice)

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February** – School Photos

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February** - Michael Grose – ‘Spoonfed Generation’ (Tickets are available from [spoonfedgeneration.eventbrite.com.au](http://spoonfedgeneration.eventbrite.com.au))

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Movie Night - Under The Stars!

During the second half of term 1 we will continue our Effective Teams with an Inquiry Project called “Dream Team”. The children will be researching the ultimate team they dream to one day belong to and then create a presentation of that experience.

### **Homework Expectations:**

Homework assists students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering positive study habits and to provide them with some responsibility for their own learning. After looking at the parent feedback on our homework survey conducted last year, the school is going to trial the homework matrix, (Grade 4's began using this towards the end of 2016). The children will be able to choose certain activities with others being non-negotiable. The matrix will include: 2 hours of reading (which includes a Lexile text as part of this reading), Mathletics tasks set by classroom teacher, Inquiry tasks and a selection of choice activities. This will more than likely begin in week 4.



Homework will be set by the class teacher on Monday and is generally due back at school on the next Monday morning. Some weeks we may require homework on different days. If homework is not handed in on the due date (unless sick or a note of explanation is given), a warning will be given. However, if this happens again, it will result in a lunchtime detention. You can assist your children with their homework in the following ways:

- encourage them to take increasing responsibility with their learning and organisation
- observe and acknowledge their success and ask how they are going with their class work
- encourage them to set aside time each day to complete their homework
- help them to complete their homework by discussing key questions and encourage them to complete their homework independently
- contact your child's teacher to discuss any concerns your child is having with their homework commitments or expectations and a suitable arrangement can be worked out.

Communication: We have included our email addresses at the top of the newsletter for your convenience. We are all happy for you to contact us to arrange a meeting time or to explain an absence. However if you have an important message that needs to be passed onto your child please call the office as there is no guarantee otherwise it will reach your child before the end of the day.

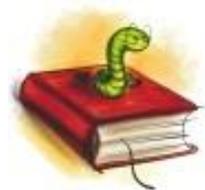
### Grade 5 Maths:

In Grade 5 your children are exposed to a variety of different mathematical concepts and skills. In order to maximise your child's learning we conduct mathematics sessions in various groupings. These groups could be like-abilities, class groups, mixed ability groups or interest groups. This flexible grouping structure allows for maximum teaching to the specific needs of students within each grouping. Students participate in 5 hours of formal math classes per week. These lessons follow the curriculum set by the government and instruction involves formal teaching, hands on learning, interactive IT based activities and of course, fun learning activities. We cover the areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement, Chance and Data, Statistics and Probability as well as problem solving and investigations. The classroom teacher sets Mathletic tasks each week, which reflect areas that are being covered in class. Teachers monitor and assess progress each week. If your child does not have access to the internet could a note please be given to the teacher. As parents, if you have any queries as to how to help your child do specific math tasks, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for assistance (we know things are now done slightly differently to when you were at school). ☺

### Grade 5 English:

**CAFÉ Reading:** Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary

Teachers use The CAFE System to assess, instruct and monitor student progress in reading. It provides tools for constructing group and individual lessons that provide just-in-time instruction, ensuring that all students reach their potential in reading.



We are greatly advantaged to be able to offer students a range of books that "fit" their specific reading level by using a reading program known as Pro-Literacy, through the Scholastic Learning Zone. Students are initially tested and given a lexile score, which enables them to choose a personal book within their reading grasp. These Lexile books will be apart of their homework reading. Upon completion of their book the students will undertake a comprehension quiz in order to gain immediate feedback as to the level of understanding of what they have just read. Students are always encouraged to read for meaning, select novels relevant to their reading ability and of course, enjoyment.

### Writing - VCOP

All text types and genres are addressed over the Grade 5 year. During this term we will be focusing on recounts and persuasive genres in text. We will continue to use VCOP strategies and BIG WRITES to help develop the children's writing and share their writing pieces during class time.



**Spelling:**

**Words Their Way** is a teacher-directed, student-centred approach to vocabulary growth and spelling development whereby students engage in a variety of sound, pattern and meaning activities, sorting pictures and words. It caters for differentiated learning in the classroom, rather than a one-size fits all solution. Grammar is woven throughout all written and oral literature and so is addressed formally and informally on a daily basis.



**Grade 5 ICT:**

As we are using the 1:1 i-Pad program this year ICT will be incorporated throughout the curriculum in various situations.

Students are developing a range of skills that include:

- Cyber smart practice
- creating and developing presentations
- word processing
- graphics and use of green screens
- using multimedia to communicate ideas
- communicating electronically through See-Saw
- creating an e-Portfolio to showcase their learning



Students and parents will need to sign an acceptable usage policy that outlines the protocols students need to follow when accessing the school network (internet, email, network folders). Some students have already returned these forms at the end of 2016, for those that we do not yet have a notice, we will send home another copy.

**Grade 5 Camp:**

This year we are going to Sovereign Hill from Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June- Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. We will be studying 'Gold' throughout term 2. More information regarding camp will follow.



We are thrilled to be teaching your children this year. We are truly your co-partners in the educating of your son/daughter and endeavour to provide a warm, caring environment where your child will feel safe as they learn and grow. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

We welcome you into our classrooms and hope to get to know each of you throughout this year.

Kind regards,

CATHY O'TOOLE, JAVETTE WESTLAKE, RICHARD BARREN, BRENT SCHUSTER AND AMY HILLE.

