



18 May 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) Parent Information – Term 2 2009

Welcome back to Term 2 2009. We are anticipating a very busy term with all students and are looking forward to continuing working with you and your child. This term you will receive your child's Semester 1 report and you will also have the opportunity to discuss their progress at the three-way progress conferences in Week 11, Term 2.

All classes are continuing to do *literature circles* as part of their reading program. This term Year 5 and 6 classes will apply their knowledge of the roles in literature circles to tackling tests. We have noticed that students need a greater understanding of test materials and we will be applying the literature circle roles to help students deconstruct and better comprehend test materials. As always, we would like your continued support to encourage your child to read as much as possible. This is the best way to ensure your child's reading and writing skills improve.

Classes 5/6J, 5P, 5G, 6P, 6G and 4/5D are participating in the online science and environmental program, *Murder under the Microscope*. The aim of this program is for classes to solve a fictitious eco-crime. This year's theme is "Crisis on the coast" and centres around water catchment areas that are in danger of pollution or contamination. Students in classes will work in small groups and conduct research into various environmental concerns in an attempt to find a victim, villain and crime site. As part of this program, students may be required to complete extra online work at home. In conjunction with this program, classes will also be completing the following units as part of their HSIE and Science lessons:

- 5/6J, 5P, 5G, 6P and 6E The Great Barrier Reef
- 4/5D The Murray/Darling River system
- 5H and 6K Antarctica

Parents who have children in Year 6 should begin to receive responses from the high schools they applied for in Term 1. All of the high schools you applied for should send you letters in the mail detailing whether you have been successful in your application. At some point this term, your child will bring home a note asking for confirmation of your acceptance of a high school offer.

Students in Year 5 will undertake the NAPLAN tests (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy or NAPLAN) this term. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across the whole country will be tested in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, language and numeracy. These tests will be conducted on 12, 13 and 14 May. Results of your child's achievement will be forwarded to you later in the year.

This term, students will participate in drug education lessons. Students will learn about the consequences and affects of drinking alcohol and the dangers of smoking. The school has also arranged for *Life Education* to visit each class for specialised lessons in the mentioned drugs. Lessons will be from the beginning of the term to week 4. This would be a good time to discuss drug education with your child to reinforce the lessons at school.

We are looking forward to your continued support this term. If you have any inquiries about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

Jennifer Simmonds
Relieving Principal

Thanh Ta
Relieving Deputy Principal

Lee Englefield
Assistant Principal