



23 February 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

## Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Parent Information – Term 1 2009

Welcome to Stage 2. A special welcome to all the families who are new to our school. The Stage 2 teachers this year are as follows:

2/3B Miss Ballantyne	3A Mrs Azar	3BC Mrs Carney	3R Ms Carr
3/4C Mrs Campbell	4J Mrs Soegeto	4B Mrs Stanford	4F Mr Filpi
4S Miss Seat	4/5D Miss Doran	STLA Miss Singleton	ESL Mrs Manglesdorf
RFF Mr Hutchinson, Mrs Methven, Ms Ewing and Mrs Rawle		Library Mrs Kobeleff and Mrs Pickett	

Mrs Azar is the Relieving Assistant Principal supervising Stage 2. Teachers meet regularly to plan similar learning experiences for students and ensure consistency across the grade.

Students have begun the year with great enthusiasm for learning. All classes have been working on a First Four Week program, which has involved lessons on healthy eating, social skills, anti-bullying, learning Australian facts and general knowledge. Students have learnt our school rules, as well as important bookwork standards and group work skills. English and mathematics continue to be a focus.

The following provides an overview of learning for Stage 2. Class programs may differ slightly due to student needs, interests and abilities. Students will work towards achieving Stage 2 outcomes and Foundation Statements by the end of Year 4.

### English

Students will participate in Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing lessons. Skills and strategies will be explicitly taught, modelled and demonstrated.

Adjusting **talking and listening** for a range of purposes ie, when students give news, follow extended instructions, listen critically and orally present work to the class via a speech.

**Reading** skills and strategies will focus on decoding unknown words in a variety of books (text) and the understanding of what is read (comprehension). Students will also develop deeper understanding through inferential questioning.

**Writing** occurs daily in all areas of learning. Students will learn to write in a variety of styles (text types), paying attention to spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar. This term there is an emphasis on narrative and recount texts (stories). Using technology (computers) will also be an integral part of English lessons.

### Mathematics

Students will learn mathematics through a variety of practical activities and situations which require them to **work mathematically**. Asking questions, clarifying solutions, using mental and written strategies and checking answers are some of the skills required in all strands of mathematics. The strands emphasised this term are **number**- fractions, whole numbers, addition, subtraction and money, **measurement**- time, **patterns** and **space and geometry**- 2D shapes and angles.

### Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) & Science and Technology

To allow for the effective sharing of resources, Stage 2 classes will have a different sequence of learning in these areas. Class groups have been formed because these classrooms are closer to each other and therefore resources can be moved easily. All students will complete all units by the end of the year. The units cover outcomes from the **Science** strands *Physical Phenomena, Built Environments and Living Things*; and **HSIE** strands *Environments and Change and Continuity*.

The units for this term are as follows:

2/3B, 3BC, 3A, 3R	Machines; Body Systems
4S, 3/4C	British Colonisation & Built Environments
4J, 4B, 4F	Australiana
4/5D	Ancient Egypt

### **Creative and Practical Arts**

The areas of music, dance and drama will be taught as part of the RFF program. Visual arts will be part of classroom learning and may include activities on the theme for the term. Students are also encouraged to join our creative arts groups for dance, flute, recorder, band, choir and flute.

### **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE)**

Interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication and positive friendships are essential to ensure successful learning and happiness at school. Students are learning about their classmates and important rules, routines and relationships are being established during this term. Social skills lessons continue throughout the term. They emphasise school rules and appropriate ways to behave in a range of situations. Anti bullying is also a continued focus. Students are encouraged to develop independence by taking greater responsibility for learning and behaviour at home and school.

### **Other important information**

- \* In May, Year 3 students will sit for the National Assessment Program (NAP), formerly known as the Basic Skills test. Students begin preparing for this test from day 1 of Kinder and will be shown sample questions to help them prepare. The dates for this year are Tuesday 12 May, Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May 2009.
- \* Homework grids are given each Monday and should be brought in for marking on Friday. They aim to provide a variety of stimulating, practical activities for students, which also encourage them to be more active at home.
- \* Stage 2 assemblies are held at 2pm most Wednesdays in the hall. Your child will tell you when his/her class is running this assembly. We invite you to come along.
- \* Please check the planner for important dates for excursions and visiting performances. These are an essential part of learning. If you require help paying for your child to attend, please see your child's teacher.
- \* Birthdays are a special time for family celebrations. On your child's birthday, teachers are happy to distribute fruit, muffins, cupcakes or mini donuts to classmates before they go home. *No lolly bags, balloons, pizza or Krispy Kremes will be handed out.*
- \* Personal requisites note was sent home in week 3, listing equipment needed in Stage 2. If you have not received this note, please see your child's teacher.
- \* Meet the teacher afternoon will be held on Wednesday 25 March. You are invited to see your child's classroom from 3pm and stay for a general information session. This is not the time for an individual student progress conference however if you have any questions or concerns or wish to talk about your child's progress please write a note to the teacher with contact details so that an appointment can be made.
- \* Teachers welcome help in the classroom or from home. If you are available, please let your child's teacher know.

We look forward to your support throughout the year and wish all students a wonderful first term of learning.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Detheridge  
Principal

Mrs Methven  
Deputy Principal

Mrs Azar  
Relieving Assistant Principal