Welcome!
Welcome back to school! The students have settled well into their new Junior School classes. For the first few weeks we will be focussing on developing classroom routines, expectations and establishing positive work habits. Once we have settled into our routines we will commence our integrated topic, ‘Celebrations’. During this unit students will investigate how celebrations and festivals provide the opportunity for families and communities to celebrate their history and culture. We will investigate festivals, ceremonies and celebrations locally and in other parts of Australia and throughout the world. Students will develop an understanding that many cultures make up both their immediate and the world wide community, including Aboriginal and Asian cultures.

Important Dates:
Monday 16th February
Information Night – 7pm
Wednesday 18th – 25th February
Life Education Program – 1/2P -18/2, 1/2M – 20/2, 1/2J – 24/2, 1/2C – 25/2
Monday 23rd February
Photo Day
Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th February
Getting To Know You Interviews
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March
Swimming Week – Croydon Leisure Centre
Monday 9th March
Labour Day
Friday 27th March
Term 1 ends
Tuesday 13th April
Term 2 begins

Performing Arts Production
This year the Junior School students will be performing ‘The Aussie Frog and The Very Special Day’. The students have commenced work on choreography, scripts and their acting skills to have this performance ready for your enjoyment on Tuesday 28th April and Wednesday 29th April.

Tuesday 28th April - 6.00 – 7.00pm – 1/2 P, 7.00 – 8.00pm – 1/2M
Wednesday 29th April - 6.00 – 7.00pm – 1/2 J, 7.00 – 8.00pm – 1/2C

Information Night
This year our Information Night will be held on Monday 16th February. We will be meeting in Room 13/14 (1/2J and M) at 7pm for a discussion covering the Level 2 curriculum, expectations and organisation.

Getting To Know You Interviews
These interviews will be held on the 23rd and 24th February. A parent questionnaire will be sent home shortly. Please return these forms as quickly as possible. Online booking will be available soon. Please keep a look out for this in the newsletter.

New School Times
This year we will be running a new timetable as follows:
First session - 9am - 11.00am
Recess - 11.00am – 11.30am
Second session – 11.30am – 1.30pm
Lunch – 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Third session – 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Due to the later lunch break we strongly suggest that you send along a substantial snack for recess. Fruit will still be encouraged to be eaten during the day within class time.
Junior School Swimming Program

The Junior School students participate in a swimming program at Croydon Leisure Centre.

Dates and session times are:

Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March
  1/2J and 1/2M – 9.30 -10.20am
  1/2C and 1/2P – 10.30 -11.20am

During the week of swimming, we would like students to arrive at school with their bathers under their school clothes and thongs/slips on shoes and underwear in their swimming bags. Before we leave for the pool, students will change into their thongs and leave school shoes and socks at school. We have found this works well. Lessons will run for 45 minutes. As students are often very hungry after swimming please consider adding more healthy snacks and lunch to sustain them. A roster will be displayed on the classroom window asking for volunteers to accompany us on the bus. You may like to meet us at the pool, extra help is always appreciated.

Parent Reps

If you are interested in being a Class Rep, please notify your child’s class teacher as soon as possible. (This can be a shared role)

Food Allergies

Please advise your class teacher if your child has food allergies or if there are foods you would prefer they did not eat. A number of students in the Junior School are anaphylactic. Parents are requested not to include any nut or egg products in lunches to avoid potentially fatal reactions. We ask that students do not share food or buy food for each other from the canteen for this reason.

Water Bottles and Fruit

We encourage all students to have a fresh bottle of water on their table everyday and a piece of fruit to eat after lunch.

Arrival at School

Please remember that school begins at 9am. It can be distressing for students who arrive late and feel that they have missed out on instructions and introductory activities.

A reminder also that if your child arrives at school after 9.10am you will need to sign them in at the office so they can be included on the system.

Take Home Book Cover

This will contain the Reading Diary and Spelling Homework book. Spelling words will be given fortnightly on Mondays and tested the following Monday. We ask that you focus on both the reading and spelling of the Oxford Words in the alternate weeks.
When you have come into our classrooms you may have noticed a display which we will be using throughout the year to introduce and review reading strategies with the students. The Café Reading program will be introduced throughout the school this year.

**CAFÉ Reading stands for:**

- **C** - Comprehension
- **A** - Accuracy
- **F** - Fluency
- **E** - Expanding Vocabulary

Café Reading is a direct teaching approach that uses explicit and direct instruction to give meaning to what we do in our literacy blocks and why. Café Reading will provide a consistent language across the school for students, teachers and parents to share. In our classrooms students will become familiar over the year with the strategies that develop each of these aspects of reading. The Café teaching approach strongly supports us all in very explicit teaching regarding the ‘what’ and ‘why’ of these strategies.

You may already be hearing your child talk about ‘Good Fit Books’. These are the books we are prompting to the students that they can read independently during our sustained reading sessions. ‘Good Fit Books’ are chosen by the children using the IPick approach.

**IPick stands for:**

- I choose a book
- **P**urpose - Why do I want to read it?
- **I**nterest - Does it interest me?
- Comprehend – Do I understand what I am reading?
- **K** - Do I know most if the words?

Each student has been issued with a reading box and we are encouraging them to have 3-4 ‘Good Fit Books’ in this box which they can read during the week. We would like the students to bring a book along from home on a weekly basis that they can keep in this box. (Please make sure it is clearly named)

**Finally...**

To assist with snuffles and runny noses it would be greatly appreciated if parents could send along two boxes of tissues.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year with your child.

**Jenny, Ann, Vicky and Dee**

Junior School Team