Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you had a wonderful break with your families and friends. I’m very excited about spending another busy and productive term with the students. This term I will continue to encourage the students to stay positive and enjoy every day while making the most of opportunities. We will continue to write in our grateful books and share positive ideas. Last term, the students set new goals for the semester and I am sure they will work hard to achieve these by the end of the year. I’m very proud of their maturity and growing awareness of their areas of strengths and needs. I encourage you to discuss your child’s new goals regularly and support them in staying positive while reflecting on their personal challenges and strategies to overcome them. This is an important aspect of growing up and being better prepared for high school.

**ENGLISH (Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening)**

**Literacy Groups**

The reading program is tailored to the learning needs/ strengths of individual students and includes reading groups, silent, guided and modeled reading focusing on specific comprehension strategies, vocabulary and reading texts fluently.

The strategies of predicting, inferring, making connections, visualising, Monitoring, questioning and summarising reading will be explicitly taught throughout the term. Emphasis will be placed on the strategies of questioning and summarising.

**Writing** will be closely connected to our integrated unit ‘Sustainability’. Learning activities have been designed to explicitly introduce literacy focuses and provide students with the opportunity to use them
as they think about and represent their understandings. The literacy focuses include word walls and topic specific language, imaginative and informative texts. Students will also continue to develop their knowledge of the structure and language used in texts such as report writing and explanations. I was particularly impressed with the quality pieces of writing the students created throughout term 3. Please remember to remind your child to email you published copies of their creative written tasks.

All year 5 and 6 will receive a spelling list each week. Words will need to be revised at home for the weekly spelling and dictation test each Friday. Students will complete a variety of activities throughout the week to consolidate spelling words. Please encourage your child to learn words from the junior word list.

**Talking and Listening** will be part of everyday learning activities and set tasks. Students will continue to develop their active listening, summarising and oral presentation skills by participating in group learning projects and preparing/presenting spoken texts to varied audiences. They will be encouraged to have an awareness of current local and global issues and present a point of view on these issues. Students will engage in debates, retell stories heard and read, listen and respond to points of view presented by others in group and class discussions and respond to spoken texts in a variety of ways. Students will also participate in Circle Time sessions on a weekly basis. In addition to developing high-order thinking skills, these sessions provide students with an opportunity to develop their skills in active listening and the use of formal oral language.

Throughout the beginning of term 4, we will continue to work on the novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. We will continue to explore many important themes and topics that relate well to our Integrated unit on environmental sustainability and personal development. Using the garden motif, we will explore the healing power inherent in living things. Students will develop an understanding and respect for the natural environment and the ways in which we are dependent on its foundation and impact on its endurance. Another theme which the book explores, is positive thinking and belief in its power to bring about psychological and physical healing. Students will investigate and reflect on thinking patterns and ways in which they can approach life and problems with a positive attitude.

Alongside this text we will read a number of other texts related to our themes such as *The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley* by Colin Thompson, *Unforgotten* by Tohby Riddle, and *Blueback* by Tim Winton.
MATHEMATICS
Class-based activities will cover number, space and geometry, measurement, patterns and algebra, data and working mathematically. Maths content will be integrated and embedded across all key learning areas and will include, working mathematically, flowcharts, spreadsheets, tables, temperature, measurement, diagrams and graphs.
This term number (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), place value operations, fractions, percentages and decimals, 3-D space, 2-D space, data, area, volume and capacity, mass and time will be covered in maths.
Mathletics is a vital component of the mathematics program. Students will need to regularly complete weekly tasks designed to reinforce and consolidate skills.
Enrichment opportunities such as Maths Olympiad and The Number Crunchers Program will continue.

INTEGRATED UNIT: HSIE/ SCIENCE
Our integrated unit for Term 4 is on ‘Sustainability’. Students will develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable pattern of living. Students will be focusing on creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. Actions that support more sustainable patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence.

Students will engage in independent and group work projects that have a focus on energy consumption, waste management, climate change and biodiversity. The program provides students a platform to explore the environmental sustainability of our school environment, and will encourage students to devise strategies to address sustainability issues being investigated. Students will use the Australian Mathematics curriculum strand Thinking Mathematically, to explore the sustainability of their school environment, and will participate in practical activities that reinforce the relevance of maths in everyday lives. We will work closely with community organisations such as Botany Council to develop a deeper understanding of ‘Sustainability’.
CREATIVE ARTS
All year 5 and 6 students will participate in creative arts group lessons throughout the week. They will participate in learning activities in the strands of visual arts, music, dance and drama with a focus on creating, performing and appreciating the work of other artists. This term’s units lend themselves to a focus on natural and man-made environments.

HOMEWORK
Homework reinforces key concepts the children are focusing on in class. It is very important that the children get into good routines planning, neatly completing and returning their homework within the correct timeframe. Homework will begin in week 1. Each week, students will be set a weekly homework task to develop and improve a variety of literacy skills (inferential comprehension skills, grammar, type awareness etc) or consolidate new skills/knowledge covered in class. Homework is handed out on a Monday and needs to be returned on Friday morning. It is the responsibility of the students to collect the homework tasks if they are absent when it is handed out.

CLASS TIMETABLE
Library: Lessons will be on a Tuesday. Please remind your child to pack their library bag and encourage them to borrow each week.
Language lessons: Mrs Morrison and Ms Tighe will work individually and small groups with students who have English as an additional language (Mon-Thurs).
Enrichment programs: Programs for Term 4
- Number Crunchers
- Maths Olympiad
Scripture: Lessons are held every Tuesday afternoon.

Special Requests
- Remember to keep up to date with all school events via the school website. If you have not done so already, be sure to sign up to have the ‘Dacey Details’ delivered to you online.
- All absences have to be accounted for by an accompanying note.
- Any late arrivals to the office first to pick up a late card. Please try to be at school on time.
- Please make sure your child wears a hat every day.
- Please ensure your child has a healthy lunch each day including water and crunch and sip.
RESOURCES

Please send in the following with your child as soon as possible-

- 2 whiteboard markers and cloth
- Packet of textas
- Coloured and lead pencils
- 2 red pens (for marking and ruling margins)
- Blue pens
- A glue stick
- A clear ruler (with millimetre measurements)
- Erasers
- Graphite pencils
- A box of tissues

I like to keep you regularly informed about your child’s learning and events happening in the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to see me if you have any questions or queries. Our class page on the school website is a great way to keep up with our learning and special events.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Serena Petriella