Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you for attending our parent-teacher night. This year is going to be a very busy but exciting one for your child. We have prepared an outline of the learning programs for Stage 1 students.

Our classes and teachers are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1B</th>
<th>Ms Diana Blajic</th>
<th>STLA</th>
<th>Mr John Riley</th>
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<tr>
<td>10R</td>
<td>Ms Madelaine O’Connor &amp; Ms Karen Romalis</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mrs Rica Meltzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Ms Leila Selby</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mr Rob Sommerville</td>
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<td>2GW</td>
<td>Ms Tina Garrett Ms Sophie Worthington</td>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Ms Cleo Zouroudis</td>
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<td>2O</td>
<td>Ms Mariella Ostaric</td>
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<td>2P</td>
<td>Ms Melissa Poynting</td>
<td>Stage Team Leader</td>
<td>Ms Cleo Zouroudis AP</td>
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The ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers’ team teach with our Stage 1 teachers, concentrating on students who need help with spoken English and work with our students in Literacy groups.

**KEY LEARNING AREAS**

The following notes are a brief explanation of the teaching and learning program for Stage 1 students this year.

**English:** The four strands – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be taught and practiced across the full range of key learning areas including explicit teaching in areas such as:

- **Talking and Listening:** Children are encouraged to speak to the class, to join in discussions on topics they are studying and to develop their listening skills through conversations, games and teaching activities

- **Reading:** Reading plays an important role in the classroom. The children will be grouped according to ability. Activities will include decoding skills and reading for meaning and understanding. There are four different reading programs used.
  - Shared Reading
  - Guided Reading
  - Homework Reading
  - Home Reading

- **Writing:** The children will have the opportunity to learn and practice writing for a variety of purposes such as reports, recounts, poetry and procedures. The focus will be on how to put words together using correct sentence structure.

- **Spelling:** Spelling words are grouped into four types of words. These are: morphemic (base words), phonemic (sounds), visual (sight) and etymological (words from other languages). Regular practice of spelling words is an important component of homework.

- **Mathematics:** The three main strands – Number, Space and Measurement will be developed through the use of hands-on materials in small groups and using the “Go Maths” program. Mascot is also involved in the “Counting On” and “Targeted Early Numeracy” programs. Mathletics will be implemented during computer time and followed up at home as homework later in the term.
HSIE (Human Society and It’s Environment) and Science and Technology
This Key Learning Area will also be supported by excursions which are a valuable teaching and learning tools.

Term 1 – Lets Communicate (Science and Technology)
Term 2 – Wet and dry Environments (HSIE)
Term 3 – The Way We Were (HSIE)
Term 4 – What’s for lunch? (Science)

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE): The following programs are included in this key learning area:

Peer Support | Child Protection Education | Friday sport
Drug Education | Gymnastics | Basic Games Skills
Fitness and Physical Activity | Dance To Be Fit

Creative Arts: The following programs are included in this key learning area:

• Music • Visual Arts • Dance • Drama

Computers: Classes will work with their own teacher in the computer room to support their learning activities and develop computer skills.

Library: Mrs Rajah conducts library lessons at set times for each class. Children are taught research skills to help with school work. Children are encouraged to borrow books each week from the library. To do this a library bag is needed for book borrowing.

Language Other Than English (LOTE): Mascot Public School offers Greek as our Community Language. Students K-6 who are native speakers in Greek attend LOTE classes taught by Ms. Economy. The focus of the lessons follow the class program, students are given the opportunity to extend their oral and written vocabulary in Greek.

OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

Homework: Homework is set for each night. Reading should be practiced every night. Homework generally should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete if done in an uninterrupted session. We would like you to supervise your child’s homework whenever possible. Mathletics will be implemented during computer time and followed up at home as homework later in the term.

How Can You Help Us?
It’s the little things that help, such as:

• labeling all your child’s belongings
• returning school notes promptly
• sending a note when your child returns from an absence
• placing all money in an envelope with your child’s name, class and the purpose for the money marked on the front
• a note on homework sheet if homework incomplete for any reason.
• ensuring that your child brings a pencil case with blue pen, black pen, red pen, ruler, eraser, glue stick, scissors textas/coloured pencils which are all labeled to prevent loss.
• If you wish for your child to celebrate their birthday at school please only send in cupcakes or donuts.

We all benefit when school and home work together. Please feel free to discuss any problems or concerns you may have with us at any time.

D. Blajic / Ms Madelaine O’Connor & Ms Karen Romalis /L. Selby/Mrs Tina Garrett
Mrs Sophie Worthington/ Ms Mariella Ostaric/ Ms Melissa Poynting/ C. Zouroudis
Homework is a valuable part of schooling provided the work is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework depends on the age of the student. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside the school.

Activities at home or at play can also assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Self-directed play in unstructured time is also important. Language and number concepts can be introduced in many family activities including family outings, shopping, preparation of food, interactive computer games and conversations about what is happening at school.

Parents and caregivers can help by taking an active interest in homework and communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and being aware of the amount of homework set.

Stage 1 Teachers
(Years 1 and 2)