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 3 students.

**KEY LEARNING AREAS**

**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:

- **Reading** - The children will be grouped according to ability. Activities will include developing decoding skills, reading for understanding, reading aloud and reading a range of different text types.
- **Writing** – The children will have the opportunity to learn and practice writing for a variety of purposes such as descriptions, reports, narratives, poetry, discussions, explanations and procedures. The development of sound handwriting and word processing skills will also be encouraged.
- **Spelling** - Personal spelling lists and words relating to units will be an integral part of the English program. A revision test will occur each week. Regular practice of spelling words is an important component of homework.

**Mathematics:** The five strands – Number, Space and Geometry, Measurement, Data and Patterns and Algebra will be developed. Concepts and skills will be reinforced by textbook activities. Extension and remediation activities will also be provided. Children will be grouped as needed. This year as part of the Mathematics program children will have access to Mathletics. In Year Six this will be used at school as well as homework when required.

**Science and Technology:** Stage 3 will be working on the following topics:
- Physical Phenomena (Space)
- Interconnecting Growth and Change (Rainforests)
This key learning area is also supported by our excursion and performance programs.

**Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE):** The following units will be studied:
- Global and Social Issues
- Australian Democracy (year 6)   Gold (year 5)
This key learning area is also supported by our excursion program.

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

- Peer Support
- Drug Education
- Fitness and Physical Activity
- Child Protection Education
- Gymnastics
- Friday sport
- Basic Games Skills

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

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Drama
- Choir
OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

Homework
Homework will be set for Stage 3 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Reading should be practiced every night. Homework generally, should take no more than 35 minutes to complete if done in an uninterrupted session. Home Reading is set at 20 minutes per night. We would like you to supervise homework whenever possible. Once a term a major project may be set as homework.

Excursions
Excursions are a valuable teaching and learning tool. The following excursions have been planned:

TERM 1: Discovery Day at JJ Cahill, Art Gallery, Peer Support Training (year 6)
TERM 2: Observatory
TERM 3: Canberra (year 6), Bathurst (year 5)
TERM 4: Surf Skills, Theme Park

Costs
In Stage 3 we believe the students need to develop good social skills and independence so we provide a variety of activities for them to participate in. Below are approximate costs for these activities:

TERM 1: Tri Skills Gymnastics - $25.00
         Peer Support Training - $30.00 (year 6)
         Year 6 T-shirt - $20.00
TERM 2: Observatory/Art Gallery TBA
TERM 3: Canberra - $180.00 (year 6)  Bathurst - $300.00 (year 5)
TERM 4: Surf Skills - $30.00
         Theme Park - $50.00

Senior Uniform
The Year 6 T-shirt will remain for Year 6 only and is required for excursions and outings during the year, and should be worn every day.

Library
Ms Rajah does wonderful work in the library helping students develop library and research skills.

Library times:
6M Wednesday 9:00 am – 10:00 am  6D Wednesday 10.00 am – 11:00 am
5C Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:00 am    5B Tuesday 9.00 am – 11:00 am

Visual Literacy
Ms Susanna Brikha will be supporting the literacy program within the school as the RFF teacher.
Year 6 RFF time is:
6M Tuesday 10.00 am – 11:00am     6D – Wednesday 9:00am – 10:00am
5C Tuesday 11.20 am – 12:20am     5B – Tuesday 11:20am – 12:20am (Ms Zouroudis)

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
- 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.

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.

Tina DeAngeli, AP/Brad McGuinness, AP (Thu, Fri) /Meg Cain/Nathan Buller
Stage 3 teachers