Welcome back!

Welcome back to school. This term is going so quickly, it is hard to believe that we are in our fourth week already. The classes all seem to have settled well and the teachers and students are working hard in the curriculum and getting to know each other. Our new classrooms are fantastic and each class has a uniqueness to it. Later this term we will be looking for parent helpers for our literacy and math groups, so please keep an eye out for this information if you have time to help.

Our assemblies have changed this year as our school has grown, so we now have assembly on a fortnightly basis. We will occasionally have a whole school assembly for special occasions. The next whole school assembly will be Tuesday the 24th February at 9:00am. We would really encourage parents to come along to all our assemblies as this is where we showcase what a great school we are.

Edmodo

This year the Year 3 and 4 students will be using Edmodo. This is a website which allows students to safely communicate with their classmates and teacher outside of school hours. As it is specifically designed for educational purposes, this site is a safe and secure way for students to learn about online communication. Students can access their homework online and can receive help from their peers. As a parent, you can also become involved! Each students’ account has a unique parent code which you can use to create an account too. This information will be sent home with each student later this term.
On a Wednesday afternoon all students in grades 3/4 are split into their sport houses and participate in various activities with our PE teacher Mr. Lucas, classroom teachers and grade 6 house captains. These sports go towards points for their houses and it is a great opportunity for the 3’s and 4’s to get together and enjoy a fun afternoon while learning new skills. On Wednesday we ask that children come to school in shoes that they can run in, a drink bottle and a broad brimmed hat.

This term the grade three and four students are studying a unit called "Beneath Our Feet". They will be learning about soils, rocks and landscapes and how they change over time through hands-on activities and investigations. Students are being encouraged to bring in soil and rock samples from their surroundings to classify. They're all very excited about this topic! So far the students have learnt about the 3 main layers of the Earth and how it can be compared to a hard boiled egg – the crust, although it seems very thick, is actually extremely thin compared to the mantle and core. In the coming weeks we will also look at soil, rocks, landforms and erosion.

**REMINDERS**

- This Friday is a Curriculum day, students are not required at school.
- Next Tuesday, 24th of February there is a whole school assembly at 9am. This year school leaders will be presented with their badges.
- Bush Dance workshops are coming up on Thursday the 26th of February. Students will do workshops during the day and this will be followed by Family Bush Dance at 6.00pm.
- Please return Bush Dance notices by Thursday the 19th of February.
- School photo day is Thursday March the 12th.

**Homework**

The Year 3 and 4 students completed their first week of homework for the year last week and teachers were generally happy with the quality and quantity of homework submitted. Here are a few reminders as to what is expected from students completing homework during 2015.

- **Quick mathematics activities**
  Handed out by the classroom teacher each Monday and stuck into homework books. These equations are set to develop the automatic recall of the four processes.
- **Spelling words**
  Spelling words are assigned on a Monday morning and are either written out or pasted into the homework book. Students select one activity from the ‘Spelling Menu’ to complete using their assigned words. Students then colour in the activity they completed.

- **Reading**
  Students are expected to read nightly for at least 15 – 20 minutes. This may be personal reading or reading out loud to a parent or guardian. Students are provided with books to take home but are also welcome to use library books or books from home.
- **Talk homework**
  As part of the Big Write program students are required to complete 15 minutes of ‘talk homework’ where students are encouraged to spend some time discussing their writing topic for the week which will be sent home on Monday nights. The Big Write will not begin until week 7 and therefore talk homework will not commence until then.