Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to Term 1 2013! (Yay!)
Some important routines to be aware of;

**Take Home Pocket**
Students all have a take home pocket to keep their diary, current reader, homework book and practice cards in. This folder needs to be brought to and from school each day. It will also be used to take notes or forms safely home.

**Homework**
- **Daily Reading** – 15 minutes daily including **at least three times a week** reading aloud for 5-10 minutes to a family member. (This skill is important even for very fluent readers. We often skip over unfamiliar words when reading in our heads even though we can get the gist of their meaning from the context of the sentence. It is important to be able to articulate every word in a text. It is also important to add expression to characters voices.)
  - Parents – please sign in the diary each time your child reads.
- **Maths** – you choose between 10 minutes or 600 seconds practice each day. A suggestion sheet of activities is in the take home pocket. Incidental practice throughout the day works best and the car activities are good for achieving this.
  - Parents – please sign in the diary each day your child practices their numeracy skills.
- **Activity** – Most weeks there will be a short activity that will reflect and reinforce the topics being covered in class. The answers for these should be written neatly in the homework book (Royal Darwin Hospital!), not on the sheet itself. The completed homework is to be handed in for correction each Friday morning.
  - Points will be allocated for signatures and completed activities.

**Topics**
- This term we are reading ‘Wonder’ by R. J. Palacio.

  We will have Penpals this year from Westgarth Primary School in Melbourne and we will go on an excursion to visit them later in the year. We will be corresponding with them throughout the year.

  As part of our Buddies activities the students will be creating a “Digital Time Capsule” for their Prep buddy. This will be a short documentary of their first year at school to be sealed and then given back at their Grade 6 graduation in 2019.

  At times during the year we would like to show some short clips or films to complement the work in class or to stimulate discussion. Some of these clips are PG but we always carefully select them and monitor the content (We don’t show anything we haven’t watched ourselves). If you would like to speak to us further about this, or would prefer your child does not watch carefully chosen PG content, then please see us at school.

  Preparing our vegetable garden soil and the garden area in first term ready for planting from second term.

  Targeted Numeracy Groups across grades 4 – 6 to provide instruction at individual points of need.

Could each student please bring a USB memory stick of 4G or greater for use during the year. This will allow for easy transference of work between school and home computers when required and help to develop good habits around organising and backing up electronic work. These are valuable skills to take onto High School.

**Camp:** This is scheduled for the last week of term (March 25th – 28th) at Camp Coolamatong. Further information will follow in the next few weeks.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with this great group of students.
Regards
Rod Christensen and Melissa Harford