Term 1: Grade 5/6 Newsletter

6th February 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2012! We have had a very positive start to the year and are looking forward to working with such a great group of students. We thought we would take this opportunity to outline a few things to help kick the year off smoothly.

Classroom:

Our classroom is a “no put-down” zone, which means that students are to make sure they don’t speak negatively about themselves or others. This is to ensure that each student in the 5/6 team has the best opportunity to try their best and take risks with their learning.

Many of the tasks undertaken in class will be open-ended so that students of all abilities can work to their potential. Over the coming weeks a number of tests will be completed so that students can be provided learning tasks that meet their current needs.

Each fortnight students will be reflecting on learning goals that they set for themselves in the areas of reading, writing, maths and work habits. This is to assist in helping them to become more aware of their own learning needs and what they need to do to successfully achieve their goals.

On Fridays we would like to have some fruit to share as a class while we read our serial. If you could please send one piece of fruit with your child that can be shared in class it would be greatly appreciated.

Diaries:

Each student has been provided a diary and it is expected that this will be brought between home and school daily. Students will be using their diary to record reading homework, due dates for work, important dates and notices. As teachers we will be also using it as a communication tool between school and home and invite you to use it if you need to let us know about anything. We ask if you could please sign your child’s diary once a week. At school diaries will be checked by a teacher and signed weekly, however if you have written something you need us to see on a particular day please ask your child to let us know.

Homework:

At this level students are expected to complete between 30-45 minutes of homework a day, which will consist of reading, mathematics, and inquiry learning. The expectations of homework to be completed are:

- **Reading Contracts**: Students will be working on reading contracts throughout the term, which involves reading an agreed number of books and completing response sheets. Students may read a book of their choice and it is expected they read a minimum of 15 minutes, 5 times each week. The title and author of the book is to be recorded in their diary when they commence each book and then each night they read they are to record the number of minutes or the number of pages they read. This is to be signed by a parent or responsible adult.
• **Mathematics:** A goal for our class this term is that all students know their times tables and basic number facts so they can automatically recall these. Therefore, if there are any times tables that your child doesn’t know, or if they are not sure on which number pairs add up to 10 or 100 they need to focus on practising this each night. They can verbally answer times tables or pairs questions that you ask them, or they can complete tables grids and 100 pair sheets. If your child knows these already the focus is on speed and accuracy of automatic responses.

• **Inquiry Learning:** We want to promote independent thinking and learning habits so each fortnight students will be asked to come up with a topic of interest and a key question they will answer. The research and recording of information will all be undertaken at home. Students may need assistance in accessing information appropriate to their level, however the information they present to the class will need to be written in their own words. At the end of the fortnight each student will be required to present their question and answer to the class. This also gives them the opportunity to practise their oral presentation skills.

We will also be putting class newsletters and information on the school website:


If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to make a time to see either of us. Unfortunately we are unable to meet with parents after school on a Tuesday or Thursday as we have meetings to attend. Once again we look forward to working with your child this year.

Regards

Clare and Gillian