Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We have spent our first days getting to know your child and establishing our classroom routines. Our regular programs will be commencing very soon.

Reading Journals
The reading journal is to be filled in each night your child reads. The students are expected to read 15 – 20 minutes, five times a week. The teacher will collect journals once a week.

Homework
Homework began this week. In Year 3 the homework book is sent home on Mondays. Students are expected to complete one contract of their book each week and return it to school by Friday. In Year 4 the Homework routine varies slightly for each class. Could you please check that all sections of the contract have been completed and that the page has been signed? If you have any queries regarding the homework please don’t hesitate to contact the classroom teacher.

Hats
Just a reminder – hats are compulsory from September until the end of April including before and after school, recess and lunchtimes, excursions and PE sessions. Please make sure your child comes to school with their named hat each day.

Tissues
Please provide a box of tissues for your child to use in the classroom. Thank you if you have already sent one to school.

Student Code of Conduct
This was sent home on the first school day. If you have not done so already please read it through with your child and return it to school signed as soon as possible.

Fruit Snack
As part of our Health program, all children are encouraged to bring a piece of fresh fruit or some vegetables each day. This will be eaten in the classroom as the students continue working. This healthy snack is in addition to the normal playlunch snack.

Rubbish Free Lunch
In an endeavour to cut down on the amount of rubbish in the yard we would appreciate it if students could have as little packaging on their food as possible.

Inquiry
The first 2 weeks of the term have been spent on the whole school Inquiry Learning to Learn. Next week we commence our Science unit on Wonderful Water. This Inquiry begins with a visit to the Western Treatment Plant. The students will investigate why water is a vital resource. They explore the uses of water, how it is stored and how people in different places get their water. We will also investigate how we ensure a continuous supply of good quality water and some of the issues and concerns with water supplies.

ICT
As part of Information and Communication Technology we will be continuing our series of lessons on cyber safety. Touch typing, researching and Mathletics will also be important components. The
Year 3 students will continue with the 1:1 iPad program incorporating their use into our curriculum. The Year 3s will utilise the school’s iPads to enable students to become proficient and confident users of this technology. Netbooks will also be used in the Middle School throughout the term.

Physical Education
Students in the middle school have one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr Zito a week and a 100 minute combined 3/4 sport session on a Friday. This term our focus is ball skills. The Year 3s also have 2 weeks of swimming commencing on Monday 2nd March. The Year 4s program is in term 4. Each year level will also have a visit to Carey Grammar where their Year 9 students run a sports session for us.

English
In Independent Reading we are currently busy interviewing students about their reading habits and preferences and beginning our ‘just right’ reading. The skills which we will focus upon this term are predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising. This week the students have had their Smartwords placement spelling test. This program will commence in week 4. In Writing we will touch on a number of genres but our main focus will be writing persuasive and narrative texts.

Mathematics
We have begun with a unit on Statistics as it fits in very well with the getting to know you component of Learning to Learn. We have also been incorporating daily counting into our sessions. Other topics we will be studying this term are place value and the measurement of time.

Year 4 Camp
A note will come home soon for an information meeting regarding the Year 4 camp which will be held at Camp Oasis from 29/4/2015 to 1/5/2015. Any parents who are interested and available to attend this camp please contact their class teacher.

If you have any concerns during the year, please contact us.

We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child.

Yours sincerely,
The Middle School Teachers