



12 February 2018

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year.

The school day begins with the 8:50am bell when the students can come directly into the classroom. The first lesson begins at 9:00am. Students who arrive after 9:00am are required to be signed in by a parent/guardian at the school office and get a late pass.

The first two weeks is spent on getting to know your child and establishing our classroom routines by implementing our 'Learning to Learn' whole school program. Following this we will commence our inquiry unit of work, 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Body' and science biological units 'Feathers, Fur or Leaves?' in year 3 and 'Plants in Action' in year 4.

The forms, 'Student Code of Conduct' and 'Acceptable Use of Technologies Agreement', have been published on Compass. Please print and discuss both documents with your child and return these to school as soon as possible. Please ensure that you fill in the tick boxes as well as sign.

### **Weekly homework expectations:**

- One 'Homework Contract' will be assigned which is to be completed.
- Reading is for a minimum of five times a week for 20 minutes. The 'Home Reading Journal' is to be filled in with a reflective comment by your child.
- Mathematics which is used to revise and support understanding of mathematical concepts covered in class.

The 'Homework Contract' and 'Reading Journal' require a parent signature on a weekly basis. If you have any queries regarding the homework, please don't hesitate to contact the classroom teacher. Specialist teachers may request homework to be completed as well.

### **Technology in Year 3**

Students will utilise the school iPads and Yoga netbooks for usage in the classroom.

### **iPads in Year 4**

It is an expectation that the iPads are updated, fully charged and in working order. Please refer to the GPS website if you require another copy of iPad app documents. The iPads need to be brought to school on a daily basis. Shortly we will be inviting your child to join the class Dropbox account. We will be requesting your child's email address, if you haven't yet signed your child up for an email account please let your teacher know when it is available.

### **Hats**

School hats are compulsory until the end of April including before and after school, recess and lunchtimes, excursions, camps and sport sessions. Please make sure your child's hat is named, as well as all their belongings and school uniform.

### **Year 3 Swimming**

Students will be participating in a 9 day program beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Information to follow on Compass. This is a compulsory part of the school's physical education program.

### **Year 4 Camp**

The Year 4 camp will be held in Term 2 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Camp Oasis, Mt Evelyn. More information to follow later in this term on Compass.

### **Assembly**

Assembly begins at 9:00am every Monday in the stadium.

### **Satchels**

Blue satchels are expected to be brought to school every day. These will be used to safely carry iPads, reading journals, homework contact books and any notices between home and school.

### **Year 3 Kinder visits**

In Terms 2 and 3, each Year 3 class visits Friend Street and Balwyn East kindergartens and Minifie Park ELC, as part of the kinder to prep school orientation program. A permission form with more information will be sent home early in Term 2.

### **Tissues**

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

### **Rubbish Free Lunch**

In an endeavour to cut down on the amount of rubbish in the school yard we would appreciate if students could have as little packaging as possible in their lunchboxes.

### **Fruit/Vegetable Snack**

As part of our Health program, all children are encouraged to bring a small serve of fresh fruit or vegetables each day, (e.g. a few carrot sticks, an apple, bag of grapes). This will be eaten in the classroom after lunch. This healthy snack is in addition to the normal playlunch snack. Please ensure that water bottles are brought daily.

### **Life Skills**

The Life Skills program is returning to Greythorn for the middle school students. It is a 5 week program that will be spread over 2 terms. The program aims to develop physical, social and emotional skills, empower individuals with life skills and foster mindfulness.

If you have any questions during the term, please contact your class teacher. We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child.

Yours sincerely, The Middle School Teachers

**Year 3** – Miss Tali Mason (Room 16 - Class 316)  
Ms Rourke (Room 17 - Class 317)  
Mr Max Mays (Room 18 - Class 318)  
Ms Catia Durante (Room 19 - Class 319)

**Year 4** – Mrs Rebecca Birch (Room 13 - Class 413)  
Ms Tara Kapoor (Room 12 - Class 412)  
Miss Mary Haidamous (Room 11 - Class 411)