Dear Senior School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We have spent our first couple of weeks getting to know your child and establishing our classroom routines. The Senior School students have started this term brilliantly and we are looking forward to building on their fantastic start to the year and extending their learning.

**Planners**
This year you may have noticed that the school planners are a little different. These are to be brought to school every day. The planners are designed to allow for easier communication with parents but also to ensure students are aware of extra curricular activities, important events and when work is due. Please ensure that you sign your child’s planner each week.

**Homework**
Homework began last week. Students in the Senior School are expected to complete their homework contract for the week, which includes Maths and English activities. Spelling words can be found in the back of the homework contract book. These are to be written into the contract and practised at home. Nightly reading is to be recorded in the student planner, with a brief summary outlining what they have read. Completing mathletics activities and the occasional specialist activities as set by the Specialist teachers will also be expected.

We ask that parents please check that all sections of the homework 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 your child’s 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**
A big thankyou to all those parents who have already provided a box of tissues for your child’s class. If you haven’t done so, please provide a box of tissues for use in the classroom.

**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’. This week we have commenced our history unit looking at Australian History with the year 5s paying particular interest on events pre1900 and the year 6s will be exploring key events post 1900.

Physical Education
Students in the Senior school have one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr Zito a fortnight and 2 x100 minute combined 5/6 sport sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child is in their sports uniform every Wednesday and Friday.

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. In Writing we will touch on a number of genres but our main focus will be writing persuasive and narrative texts.

Mathematics
The students in the Senior School will continue to be engaged in differentiated instructions. In their classrooms, they will engage in whole class and small group instruction. This term there will be a particular focus on place value and the 4 processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).

Camps
Organisation and preparation for both the Portsea and Sovereign Hill Camps are well under way. If you have any reservations for your child attending these camps can you please see your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible. Both camps provide a wonderful experience and opportunities for students to participate in activities that they may not normally get a chance to participate in.

Staff are available each morning from 8.50am in the Senior School classrooms. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The Senior School Teachers

Year 5
Kathy Verbi
Alex Nitsos
Steve Pertz
Simon Judkins

Year 6
Ken Darby
Janice Miller
Narelle Sime