Dear Senior School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We have spent our first few weeks getting to know your child and establishing our classroom routines. The Senior School students have settled into their new classes well and we are looking forward to building on this positive start to extend their learning.

**Planners**
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. A payment notice has been sent home and payment of $8 was due on Friday, 5th February. If your child has not brought the notice home please contact your child’s teacher.

**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 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. Students are expected to complete Mathletics tasks weekly. Specialist teachers may request homework to be completed during the year.

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 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.

**Start of Year Notices on Compass**
Please check Compass for notices that need to be returned to school. Student Code of Conduct form and Acceptable Technologies Agreement form are two forms to be returned. If you have not done so already, please read these through with your child and return them 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 studying Australia as a colony and the year 6s studying Australia as a nation.

Physical Education/ Sport
Students in the Senior school have a weekly 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr Zito, combined 5/6 sport sessions on Wednesdays (50 minutes) and on Friday (100 minutes). Please ensure that your child is in their sports uniform every Wednesday and Friday. This term your child may either be involved in representing our school by playing sport against a neighbouring school or be involved in a sports’ program within our school.

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 a persuasive text.

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 number and place value, shape, integers, rounding and estimating, linear relationships and chance.

Camps
Organisation and preparation for both the Year 5 and Year 6 camps are well under way. Year 5 camp will be held on 2nd, 3rd, 4th March and the Year 6 Camp will be held on 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th March. Both camps provide a wonderful experience and opportunities for students to participate in a variety of activities. If you have any concerns about your child attending camp please contact your child’s classroom teacher.

Assembly
Assembly will be at 2:40 in the Hall or Stadium every second Monday (even week of the term). Year 6 leaders will be rostered to lead the assembly (rosters will come home soon).

Yours sincerely,

The Senior School Teachers

Year 5
Simon Judkins (5J), Alex Nitsos (5N), Steve Pertz (5P)

Year 6
Janice Miller (6M), Helen Karvela (6K), Narelle Sime (6S), Megan Stewart-North (6N)