Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term, it will be both a busy and exciting term. The grade 5/6 team for term four are Ms Tegan Veitch and Mr Tristan D’Antonio. We will continue working together in various groupings depending on the subject and the needs of students. Students will meet their home group teacher each morning before going off to various learning groups with one of the grade five/six teachers. The aim of this team approach is to improve student learning by grouping them according to their learning needs.

Processes and Procedures:
Children in 5/6 will continue to line up outside of Building C. Children will be dismissed from these areas at the end of each day. On Monday mornings children make their way over to the multipurpose room for assembly. We will open classroom doors at 8.50am to allow children to come in, put their bags away, and settle down at their tables for 10 minutes of quiet reading. We ask that you support the school by ensuring your child is on time each morning. On the occasion that your child is absent from school or leaving early, please ensure you supply the classroom teacher with a written note explaining the reason. Children and teachers work and learn in collaborative learning groups throughout the day.

Communication Processes:
If you need to contact your child’s home group teacher, please leave a message at the front office or write a message in the student diary and we will contact you as soon as possible. Teachers are available to have pre-arranged meetings in person when the need arises.

Key Learning Areas:

Math
The math focus for grade 5/6 students is data interpretations and representation, chance, money, location and transformation, we will then move onto fractions and decimals. Towards the end of term, we will continue to develop student’s ability to divide and multiply.

English
Writing sessions will concentrate on the processes of Planning, Composing, Editing and Publishing students’ written work. Characteristics of recounts, factual descriptions and poetry will be explored. During reading sessions students will be grouped with other students of like needs. They will read fiction and non-fiction texts with a focus on reading strategies to develop fluency and comprehension skills. Students will continue to explore types of nouns, verbs, adjectives, along with compound words, figurative language and finding the main idea.

Inquiry
In our learning area students will be learning about animal and plant adaptations titled ‘Adapt, Survive, Thrive!’ . Understanding animal and plant adaptations allow the students to further know how the world fits together in its ever-diverse jigsaw puzzle. At the completion of this unit students will know why and how animals and plants adapt and survive in their environments. Students will begin to understand that nature has an organizing power -- bees aren’t yellow and black for no reason, everything in nature has a purpose for how it is structured or how it behaves. Children will also develop an understanding of how species depend on one another and on the environment for survival, the basic concepts of the evolutions of species and the nature of scientific knowledge and the process of scientific inquiry. Students will not just learn about plants and animals, but learn how plant and animals survive in their environment and how this effects the world around them.

We will be setting clear learning intentions of what the students will learn and provide success criteria. Clear learning intentions and success criteria help students to know where they are going, monitor their progress, and know what to do next to make further progress.
Home Learning Expectations:
Home work will continue to be a weekly expectation. There will be weekly spelling based activities and it is expected that your child practises their times tables for home learning. Your child will be expected to complete and submit their home learning by Friday every week. Children will be expected to read daily, learn set spelling words and practise their times tables each week. Students are required to show the teachers their diary each day so teachers can see that students are reading daily.

Uniform Expectations:
Though term 4 will bring with it some warmer days and sunshine, Melbourne’s weather can be unpredictable and so we ask that children have a school jumper or jacket to wear in the case of cooler weather. Our uniform is navy blue pants/shorts and a light blue top or school dress. Term 4 is a sun smart term and all children will be expected to wear a school hat during outdoor play. In the event that children misplace jumpers or jackets, it is important to have all articles of clothing clearly labeled so that they may be returned promptly. Please ensure a water bottle is brought to school each day.

Specialist Teacher Programs

Physical Education:
The Summer sports program will be running this term. All grade 5 /6 children will be involved in the interschool sports on Friday. The games being played are rounders, bat tennis, kanga cricket and hard ball cricket. Skills for these games will be practiced during class lessons.

Visual and Performing Arts:
Visual Arts activities during Term 4 will focus on the areas of Collage and Mixed Media. Grade 5/6 classes will be creating Artworks focusing on the Animal adaptation theme where possible. Students will be combining the many elements of Art into their Artworks and completing a study of an artist. All students working in the Art room are expected to provide an art smock to be worn during classes so that their school uniform is protected from the products used in lessons. This can be an old shirt or T shirt from home.Grades 3-6 will have a 30-minute Performing Arts lesson during this term covering musical elements and encouraging responding to the Arts.

During Term 3 the children thoroughly enjoyed another very successful Alpha Show performance. ‘The Hunchback of Notre Dame’ provided an opportunity for our children to experience a live theatrical performance with full costumes, props and sets. They were an enthusiastic audience and the cast interacted and actively engaged with the children throughout. This term we have a special surprise for our students with another exciting performance. In Week 10, Alpha Shows will be presenting ‘The Grinch’ in the multi-purpose room, a special end of year treat.

Italian:
The Year 5/6 students will engage in the topic ‘Gli Animali e Gli Habitat’ (Animals and Habitats). Students will research and translate information about an animal and present it. Students will also explore the cultural celebration of Christmas in Italy and Australia.

Camp Waratah Beach: 2017
Information will be sent home next week regarding the Yrs 5&6 camp next year. The camp dates are 27th Feb, 28th Feb 1st March.

Yr 6 Graduation:
The Yr 6 Graduation is on Monday 19th December. Please keep this date free while you are planning end of year events and get-togethers. It will be held in the Multi-Purpose room beginning at 7:00pm. Further information will be sent home regarding the graduation towards the middle of term.

Inter-school Sport:
Inter-school sport happens every Friday, except for byes, during Term 4 beginning at approximately 12:30pm. Children are required to pay bus fares for all away games. A sports fixture will be sent home with all students to ensure that you know which games require a bus fare payment.

Kind regards

5/6 Learning Area Teachers
Tegan Veitch & Tristan D’Antonio