Welcome back, welcome back. It was with great joy and excitement that we welcomed parents, grandparents and most importantly the children on Tuesday. The staff have spent last week continuing preparations for what is sure to be another amazing year of education but it wasn’t until the children arrived that our community was once again complete. There has been a changing of the guard in all classrooms with many students entering new learning spaces for the first time which is very exciting for us all. Added to that, our school continues to grow, starting the year with 63 children, our highest enrolment for the last three years.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students: Indigo, Isabella, Bradley, Kodai, Bethany, Loukas, Armand, Seth, Kaleb, Noah and Caitlin. I’m sure you will make them and their families welcome with a heartfelt Heathfield welcome.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Yong Ju and Jae Hee to our school for the first two weeks of this term. They come to us on a student teacher exchange from South Korea and have fitted in wonderfully to our school and are enjoying their time in Adelaide very much.

We will again have a parent and carer morning tea to start the term which will be held next Thursday 8:30am in the library. This is a chance to catch up after the break but also for new parents to our school to get to know our wonderful community. There is no need to RSVP but please make every effort to pop through if you can make the time. I will be in attendance (I heard there will be cake), and will be happy to answer any questions about the year ahead. It will be a good warm up for the AGM later in the term.

We will again be offering private music lessons during school time this year – in the past we have offered guitar, drums, singing, piano and violin however this will depend on both demand and availability of private instructors. The first stage of this process is to discuss it with your child and let the front office, or myself, know if you are interested so that I can determine viability. We had several students last year involved in drums, guitar and singing lessons which were highly successful with several of them performing at the End of Year Picnic/Concert.

Speaking of the End of Year Picnic/Concert - which after extensive feedback from students, staff and parents was thoroughly enjoyed by all - I would like to seek your opinion as we move forward. As a staff we have discussed the value and opportunity that an event to conclude our year (similar to last year’s Picnic/Concert) offers to our students. In the past the school has performed a musical, and whilst valuable such an event takes a great deal of teaching time, offers little scope for student led creativity and is very formal. Last year we replaced this with the Picnic-Concert which we are proposing be extended in 2015 to include an Art show which will be a celebration of each students’ artistic development, achievement and creativity across the school year. To this end could you please indicate your preference on the attached slip and return to your child’s class teacher over the next few days.

Finally, one reminder, Tuesday night will again be staff meeting night which starts promptly at 3:30. As a result, classroom teachers will not be available as they usually are to discuss your child’s development or answer any questions.

Regards, Travis
Welcome back to school! I hope you’ve all managed to have some time to relax and rewind after Christmas. And I hope you have had more success at finishing those holiday jobs than I have - somehow my “to-do” list looks just as long as it did at the beginning of the holidays!

A special welcome to all our new families. I hope you will be able to join Travis and myself for a cuppa and a muffin (gluten/dairy free options available) in the library from 8.30am next Thursday (Feb 5th).

As we head into the new year, a new class, a new school for many of the students, we can face many challenges. Often for children the task of finding a friend, learning the new routines in a different class and generally settling into the year can be somewhat daunting.

One of the ways we can help our children is to help them to notice the good things that happen during a day as well as the challenges. It’s important for us to listen to our children when they are disappointed or upset, but it is also important that we help them learn how to notice that no day is all bad. An interesting way to do this is to ask them to think of 3 things that went well during their day. It doesn’t need to be big. They may have spelt a tricky word correctly. Someone may have asked them to play at lunchtime or helped them with a task in class. They may have seen an interesting insect in the yard. Encourage them to be creative in noticing the positive things in their day.

And if life is particularly tough, remind them that there are adults at school that are always happy to help them out.

Have a great weekend, Cathy

HELP NEEDED !!!!!!!
Our wonderful groundsperson Iain is not well and won’t be back for at least another two weeks.
If you are able to spare a couple of hours to mow the oval or help with a bit of garden sprucing it would be much appreciated.

DIARY DATES

Parent Welcome Morning Tea. Join Cathy in the library for a cuppa and yummy muffins from 8.30am
Aquatics Camp Year 6/7
R-5 Swimming

2015 End of Year Celebration feedback (Please forward to class teacher ASAP)

☐ End of Year Picnic Concert and Art show
☐ School Musical
☐ Either

Family name: ________________________________