Year Three/Four Parent Information Session 2013

School Vision
To provide a collaborative and dynamic learning environment where students will develop literacy, numeracy and life skills that will assist them in becoming valued and active participants of the Global Community.

Home Learning – as per Policy – see below

Year 3/4 home learning will
- generally not exceed 20 minutes, five nights a week - includes number activities, tables and spelling words.
- encourage independent reading, for extended periods, on a daily basis.
- sometimes enable the extension of class work by practising skills, or gathering extra information or materials.
- not be set during school holidays.

- All students are expected to complete basic homework.
- Parents/caregivers are encouraged to support their child to be organised to complete their home learning.
- In the event of students consistently not completing home learning activities, parents will be contacted to discuss home learning issues.

Reading at home: Students are expected to read at home; we have many books available in each home base for students to choose from. We encourage students to choose "Just Right" books. Students are also encouraged to read library books and other favourite books from home. Students will be required to keep a ‘reading log’ to record daily reading at home - this will be introduced at school.

Spelling at home: Students should follow the LSNCWC process (taught at school – see below) to help them learn to spell their words Their words will be selected from words studied by the class, individual words from their daily writing, or some words from the Oxford Word List. A selection of other worthwhile activities to support their learning of spelling will be provided in the home learning book.

Students will be taught the following strategy to learn words:
- **LOOK** at the word, so that you have a picture of it in your head
- **SAY** the word
- **NAME** the letters/sounds/chunks of the word
- **COVER** the word
- **WRITE** the word
- **CHECK** the word, letter by letter

Handwriting – focus on correct starting points and correct size and spacing as this enables children to concentrate on the ideas they want to write. Grade fours will be working towards gaining their pen licence.

Maths - involves hands on material where possible. The curriculum revolves around the areas of Number, Space, Measurement, Chance & Data, and Working Mathematically (using calculators and thinking processes).

Library Borrowing – will be weekly on Tuesday afternoons; children can also borrow before school at 8.45am.

3/4 Sport - each Monday afternoon – we often look for parents to come up and help with coaching and joining in the fun. See the proposed program outline (subject to change).
Absences - it is important that children are punctual. That means being in their class and ready to start by 9am. When a child arrives late they interrupt the learning of others and have missed out on key instructions. This often causes anxiety and worries for the student. We do understand that, at times, certain events mean a delay to the start of the school day, but we ask that these be kept to a minimum.

All absences need to be reported. The school has to report to DEECD the number of absences. It is our target to reduce our student absences to below ten per student per year.

Please phone the office by 9.10am on the day of absence or use the absence forms. Advance warning of long term holidays is helpful to our planning and ensuring continuity of student learning.

Late Arrivals – Students must report to the office to sign in, pick up a Late Arrival card, then go to class. If students arrive at class after the bell, they are deemed to be late to school.

Early Departures – Parents must report to the office to sign students out, pick up an Early Departure card; take this to the classroom to collect the child.

Parent Helpers and Visitors – Must sign in and out at the office before going to a classroom please.

Classroom Helpers – please talk with your own teacher about this. There will be a Parent Helpers training session – see the Term Calendar for dates and times.

Instrumental Music – as we have a considerable number of children participating in this program and lesson times vary from week to week, we need parents to help their children develop ways of knowing the time to attend their sessions. It is really difficult and impracticable for teachers to remember each time for each child each week when they are teaching. We need your support in this area please.

Asthma and other Medical Concerns – good to talk to teachers individually about your child’s needs so that we get up to date firsthand information.

Sunsmart – hats to be worn from September to April. Please have the school hat, not a cap – NO HAT NO GO! Hats are to be worn on all school excursions and camps.

Choir – students are encouraged to join choir; this happens every Wednesday at 12.30.

Sustainable Schools Program – Lenka Brereton (our Art teacher), has developed a whole school program aimed at developing a Sustainable School. The Year 3/4 focus is Waste. We have a number of students who have volunteered to take care of our composting program.

Waste Wise Lunch Program – this program continues as per last year, encouraging students not to use plastic wrappers in particular. Tin foil and paper are recyclable. Nude food is highly recommended. Students are encouraged to take all rubbish home. Some extra fruit to enjoy in the middle of the morning is also highly recommended.

Camp - this year we are going to The Briars 15th-17th April, this is the first week of Term Two.

If you have any concerns regarding your child please make an appointment with:

1. The classroom teacher. If you require additional support with the issue please see:
2. The team leader for 3/4 (Sandra James). If the issue is still not resolved contact:
3. Sue Wearne or if she is not available, Meg Dallas.

Teachers will be in their classrooms from 8:50am each morning and will be in the playground for five minutes at 3:30pm most days.