Welcome back to a new year and I hope the first week has been a wonderful experience. In my travels I have seen many happy faces of children that are very familiar with the Junior School routines and have started the year without fuss. Our College theme this year is, "We can make the Change". The College theme is a very important aspect of the school year. It supports Christian/Anglican philosophy, strengthens the ethos and culture of our College and unifies our community with a common goal.

It is quite an infectious theme and when you say it, regardless of the tone or volume you can not help but say it with passion. I believe it instigates action and promotes teamwork. The student leaders of Junior School in 2013 were asked to reflect on their experience as a group and comment on the importance of teamwork. Here are a few of their statements:

- "TEAM stands for "Together Everyone Achieves More."
- "Teamwork is important because without it you would not be able to complete much and wouldn't get very far."
- "Teamwork is important because it brings people together to strive for success."
- "Teamwork is important because you can’t do it all by yourself and you create better ideas in a team."
- "You can’t do everything alone, it just wouldn’t work."
- "If you don’t know how to do something your team could guide or help you."

These are very intelligent thoughts from young children who are continually learning the importance of team. This year’s theme is all about working together to make a change. The theme works effectively with the College value Community. As our Home Group Teachers set up their classroom communities for the year the College theme will be prominent in the daily conversations they have with their students as they collaboratively discuss and plan the year ahead. Junior School students have incredible ideas and they think in local, national and global terms when they share ways they can make a difference to their lives and the lives of others. It is important to foster these exuberant young entrepreneurs as the very simple ideas are always the best.

How can we make the change in 2014 when it comes to dealing with the daily challenges of school? Reflecting on the positive aspects of the day and finding time to appreciate the wonderful things that happen at school and at home will help to build resilience and wellbeing. Disappointment needs to be embraced as a challenge and using positive talk around finding a solution will always help.

For me the most powerful word in this year’s College theme is "we". I encourage and welcome the opportunities this implies. Making any change requires a collective effort. The student, parents, staff and the wider community of
the College all work as one so that each child can reach their full potential.

Early Arrival at School

Junior School students need to arrive at school from 8:30am onwards. As the yard is unsupervised until this time, College policy is for students to attend Before School Care. Safety is a concern when children are in the yard without adult supervision. Diary notes will be issued to students and students will be taken to Before School Care and parents will be charged accordingly. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Prep Start up

Our Preps have begun their first year of education at Overnewton with confidence. Their pristine uniform and sparkling shoes look terrific. They are as proud as punch as they walk into the learning space and prepare for the day ahead. Our extensive Prep transition process which begins in Semester 2 of each year has proven to be extremely beneficial. During this process students become familiar with the building, their classroom and with staff. As a result, the focus in the first few weeks of Term 1 is centred on developing relationships with their peers as well as their teacher.

I caught up with some of our Prep parents and asked them to give me some feedback about the beginning of the year. Here are some of their responses:

- "Excellent, I was really impressed with the transition program because it meant that on assessment day this year he was confident and was really looking forward to it."

- "She was perfectly okay."

- "Prep orientation last year was really helpful and so was this year’s assessment week, he really got to know his teacher."

- "He has had a great start, he loves it. He got up at 6:30am this morning and was ready to go and when I ask him what he likes he says, my teacher and everything."

- "She was very excited and couldn’t wait."

- "He is very happy and has started well. Not a worry at all, he is too familiar with the place."
We welcome our Preps and their families to our community and wish them a wonderful year. I am really looking forward to speaking to you all.

Peter Adams  
Deputy Head of Junior School - Pastoral, Keilor Campus

Junior School - Keilor Campus  
Coming Events - Term 1, 2014

Term 1 Summer Uniform and Hats

Friday 14th February  
Prep finish early 8.50am - 2.15pm  
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm - 2.15pm  
Chapel, Year 3 and 4, 2.45 - 3.20pm - Assembly Hall, 4NK Hosting

Monday 17th February  
Prep regular hours commence 8.50am - 3.20pm  
Keilor Campus Prep Picnic - 5.30pm
Friday 21st February
Zooper Dooper Friday
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm - 2.15pm Chapel, Year 3 and 4, 2.45-3.20pm – Assembly Hall, 4LK Hosting

Monday 24th February
Assembly – Assembly Hall, 2.30pm - 3.15pm

Friday 28th February
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm - 2.15pm
Chapel, Years 3 and 4, 2.45 - 3.20pm - Assembly Hall, 4C Hosting