The 2014 Junior School year officially started on Wednesday 5th February. The grounds looked amazing; thanks to the wonderful efforts of all involved in the working bee, as did all the classrooms the staff tirelessly had organised and set up awaiting their class of eager students. As I walked around the veranda on Wednesday morning there was a positive buzz; there was chatter and a sense that "all was good". What a great start to an exciting year ahead. We welcome new staff with innovative and fresh ideas and we welcome back staff who are so dedicated to making a difference to a child's time in the Junior School. This year the Junior School is developing a pastoral care program based on the College Values which encompasses Christian philosophy. We are committed to developing the student's social and emotional well-being through Restorative Practices. Throughout Term 1 the students in all year levels will begin to develop an understanding of the value, "Community" by using guiding statements, through regular Circle Time activities and the development of a Classroom Essential Agreement. They will become familiar with the College Profile terminology such as responsibility, care and commitment through explicit weekly sessions. As the year progresses many more profiles will be introduced through the exploration of the other three College Values; Learning, Respect and Environment.

Preps 2014

The Preps had five transition sessions to prepare them for school and were more than ready to embark on their journey on Wednesday. Insisting on carrying bags almost bigger than themselves, suited up in their Overnewton blazers and all with shiny black shoes there was no comparison to be made to a much prouder group of children. No tears were seen; rather down to business was the call for their first few days. They attended the official first assembly for 2014 along with the rest of the Campus, and as their very new teachers proudly watched over them like mother hens they showed a true example of the great people they are certainly on the path to become. A mention here too of our two new Prep teachers who also experienced their first days as teachers at Overnewton, and as they watched all the parents taking part in a first, one of these teachers was heard to say "Where is my Mum and Dad, today is a first for me too!"

We are all looking forward to getting to know all of these new members of our Junior School community. Streams of students have been patiently waiting to be let loose from the Prep Centre at a recess and lunch, but the 'mother hens' are not quite ready to unleash their little ones into the fold just quite yet. We all look forward to following their journey throughout the year.
Buddies

There was much excitement in the Prep Centre on Friday morning. Year 4 students went to greet their 2014 Prep buddies. It was heartening to see the excitement on the Prep children's faces as they recognised a familiar face from the transition session last year. All students were actively engaged in developmental play activities, all ages enjoying the time to socialise and connect with their special friend. We witnessed one of our Preps reading a book to his buddy. Well, the look on the Year 4's face was priceless, not to be fooled by just one book he then went on to line up countless books for reading to check if it was in fact true that this 5 year old could read. This has set in concrete the connection for all of these students as they write another page of their story at Overnewton this year as highlighted by Mr Alessandrini at our welcome assembly.
Information Evening

The importance of the connection between home and school is one that we continue to talk about whenever we get the chance to speak to our parents. The success of school relies on this connection so it is imperative that we get it right. The initial Junior School information evening is one of many that are held during the course of the year; being the first it sets the tone for the remainder of the school year. All staff work hard to get to know your children and so it is wonderful that we have opportunities to get to know all of you a little better too. The classroom presentations are quite an informal way of passing on explicit information about all aspects of your child's time at school, providing opportunities for questions and clarification. It is also a great way to meet other parents of your child's friends. This year was no different with the extensive information given to each year level that was relevant and informative in relation to where they are in their school journey. We thank all of the families that attended this evening.

Nicola Treacey
Deputy Head of Junior School - Pastoral, Teaching and Learning, Taylors Lakes Campus

Junior School - Taylors Lakes Campus
Coming Events - Term 1 2014
Wednesday 26th February
Nude Food Breakfast

Thursday 27th February
Assembly - 4NW presenting 2.30pm
Prep Barbeque 5.30pm

Thursday 13th March
Assembly - 3M presenting 2.30pm

Friday 14th March
Outdoor Movie Night 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th March
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30-8.00pm

Thursday 27th March
Assembly - 2H presenting 2.30pm
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30-5.30pm