Welcome back to another exciting year of learning in Junior School. As Deputy Head of Junior School for Teaching and Learning I have the great privilege of working closely with our dedicated and professional Junior School staff and wonderful students across all year levels. The amazing excitement for learning was clearly evident from the first day of Term 1. The wealth of valuable information gathered during Assessment Week is used by teachers to plan classroom programs which meet the many and varied learning needs of all students from day one. In addition to the vital assessment information gathered, Assessment Week interviews enable class teachers to spend some quality one on one time getting to know each student. We would like to express our gratitude to parents for their cooperation in getting children to school for their assessment and showing support for this highly valued initiative which is the envy of many other schools.

Promoting and building home and school partnerships by keeping parents informed about the best ways to contribute to and support student learning at home is an essential component of my role. At the very well attended Parent Information Evening last Monday, parents were given an insight into the rich and extensive specialist learning program offered to our students. Representative teachers from the Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Library faculties presented the key goals and details of their respective programs which are an integral part of the Junior School curriculum. Following this presentation, home group teachers delivered year level specific information about the core English, Mathematics and Cross-curricular learning programs. Parents were given advice and ideas for supporting their child’s learning at home. The positive feedback received about the format of the evening and the professional quality of the information given is gratefully acknowledged by all staff. For parents who were unable to attend, handouts outlining the information presented will be sent home via student diaries.

The upcoming parent teacher interviews on Tuesday March 18th and Thursday March 20th will be another way in which home school partnerships can be developed to benefit student learning. This opportunity for the exchange of information forms a vital link between home and school, with parents receiving specific information about the progress of their child and sharing their knowledge about their child with class teachers. Notices were distributed to students last week and interview times are currently being organised. Please watch out for details of appointment times in students diaries.

Finally, our Celebration of Learning mornings are an excellent opportunity for parents to actively participate in their child’s learning. These special mornings are held towards the end of Term 1 and Term 3. At these events parents and relatives are invited to visit their child’s classroom and share some of the wonderful learning they have been involved in throughout the term. Our first Celebration of Learning morning is Thursday March 27th.
The Junior School team is looking forward to an exciting year working with parents to ensure the best possible learning for all students.

**Cross Age Learning**

Cross age learning is another example of the many and varied learning experiences that occur in Junior School. This powerful, but simple approach enhances the curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students enabling them to grow, academically, socially and emotionally. Our Transition and House programs offer many opportunities for connections between older and younger students in which this type of learning occurs. The Prep Buddy program is a perfect example of cross age learning. Last week our delightful Prep students met their Year 4 buddies for the first time and shared some quality time together. The Prep students loved the attention the older students gave them as the foundations were set for future one to one learning and friendships. The Year 4 students enjoyed welcoming the Preps and began to develop their sense of responsibility in helping the younger students settle into school. These exciting social exchanges clearly showed the mutual respect that is already developing, together with their understanding of community.

**Student of the Week**

Congratulations to the following students who received a Student of the Week certificate.

- **1CA Cooper Cahir** for being a friendly classmate and a mentor to a new student.
- **1S Corey Nguyen** for caring for our learning environment and always being ready to assist friends.
- **2MR Christian McNeill-Attard** for being organised and responsible in every lesson.
- **3E Frank Jnr Rajic** for always having a positive attitude and trying his best with all tasks.
- **3G Nathan Gunasekera** for demonstrating the College value of ‘Community’ by warmly welcoming a new student to our school.
- **3Z Lia Brouskos** for demonstrating our College values by being a respectful member of 3Z.
- **4C Chelsea MacKenzie-George** for listening intently and putting maximum effort into her work.
- **4LK Alexander Tasevski** for a wonderful transition into Year 4. Alexander has made excellent contributions to class discussions.
- **4P Alexzander Todorovski** for displaying a positive attitude and determination with regards to learning his timetables.

**Student Banking Day Reminder**

Remember School Banking is every **WEDNESDAY** at both Keilor Campus and Taylors Lakes Campus.

Remember to fill in your deposit slip and place money in the velcro pocket. A reminder that there is no minimum amount.

Every time a student makes a deposit at school they receive a silver Dollarmite token. Once they have individually
collected 10 tokens, they can be redeemed for an exclusive Dollarmite reward item.

*Tip - Place a reminder in your calendar, diary or phone for the night before to remember banking day.*