Junior School - Keilor Campus, Term 1, 2015

A very warm welcome back to all of our Junior School families, especially those new to the College. The start of a new year is always an exciting time as students settle into their new Home Groups. Considerable time is spent establishing Class Agreements in each year level from Prep to Year 4. These agreements set the tone, or the agreed ‘rules’ for the interactions within the group for the rest of the year.

Last week the Home Group Teachers had the opportunity to spend an hour with each student where they could connect personally and also undertake some English and Mathematics assessments. These assessments assist in ensuring that work is set at the exact standard from the very first day of learning. It is an ongoing focus in the Junior School to utilise the gathered data to drive instruction and inform everyday practice.

This year we will again have a strong focus on foundation English and Mathematics skills and continue to build our Cross-Curriculum units. Further incorporation of technology into daily lessons will be easier with greater access to iPads in Prep-Year 2 and personal devices in Years 3 and 4. The Values based pastoral care program that was developed last year will be implemented with ‘circle time’ being an imperative component in allowing all students to have an equal voice. The College theme of "Thinking first" fits beautifully with both the academic and pastoral components of our program.

We continue to emphasise the importance of developing organisational skills across all year levels. This includes neat book work, tidy lockers, pride in our classrooms and the importance of dating work in order to keep personal track of progress. A small way parents can assist us is by ensuring all books (including student diaries) are kept free of stickers and graffiti and reinforcing the value of personal organisation skills.

Late last year we were delighted to announce our new Junior School leaders for 2015. They are:

**Captains** - Olivia Evans and Jack Durow  
**Vice-Captains** - Bianca Joncevski and Xavier Robinson  
**Curie House Captains** - Caitlin Karic and Jed Di Martino  
**Curie House Vice-Captains** - Samantha Sikavitsas and Oliver Sugarevski  
**Edison House Captains** - Isabella Brdjanin and James Russell  
**Edison House Vice-Captains** - Laura Brandt and Brian Bachawarty  
**Newton House Captains** - Mikayla Coley and Charlie Biberhofer  
**Newton House Vice-Captains** - Lia Brouskos and Zac Jurcic  
**Pasteur House Captains** - Amanda Wroot and Alexander West  
**Pasteur House Vice-Captains** - Emilia Laferla, Joshua Addamo and Angela Bell

These students will be presented with their badges at our first assembly on Monday 23rd February. We are very much looking forward to watching these students and all of our Year 4s develop into confident leaders.
Please note, Junior School assemblies commence at 2.30pm and parents are welcome to attend. There are two in Term 1, Monday 23rd February and Monday 23rd March.

Some other relevant dates to note for Term 1 are:

**Monday 9th February**
Information Evening, 7pm.
This is a most important opportunity to become acquainted with 2015 class routines, curriculum and specialist subjects.

**Monday 16th February**
Prep Picnic, 5.30pm.
Prep parents are encouraged to come along to our Prep Picnic which is being held at school in the grassed area at the front of the Year 1 classrooms on the valley side of the building (BYO picnic). This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to begin to make connections with others new to the College. The picnic is generally concluded by 6.30-7.00pm as tired children head home to rest for another busy school day.

**Tuesday 17th March and Thursday 19th March**
Parent Teacher Interviews

**Thursday 26th March**
Celebration of Learning morning

These dates are all published in the diary, however it is always worthwhile keeping an eye on Whispers for all upcoming events.

A timely reminder to parents to follow the car parking routines established last year. In the mornings, the road nearest the Junior School is used as a ‘drop-off’ loop, which works very well in the mornings. In the afternoons it is imperative that vehicles are not left unattended in the drop-off zone and there is definitely no double parking allowed. Drivers must wait at the entrance to this area until another car exits. The safety of our students is of the utmost importance. I encourage parents to park on the Old Calder Highway and spend a few minutes walking down Overnewton Road rather than adding to traffic congestion. The Walking School Bus is also a fantastic option.

It is important for families to reset meeting points now that students have changed classrooms. The plaza at the entrance and the amphitheatre proved to be popular spots to meet last year. Parents are reminded not to wait in internal spaces/exits at the end of the day due to the volume of students moving out of the building.

Last week parents received information from the College about uniforms. Please take careful note of the reference to shoes being lace up school shoes (not black sport type shoes) and earrings being plain circular stud or sleeper with no stones. We appreciate the support of parents in ensuring our uniform looks its best at all times.

The Junior School team is very much looking forward to a sensational and busy 2015 as we continue to strive to deliver the best possible learning experiences in a positive and supportive environment.

I also remind parents that my door and the doors of Mr Adams and Mrs Zalakos are always open and we enjoy ongoing open communication with our families.

A final note:
From next week the Junior School Whispers pages from both campuses will be combined, as they are in the Middle School. Student work and events from both Keilor and Taylors Lakes Campuses will continue to be showcased.
Coming Events

Summer Uniform and College Hats

Wednesday 4th February
First day for students 2015
New Prep Parent Morning Tea

Wednesday 4th February to Friday 7th February
Prep Early finish 8.50am–12.30pm

Friday 6th February
Year 4 Swimming Trials, 10.30am–1.30pm

Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February
Prep Early finish 8.50am–2.15pm
Junior School Information Evening, 7.00pm, Assembly Hall

Thursday 12th February
School Photos

Monday 16th February
Prep Regular hours commence, 8.50am–3.20pm
Prep Picnic, 5.30pm–7.00pm, Year 1 playground

Friday 20th February
Zooper Dooper Day

Monday 23rd February
Assembly, 2.30pm, Assembly Hall