Welcome back to the new school year!

I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are first-time students, parents or staff. The Junior School years are a very special time, with tremendous growth for children, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Assisting your children grow through this period of their lives and become healthy, whole, caring and knowledgeable people who know how to use their minds well is rewarding work. I am delighted to be in partnership with you to help maximise your child's potential.

The beginning of every new school year is an exciting time. This year we have some new teaching staff members joining our Taylors Lakes Campus Junior School team. Vicky Liaskos and Rachel Crowther join us from the Keilor Campus. Both Vicky and Rachel come to us with outstanding reputations as brilliant classroom teachers. They are both teaching in the Year 4 team this year. Rachel has also been appointed as our Year 3 and 4 Co-ordinator. Her experience in leadership, student learning and welfare will be great assets for our Junior School. Alyson Hine joins us as a part of the Learning Development and Support team working in Junior School classrooms. Alyson’s wealth of knowledge and experience will provide further excellent support in this area of student learning. Octavia Rae will join us in a full time capacity this year, moving from the Learning Development and Support faculty to the Year 2 classroom team. We are all excited to have her in this new role. Please welcome these new staff members warmly into our Overnewton Community.

A tremendous amount of energy goes into the start of every school year. Teachers have worked hard prior to the return of students to ensure they have the best possible beginning in order to assist them to make it a successful, productive, and happy year. Each classroom teacher spent an hour with each one of their students getting to know them and their abilities over the past week. The assessment interviews offer invaluable information for teachers and promote the building of positive relationships for all involved.

It was exciting to see the students begin the school year this week. There is nothing quite like the return of fresh faced students to school at the beginning of the year, particularly our new Prep students who begin school for the first time. Seeing the Prep students in their crisp new uniforms is always a wonderful sight.

It is timely at the beginning of the year to remind our community about uniform expectations. Some specific uniform points to be aware of are:

- Earrings are to be small, plain silver or gold studs or sleepers (no stones)
- Hair ties are to be in school colours only
- Shoes are to be black, leather lace-up school shoes (not to resemble runners)
- Hair below the base of the neck is to be tied back

(Please refer to the diary for further information with regard to uniform.)
We are looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead in the Junior School. A strategic plan has been developed based on a variety of new initiatives as well as the continuation of plans put in place throughout 2014. Teachers have continued to work on developing curriculum, ensuring we offer best practice and quality educational opportunities for the students. Further information with regards to our Junior School developments will be shared in Whispers as we progress throughout the year.

The students at the Taylors Lakes Campus were assembled together for the Campus Welcome Assembly on Thursday. This was a wonderful way to begin the year together as one. Our Prep students who had been at school for only one half day at the time joined in the assembly and made their teachers very proud. It is always important for us to begin the way we mean to move forward, and having the Prep students at this assembly provides a solid foundation for them. When we show our belief in our students, they almost always live up to our expectations and the Prep students were no exception at the Campus Assembly. The Junior School Captains and Vice Captains proudly received their badges during the assembly. It was exciting for Tahlia and Mitchell (Junior School Captains) to be a part of the formalities of the event by processing and reading the College prayer.

The first Junior School assembly for the year will take place on Thursday 12th February. This will be a time to welcome everyone back to school and to celebrate the year ahead (there will not be a class performance at this assembly). The remainder of the 2015 Junior School Student Representative Council (House, Chapel and Choir Captains) will receive their badges at this assembly.

**Junior School Captains** - Tahlia Holloway and Mitchell Stewart  
**Vice-Captains** - Jamie Cefai and Alanah Jevic  
**Chapel Captains** - Scarlett Lee and Lavinia Tosev  
**Choir Captains** - Saihaj Kaur and Christopher Sayko  
**Edison House Captains** - Aarzu Marvi and Marcus Parapuros  
**Curie House Captain** - Ian Pinto and Alannah Markovski  
**Newton House Captains** - Madison Mountjoy and Vaughn Lipscombe  
**Pasteur House Captains** - Joshua Nguyen and Maneesha Perera
Tuesday 10th February is the Junior School Information Evening. This is an important evening for parents to attend. After gathering in the Multi-Purpose Hall initially to introduce staff and share some Junior School priorities, classroom teachers will provide specific information to parents about Year level expectations. Please continue to check the student diary and College calendar for important dates coming up this term.

In partnership with families, Overnewton will continue to be a school community in which every person feels respected, valued, and is encouraged and supported to achieve their personal best. I look forward to sharing this journey with you throughout 2015 and beyond.

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 each week on the new Junior School pages.

Coming Events

Wednesday 4th February
Junior School classes commence

Friday 6th February
Year 4 swimming trials

Tuesday 10th February
Junior School Information Night, 7.00pm

**Wednesday 11th February**
Class and Individual photos

**Thursday 12th February**
Assembly

**Wednesday 25th February**
Year 3 Incursion

**Thursday 26th February**
Prep BBQ, 5.30-7.00pm
Assembly

**Friday 27th February**
House Synergy Day

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**Taylors Lakes Campus Prep Families Picnic BBQ**

**Thursday 26th February, 2015, 5.30–7.00pm** in the Taylors Lakes Campus Junior School courtyard (weather permitting)

To celebrate your child's first month at school, join us in this celebration where you will meet new parents and get to know staff.

FREE sausage sizzle for Prep families. Bring along a picnic rug, salad and drinks for a night of socialising. (no alcohol)

This event is brought to you by the Junior School Parent Support Team – Taylors Lakes Campus.