Dear families,

Welcome back to school. We hope everyone enjoyed a well deserved rest and holiday! Mrs. Bigwood enjoyed her visit to New Zealand for her nephews’ wedding. Mrs. Smith went camping with her family. Miss Bowden relaxed at her home town Tarralgon and spent lots of time at the beach with her family and dog. Miss Hutcheson went to the city to watch the netball and football and relaxed reading books at home.

It is hard to believe we are already into term 2! Although first term was a short one, it was very productive and we are extremely pleased with the positive way the children have settled into school, established routines and developed relationships. By getting to know your children we are now able to ensure that the work we plan is well suited to their individual needs.

Inquiry Learning

Our unit of work for this term is entitled ‘What's Your Passion’. It focuses on learning how to research information and present a project on an environmental passion. The students will present their passion project with students from different learning centres.

Literacy

In reading the students will continue to develop their skills and strategies using the CAFÉ reading program (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expand Vocabulary). A description of the reading strategies taught in class will be recorded in our JLC blurb enabling you to practise at home together. There will be sessions on reading strategies in the library this term with Dale.

We will also explore nonfiction texts which will link in with our Inquiry Learning topic. The focus will be on the features of non-fiction texts, summarising information, identifying key words and writing reports.

The students are expected to practise their personal spelling and reading words at home. Please see use the list of activities that you can do at home to help your child develop these skills. Once they have learnt their words please return them to school and your child will receive more words. Learning these words are very important for beginning readers and writers.

Congratulations to all the students who have been reading regularly at home and have achieved reading milestones in their diaries. The enthusiasm and commitment to home reading is fantastic! Thank you parents for supporting your child with their reading. Remember that the children will learn best when given lots of opportunities to practise their skills, so encourage them to write and read as often as possible.

Maths

In Maths we will be exploring number work, place value and measurement. Our Maths Bag this term will focus on number (prep/1 H and B) and measurement in cooking (1/2S and B). All students will take the Maths Bag home and complete the follow up activity with their family. This is a great chance to have some Maths fun together.
**Additional Information:**
Jellybeans, our instrumental Music Program, begins this term and will run every Thursday until the end of term. On Wednesday afternoons the students will participate in fortnightly rotating activities of Music, ICT, Library and P.M.P.

**House-keeping matters:**

- **Parent helpers** have started helping in classroom. We always appreciate more help, please see your class teacher if interested.
  
  **We are looking for parent helpers on:** Friday afternoon during our Investigation Time to assist with craft, cooking, the garden or sport and on Wednesday afternoon to assist with P.M.P.
  
  - **School starts at 9.00 so please be prompt** as late arrivals miss out on instructions for the day and can disrupt others. Children also like to have time to settle in to school before the bell rings, giving them the chance to catch up with friends and do their jobs. **Please be ready for learning by 9.00 a.m.** (Classroom doors open at 8:45 a.m.)
  
  - Thanks for being so diligent with **names on belongings**. Don’t forget to keep checking them in case they fade.
  
  - **Weather (hats and coats)**- Students are required to wear hats until the end of April. With the colder, wetter months nearly upon us, please remember to send along coats and appropriate footwear.
  
  - **Notices**- Thank you to all the people who manage to return notices promptly. We know it is sometimes difficult to settle things straight away, but it is difficult chasing notes at the last minute.
  
  - **Absences**- Please remember to send along an absence note if your child is away.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th April</td>
<td>Jellybeans Music program starts (until the end of term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd April</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th April</td>
<td>Curriculum Day (no school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th Friday 10th May</td>
<td>Grade 2 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th - Friday 31st May</td>
<td>Education Week (activities to be announced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday June 9th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday (no school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday June 25</td>
<td>Reports Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday June 28</td>
<td>Last day of term 2 (2:30 finish)</td>
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Don’t forget if you have any questions, please come and talk to us. The school website, newsletter and JLC blurb is a great source of information.

**Thanks for your support**

*Dale, Katie, Jessie and Taryn*