Welcome to year 6 and 7 for 2014! I hope you have had a safe and enjoyable break and are ready for another big year full of exciting events. I look forward to working with both you and your children through a productive and successful year. Please read through an overview of what you can expect for the coming term.

**Curriculum News**

**LITERACY**
In writing, students will listen to and read a range of short stories by different authors. They investigate and compare similarities and differences in the ways authors use text structure, language features and strategies to engage readers. Students will write a short story about a character that faces a conflict and reflect on the writing process when making and explaining editorial choices. Students will also analyse and identify text and language features that persuade. They will gain an understanding of persuasive elements and how arguments influence the emotions and opinions of readers.

As was done in previous years, we will continue our school’s QAR whole-class and groups system for reading this year, to assist students in building their decoding skills, reading fluently and improved reading comprehension.

**NUMERACY**
In mathematics this year, students will be building on concepts learnt in previous years to enhance their confidence and ability in the mathematics curriculum. Students will be learning about a variety of mathematical concepts. While the topics mandated by the Australian Curriculum will be taught, there will also be a focus on problem solving combining all strands (number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability). This year, students are expected to own two mathematics text books to assist with the development of their mathematical knowledge;

- Maths Mentals Book F (Year 6) / Maths Mentals Book G (Year 7)
- Maths Plus 6 (Year 6) / Maths Plus 7 (Year 7)

It is essential that students have these text books, so please ensure you purchase both of these books straight away.

**SCIENCE**
In science this term, students will be exploring our changing world and how geological and extreme weather events can affect Earth’s surface. Students will be learning about a variety of natural disasters including volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and droughts. Students will understand how communities are affected by each of these events.

**GEOGRAPHY**
In geography this term, students will be exploring our diverse world. Students will be investigating how places, people and cultures differ across the world. Students will gain an understanding about location of major countries in Asia. They will also recognise the difference in economic, demographic and social characteristics in comparison to Australia.

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**Key Days for Class 6/7K**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>Mon 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Fri 1:35pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Fri 2:05pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>Fri 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework distributed:</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due:</td>
<td>Fri</td>
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**Websites of Interest**
- Mathletics
- Razkids
- Spellodrome
- Sunshine Online
- Manchester University
How Parents can help us!

We would really appreciate it if parents could ensure that their children arrive to school on time every day. Arriving late means it takes longer for them to settle in to the day than other students and they may miss important messages for the day.

Please ensure your child is arriving to school neatly groomed within the school dress code.

- Shoes must be predominantly black or white, with black or white laces (no canvas shoes)
- Long hair must be neatly tied back, with minimal hair pieces (in only maroon colour)
- Nail polish and jewellery are not permitted

It is a good idea to send some roll-on deodorant to school with your child so they can refresh themselves throughout the day as necessary.

Students need a good, healthy lunch to ensure their brain and body functions efficiently during the day. Foods such as sandwiches, fruit and muesli bars are a much better option to chips and sweet snacks and can make the world of difference in your child's focus, behaviour, energy and overall health. As it can get quite warm during the day, it is important that students arrive to school with a bottle of water to keep them hydrated throughout the day as well.

Completing some homework each night is an excellent way to improve time-management skills, which is especially important as these students prepare for high school. Simply ensuring your child completes a little bit of homework each night will be a big step in helping them to prepare for high school. It is never too early or too late for this!

Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 February 11th</th>
<th>Parent Information Evening 6:30pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 February 20th</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 February 26th</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 February 28th</td>
<td>Leader Induction Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 March 18th</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 April 3rd</td>
<td>Behaviour Rewards Day</td>
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Extra Information

- Year 6/7 camp will be held at Tallebudgera in term 3 this year. This camp is a fantastic and exciting camp to attend and, having been there myself on a number of occasions, I strongly recommend all students to go. More information about this camp will be distributed in due course.
- This year, students from both years 6 and 7 will be graduating from primary school and making the move into high school. More information about graduation will be provided later in the year.

Matthew Knight
Classroom Teacher

Susan Cowley
Principal

“Believe and Achieve”