Dear parent/caregiver

Term 1 Week 5

Last week we had to reorganise the school as a result of a decline in enrolments. We have 566 students enrolled which only allows us to form 22 classes. Stage 2 and Stage 3 have each lost a class and Stage 1 has had an additional class created. Miss Terrazzolo who was teaching one of the Stage 3 classes will now be teaching the Stage 1 class. There are four Kindergarten classes; seven Stage 1 classes consisting of two parallel Year 1 classes, two parallel Year 2 classes and three multi-age (composite) classes; and five Stage 2 and five Stage 3 classes which are all multi-age (composite) classes. We have disbanded the cross-stage class.

We know this has been especially unsettling and somewhat disappointing for some. We are trying to make this transition as smooth as possible. Your cooperation and support has been greatly appreciated.

Swimming Carnival

Last Wednesday, the annual swimming carnival was held at Emerton Leisure Centre. It was a perfect day weather-wise and the events ran smoothly. The implementation of the new water safety assessment went particularly well. Congratulations to all competitors on their excellent effort. Many thanks to Mr McKenzie and Mrs Lee for their organisation of the day, thanks to the teachers for supervising students and taking on a range of duties throughout the day and a huge thank you to the many parents who volunteered to assist with time-keeping.

District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday our school took a team of 31 swimmers to the district carnival. Our students did a great job and performed brilliantly. Congratulations to all competitors and thanks to parents who assisted with transportation. Our appreciation to Mr McKenzie and Mrs Lee who accompanied the students to the carnival.

Morning Assemblies

For the rest of the term, the school will be trialling some new procedures for getting to class in the mornings. On Monday mornings as usual, we will be holding a whole school assembly under the COLA. At these assemblies we will say the school pledge, sing the national anthem, make presentations and draw the RSL card winner. For the other four mornings, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, students will line up where they normally line up at the end of recess and lunch. Students are familiar with these areas and will be reminded during the start of the new system.

We are asking parents to use the ‘Kiss and Drop’ zones around the school when bringing children in the morning. Students are to go to Area A if the arrive before 8.30am or go to the COLA if they are arriving after 8.30am. Students are to keep their bags with them in the mornings while they are waiting for the bell to ring for lessons to commence. When the bell rings, they are to go to their lining up area and meet the teacher to go directly to rooms. Parents are asked to say goodbye to children and let them walk to their lining up areas by themselves. Please stay away from classroom and lining up areas. If you need to talk to the classroom teacher, please call in at the office to leave a message or make an appointment time. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in our attempts to maximise learning time.

Best start for Kindy

This year, every NSW public school kindergarten student will take part in the Best Start literacy and numeracy assessment program. Research shows that early intervention gets the best results when it comes to improving literacy and numeracy skills and under the Best Start program 2,300 specially trained teachers will assess students’ reading and writing, their communication skills and recognition of the sounds and letters of the English language. Our teachers have already completed this assessment. They also looked at students’ early numeracy skills in counting, number recognition and how they work with groups and patterns. The program allows teachers to assess and diagnose the starting point of a child’s education and gives students the best start to their formal education by allowing teachers to plan their lessons to cater to each child’s level of proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

Kindergarten teachers will be available to discuss these results with parents next Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Interview booking sheets have already been sent home with information about the interview times. More information about Best Start is available at:

Rooty Hill High School Visit

On Wednesday 3 March, student ambassadors, teachers and performance groups from Rooty Hill HS will be visiting our Stage 3 students and sharing with them information about the high school and about the students’ experiences starting Year 7. They will answer questions from students. This will happen between 9.30 and 11.00am.

P&C Meeting

The next meeting of the P&C will be on Wednesday 10 March at 7.00pm in the staffroom. We hope that if you can’t make the meeting during the day, that you might be able to come along to one of our evening meetings. Our meetings are a way to share information about programs operating in the school as well as upcoming events. At our next meeting, we will have a guest speaker from the Active After-school Communities project to explain the purpose of the program and how it operates. We hope you can make it.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our school follows the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) approach to discipline and learning. It is a proactive discipline model that is based on the
assumption that desirable behaviours should be taught. That is, procedures used to teach other skills, specifically academic skills, should be used to teach appropriate social behaviour. It is a system of school-wide processes and individualised instruction designed to prevent and decrease problem behaviour and to maintain appropriate behaviour.

Our team this year, Mrs Guerin, Mrs Jamieson, Ms Caves, Mr Holstein and I, will be continuing to implement our whole school program. Each fortnight we target particular behaviours we wish to improve. This fortnight our target is: Play in the right place! Students will revise all areas within the school where they are safe to play. Over the year, we will provide you with regular updates of our targets and ways you can help.

Parent Models of Behaviour
As we will continue to teach students about the expected standards of behaviour, ask parents to consider their own behaviour and the messages they may unintentionally be giving their children. We all become annoyed and frustrated from time to time. Parents may be unhappy about a practice within the school or the actions of a teacher. It is in the best interest of their own child and other students that parents don't publicly display their annoyance or anger and show their children unacceptable ways of dealing with difficult situations.

We all want the best for students – parents and teachers. If you have a concern or are unhappy with a procedure in place within the school, there are things that you can do to show your children how to appropriately and sensibly manage disagreements and conflict. There is a procedure for managing complaints, a copy of which accompanies this newsletter. Please do not run down teachers or the school in front of your child, other students or other parents. Contact the office to make an appointment with the class teacher, stage supervisor, deputy principal or myself to discuss the matter.

Smoking on School Grounds
Since 1987 it has been illegal for any person to smoke on NSW government school grounds. Parents are also reminded once again that smoking is not permitted on any school site. If you wish to smoke you must leave the premises.

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Definitions

**Pronouns - Gender:** There are four genders. They are:
- Masculine – male – boy, he
- Feminine – female – woman, she
- Neuter – neither male nor female – stone, it
- Common – either male or female – doctor

As pronouns stand for nouns, they have gender. The pronoun has the same gender as its antecedent (person / item previously identified).

**He** (a boy) hit **me** (a girl).

[he is masculine and me is feminine]

I (Fred) have **nothing** (money) more to give.

[I is masculine and nothing is neuter]

**Maths**

**Common denominator:** a denominator that all fractions in a group can be changed to

One common denominator for

\[
\frac{1}{2}, \quad \frac{1}{3}, \quad \frac{1}{4}
\]

is 12.

\[
\frac{1}{2} = \frac{6}{12}, \quad \frac{1}{3} = \frac{4}{12}, \quad \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{12}
\]

**Technology**

**Download:** to download a file is to get it from someone else’s computer, over a network and save it on your own computer or disk.

Download means "receive." You can download many kinds of files from the Internet, including images and software.

**Food for Thought**

“Home computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog”. –Doug Larson

Pauline Baker
Principal

11.2.10