Dear 5/6 Parents,

We would like to welcome you to Year 5/6 and look forward to an exciting and stimulating year of learning! We welcome back the same team of 5/6 teachers in 2016:
Tom Daniel, Toni Tsalikis, Donna Collins and Joel McMillan.

The first few weeks of our term will be focused on establishing classroom norms and setting the expectations and routines of the classroom. The Student Code of Conduct will be an integral part of establishing the class routines and expectations and we encourage you to read through and discuss this with your child. We understand that not everyone may have internet access, so if this is the case, please inform your child's classroom teacher. We will send home a form for parents and students to sign regarding the Internet Code of Conduct.

It is imperative that students attend school every day, as Every Day Counts. Going to school every single day is the most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things every day, and missing school puts them behind. Each day is a building block for their education, so let's build the biggest platform we can! Find out more information by viewing the following link (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/parents/everydaycountsprimary.PDF).

We will be focusing on establishing a team spirit through agreed norms and establishing classroom and home learning routines. We will be referring to our student code of conduct, norms and the You Can Do It program. Our integrated unit for this term involves the investigation of Democracy, Federation and Citizenship. Our Inquiry unit, 'Decisions, Decisions, Decisions' will provide students with an opportunity to research and investigate how democracy was formed, the role of Australia's three levels of government, Australian citizenship and the events of Federation.

Home Learning
Students have received their first home learning tasks for the year. There are a number of purposes for home learning in Year 5/6. These purposes include: organisation, putting those skills learnt at school into practice at home and preparation for high school. This term, the home learning tasks include reading for a minimum of 20 minutes per night, completing the assigned Mathletics tasks and the completion of weekly tasks. For term 1, the weekly tasks are designed to assist students in thinking about themselves and understanding who they are, while giving them the opportunity to establish a successful home learning routine. If your child has any questions about the expectations please encourage them to speak to their classroom teacher as early in the week as possible.

Sun Smart Policy
As part of Balwyn Primary School's Sun Smart policy, your child is required to wear a named broad-brimmed sun hat outside at all times during Terms 1 and 4. On those very hot days please ensure that sunscreen is applied at home before arriving at school. Students are also expected to have water bottles at school every day so that they may have ready access to water.
Year 7 placements for 2016
Placement information for Year 7 next year will be distributed to primary schools in Term 2. It is vital that parents have researched their local high schools prior to the information coming out. Numerous schools have open days and it is suggested that you begin to attend them when your child is in Year 5. (Please note that teachers are not in a position to recommend appropriate high schools for your child). Please ensure that you read all information carefully that is sent home and that you follow all timelines. If you have any queries or questions, please contact Mrs. Tsalikis.

Student Health & Safety
We have several students in Year 5/6 who have a life threatening allergic reaction to nuts, eggs, dairy or shellfish therefore we kindly ask you to please refrain from sending these products to school in your child's lunch box and during class parties.

Information regarding asthma management plans will be sent home shortly. If your child has ever had asthma, mild or severe, you must complete an asthma management plan and return it to school immediately.

Uniform
It is an expectation that all children wear the correct BPS school uniform. Year 6 jumpers will be available in Term 1.

Stationery
Each student received their stationery for the year on the first day. If students have a strong desire to bring other stationery from home, they are entirely responsible for looking after these items. It is also imperative that students do NOT bring white out to school as this can damage school property. We also ask that each item of stationery is clearly named and includes their class. We encourage students to keep their very special stationery at home to use when completing their home learning. Thank you for your assistance in helping to cover your child’s workbooks with contact. This ensures that they take pride in their book work and increases the longevity of the books.

A reminder for students to please bring a box of tissues and roll of paper towel. This will ensure that the classrooms are well stocked for the rest of the year.

Specialist Program

VISUAL ARTS
Students will focus on learning how to make a sock monkey through a textile inquiry based unit, linked to the Chinese Year of the Monkey. They will learn to read a pattern, sew basic stitches and assemble a soft toy using a variety of materials.

Ann De Luca
LOTE
In 2016, our 5/6 students will be participating in a great range of language activities. One of them is exploring the theme of ‘Celebrations’ as it is the traditional Chinese Year of the Monkey. They will be learning about common words and expressions that are used during Chinese New Year, e.g. greeting people, making New Year wishes, etc. A series of multi-media materials will be used to help students get a better understanding of this traditional festival. Students will also be doing hands-on activities like making Chinese New Year calligraphy couplets. In addition, students will continue exploring the use of AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) as a supportive learning method to complete their language units of work.

Lei Zhu

MUSIC
In Music classes this term, students will explore the musical elements of rhythm, pitch, dynamics, form, timbre and texture through appropriate songs. Musical literacy and aural skills will be developed at their own individual level. They will learn about the semitone and compose an original piece of music featuring the semitone to be used as background music for a story with suspense. Students will select either guitar or keyboard to focus on during practical sessions, and they will have some class time to practise their skills on the drum kit. They will learn about String Instruments, including those from Asian cultures and listen and respond to pieces played by these instruments.

Jenny Ranogajec

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
This term Year 5/6 students will be involved in a volleyball unit in their PE lessons. This unit will begin with students assessing their current skill set and establishing areas for development. Students will develop skills including serving, setting, spiking and digging throughout the unit using a ‘Gamesense’ approach where skills are learnt as part of games rather than in isolation. Students will play a round robin in teams towards the end of unit. Students will be part of Interschool Sport this term and will be involved in Rounders, Tee-Ball, Kanga Cricket or Hot Shot Tennis. We will play on a Friday between 9am – 11am against students from schools within the Kooyong District. Games commence Friday 12 February and to prepare for games, students will train one day a week at lunchtime with their coach. Students participate in a 7 day intensive swimming program at Aquarena Doncaster where key aquatic safety and technical skills are developed. Year 5/6 students may take the opportunity to represent BPS at the Kooyong District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 17 February.

Ashley Cull

Important Dates for your Diary

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Interschool sports begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11 February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences “Getting to Know You”</td>
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We look forward to a wonderful 2016, sharing lots of exciting learning experiences with our students. To ensure a successful year and continue the home/school partnership, parental support and help is always appreciated. Please don’t hesitate to see your class teacher if you have any questions or queries regarding your child.

Thank you,

Tom Daniel, Toni Tsalikis, Donna Collins, Joel McMillan