Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and a relaxing break. Our students have settled in well and are establishing friendships and routines within their classrooms, which is wonderful to see.

**DRINK BOTTLES**
Please ensure that your child brings a drink bottle full of water each day to school. This will ensure that they have ready access to a drink during the day as leaving the classroom to do this during ‘learning time’ is disruptive.

**NO HAT, NO PLAY POLICY**
It is wonderful to see so many children taking responsibility for remembering to pack their broad brimmed hat each day. Children require a hat to be able to play outside and participate in PE sessions.

**ANAPHYLAXIS**
We remind you about the children in our school who have an anaphylactic (life-threatening) reaction when exposed to eggs, kiwi fruit, peanuts and other nut products. We request that we keep egg and nut products out of our classrooms. Thank you for your support in minimising the risk for those children at risk within our school.

**MAKING TABLE MATERIALS**
We greatly appreciate contributions of reusable materials for our making tables. We would like to remind you that toilet rolls, egg cartons, packaging having contained nuts and medication boxes are not suitable materials.

**INTEGRATED**
Our integrated unit for this term is **You and Me, Inside and Out**. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the different types of emotions they may experience, how these emotions can affect others and strategies for responsibly managing these emotions. This unit will also focus on developing students’ understandings of family and cultural diversity between families and within communities. This is a wonderful unit to start the year and strongly links with the **Getting Along** focus for this term as part of the **You Can Do It Program**, as students will develop their acceptance, respect and appreciation for others.
HOME LEARNING

Reading
We understand that home life can be very busy and appreciate your ongoing commitment to spending time reading with your child every night. By reading and discussing texts with your child every night, you are assisting their fluency and comprehension development, as well as providing them with opportunities to enhance their communication skills and passion for reading. Please record your child’s reading in their Reading Log each night. Reader pockets must be brought back to school each day and take home books need to be changed by students before the 9.00am bell.

Spelling
Starting in Week 3, your child will be bringing home their personal spelling words to practise. Students need to complete one different activity each night and provide examples of their learning e.g. photos, written work. Students need to return their folders each Friday for review by their classroom teacher.

PUNCTUALITY AND DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE
Thank you in advance for ensuring that students arrive at school on time, giving children the opportunity to independently unpack their bag, change their take-home reader, complete their morning jobs and go to the toilet before the ‘wave goodbye’ music finishes. This ensures that students will be on the mat, ready for learning to begin at 9am. Encouraging students to take responsibility builds a sense of pride and promotes a positive self-esteem. We thank you also for being prompt for a 3.30pm pick up time and advising teachers if another adult is going to be taking your child home. If you are going to be late, a phone call to the office would be greatly appreciated. We do ask that if you do arrive late at school (any time from 9:00am onwards), that you sign your child in at the office before accompanying your child to their classroom door.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
We thank you for the enormous value that is put on students’ participation in all areas of their learning. The P-2 teachers work hard in providing a sequenced learning program that caters to the needs of each child. As a result, every day of their learning is important and valuable in this sequence. As part of its ‘Every Day Counts’ initiative on school attendance, the Victorian government states that ‘Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education.’ Ideally family holidays are taken during school holidays and long weekends. We do ask that if there is an unavoidable circumstance in which your child is absent from school, please make sure you fill out a written ‘reasons for absence slip’, which can be found on the school website and return this to your child’s classroom teacher with your reasons for absence.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION
We believe that open communication between parents and teachers is beneficial for student learning. We are always more than happy to discuss your child’s social, emotional and academic progress with you. To ensure sufficient time is made available to have these valuable discussions with any of the teachers, please make a time before 8.50am or after 3.30pm.

TERM 1 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled to take place in Week 3 of Term 1. The purpose of these conferences is for parents to share information about their child (e.g. hobbies, interests, likes and dislikes) and to establish an effective school-home partnership which will assist teachers to support your child’s learning.
BOOK COVERING
For durability, student books must be fully contacted in clear contact before we can begin to use them in classrooms. Our PFTA offer a contacting service for a small fee (fundraising) where they will contact all of your child’s school books. If you wish to contact these yourself, we will send your child’s books home for a weekend, but they must be contacted and returned by the following Monday.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
This term Year 1/2 students will start off Health and Physical Education with a range of minor games. Students will develop an understanding of rules and expectations including why and how these are important in games. They will move to cooperative games focusing on teamwork and working towards the same goal. Students will then focus on throwing and catching in isolation and in small activities. These skills will then be transferred to games focusing on throwing and catching, for example, endzone and modified basketball.
Ashley Cull

LOTE
This term, 1/2 students will be engaged in a range of language activities which will enhance their Mandarin skills. AIM methodology (gesture-based) will continue to be used as the main teaching method. Students will start learning one of the official AIM stories - 'Xiao Ji' (Little Chicken) where a number of songs, rhymes and performances are introduced. Students will also be doing Chinese cultural activities to celebrate the Year of the Monkey.
Lei Zhu

MUSIC
During Music classes this term, students will consolidate their understanding of beat/rhythm and the note values taa, ti-ti and saa. They will sing songs and participate in games, increasing their knowledge and practice of the musical elements of rhythm, pitch, dynamics, form, timbre and texture. They will begin to learn basic skills on percussion instruments, ukulele and keyboard and participate in the class ensemble. Experienced musicians will be given more challenging parts to play. They will be introduced to the iPad to record an original piece using vocal sounds. Students will listen and respond to pieces played by instruments of the String family.
Jenny Ranogajec

VISUAL ARTS
Students will respond to the picture book ‘Rainbow Fish’ using mixed media. They will make comparisons between pop artists Jim Dine and Andy Warhol. Warm and cool colours will be explored to enhance an image. The art elements of colour, shape, line and pattern will be investigated.
Ann De Luca

PARENT SUPERVISION
Any child who is on the playground equipment or who needs to go to the toilet before or after school must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Please ensure your child does not go to the playground without you present. If your child needs to go to the toilet after the 3.30pm bell, they must be accompanied by a parent. We value your support and assistance towards ensuring that all students are safe and supervised during these times.
ENTRY & EXIT DOORS
We would like to thank you all for your cooperation in entering and exiting the building using the door designated for your child’s class. This helps ensure that congestion is minimised and also reduces the disruptions to classes who have started their learning.

TISSUES
Thank you to those families who have already bought in boxes of tissues. We use tissues consistently throughout the year and appreciate your contribution.

HEALTHY LUNCHES
Healthy snacks and lunches are extremely important for all children. Eating healthy foods helps children sustain concentration throughout the school day. Encouraging your child to help choose and prepare their own healthy lunches can often add to the enthusiasm and desire to finish their lunches. Food suggestions for healthy lunches include:

- Fresh fruit
- Crunchy vegetables
- Dairy foods such as yoghurt or a cheese stick or slice
- A variety of breads such as rolls, sandwiches, pita bread, corn thins, rice cakes
- Sliced cold meats
- Water

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
A reminder that Fresh Fruit Friday will continue each Friday. Please send along a small amount of fruit cut up into small pieces in a labelled container – ready to share! We are hoping to continue to encourage children to make wise choices for their snacks, as well as developing social skills such as sharing, taking turns, cleaning up and being organised.

GARDEN NEWS
After a lovely hot summer much of ‘The G’ is thriving. This term students can look forward to a bountiful harvest of cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, and pumpkins when the weather cools. The sunflowers planted by each class at the end of last year have now come into bloom. ‘The G’ is open during lunchtime on most Fridays for students to water, weed, harvest and explore. Teachers and students can also look forward to making the most of the new shade sail in the garden as an outdoor learning space. There is always a list jobs to be done and parent volunteers are always appreciated in order to support this wonderful resource in our school community. If you would like to know more about ‘The G’ please see Mrs Krelle in 1/2 K.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE FRIDGE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>Information Session and PFTA Welcome Picnic</td>
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<td>3 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Twilight Working Bee</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
<td>End of School Term – Dismissal 2.30pm</td>
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2016 YEAR 1/2 TEACHING TEAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirstie Briggs</td>
<td>1/2 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nava Koles</td>
<td>1/2 N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalie Merivale</td>
<td>F/1 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat Adey</td>
<td>1/2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacinta Grigg</td>
<td>1/2 G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicity Krelle</td>
<td>1/2 K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Pynta</td>
<td>1/2 P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Clark</td>
<td>F–2 Leader</td>
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WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL YEAR OF LEARNING. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT.