Year 2 2013 – INFORMATION EVENING

Dear Parents and Carers,

May we take this opportunity to welcome you all to Year 2 2013. The students have settled into their new classes and both teachers and students are looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

DAILY REMINDERS - TERM ONE

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Key Learning Areas

The six Key Learning Areas (KLAs) in primary school are: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment (H.S.I.E), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (P.D.H.P.E), and Creative Arts. Following is a guide outlining what will be happening in each KLA.

ENGLISH

After careful and ongoing assessment, students are placed into literacy groups. During this time, students work independently and with a teacher on a text at their instructional level. Students also participate in literacy games, writing activities and ICT usage.

Reading is taught through shared, guided and independent reading experiences for students. Teachers read to their classes daily and explicitly teach the strategies for decoding and comprehension.
**Home reading** provides students with the opportunity to read texts at their independent level. These books should be easy enough for students to read without adult assistance as they are designed to improve student confidence, fluency and expression. The changing of home readers will be supervised by their classroom teacher and students are permitted to borrow one book at a time. Please see the attached document, *Helpful Home Reading Hints*, for more information about this system and how you can help your child with reading at home.

Please note that as reading levels increase it becomes more difficult and takes much longer to move up to higher levels, this is particularly so when students move beyond level 15. From level 15, progressions will be slower and it can take some students 6 months to move forward. This is because the level of difficulty has increased and students must demonstrate the ability to read more complicated texts accurately and fluently, as well as show an understanding of the text by answering comprehension and vocabulary questions.

**Handwriting** is explicitly taught on a weekly basis. We teach the correct formation of the NSW Foundation Style handwriting with an emphasis on correct pencil grip, posture and consistent size and slope of letters. Please see attached handwriting example.

Students will be exposed to a variety of rich texts this year in their reading. **Writing** will be linked to the study of these texts as students develop their creativity and understanding of sentence structure and vocabulary usage. This year we will focus on a range of text types, determined by classroom topics and author studies.

**Spelling** in Year two is based on phonological knowledge (how words sound), visual knowledge (how words look) and morphemic knowledge (how words change, e.g. walked, walking). Students study words in class on a weekly basis and assessment is conducted by dictation and analysis of student writing samples.

**Grammar** areas that will be focused on include correct sentence structure, simple punctuation and organising ideas into paragraphs.

**Talking and Listening** skills are taught explicitly in class and a range of opportunities are provided for children to speak in public.

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**MATHEMATICS**

In Year Two students will work towards mastering the following list of skills and understandings. Finding opportunities to practise these in real world situations will assist children in developing their understanding.

- Counting forwards and backwards by ones, twos and fives
- Counting forwards and backwards by tens, on and off the decade (7, 17, 27, 37...)
- Reading, ordering and representing two-digit numbers
- Sorting, ordering and counting money using face value
- Addition and subtraction facts to at least 20
- Rhythmic and skip counting by twos, fives and tens
- Identifying halves and quarters
- Naming and ordering the months and seasons of the year
- Identifying the day and date on a calendar
- Telling time on the hour and half-hour on digital and analogue clocks
- Identify and name parallel, vertical and horizontal lines
- Describe the position of objects using everyday language, including ‘left’ and ‘right’

This year, mathematics will be taught with a focus on the inquiry process, allowing students to participate in investigations whilst developing the set skills required by the curriculum. This process aims to make learning authentic for each student and encourages students to be active participants in their acquisition of knowledge.

**HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT**

During first term, Year 2 are studying personal heritage through the theme of the beach. Students will be exploring personal and family heritage establishing an awareness of self, others and the wider community through time and place. We will look at the role of photographs in representing changes and continuities in beach activities and swimwear, and how cultural artefacts can be used to gather evidence about people and how they lived at various points in time. The students will use this theme to explore aspects of their identity and personal/ family history.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

This year, students will participate in weekly science lessons with Mrs Anjali Rao for a total of 80 minutes each week.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)**

**PDH** programs for Term 1 will focus on safe living and values. Safe living addresses areas such as road, fire, beach and sun safety, as well as emergency procedures and hazards around the home and school. Students will also participate in a weekly Peer Support Program (Term 1 only) which focuses on values and friendship.

**PE** will consist of a weekly program provided by Moving Bodies. This program provides students with an opportunity to participate in specialised teaching of athletics, dance and gymnastics. Year 2 has Moving Bodies in Terms 1 and 3 on a Thursday. Please ensure that children are wearing appropriate footwear. We recommend shorts or skorts for the girls.

In addition, students will participate in weekly grade sport in which they will further develop their fundamental movement skills and engage in a range of team sports.

**CREATIVE ARTS**

Students will be provided with many opportunities to engage in Visual Arts and Craft, Dance, Drama and Music activities throughout the year, focusing on creative development and individual responses to artistic forms. These lessons will be integrated from all Key Learning Areas and occur weekly.
Home reading is a non-compulsory activity, we strongly recommend that students in Year 2 complete 10 minutes of home reading each day using their levelled home reader. Each student will be given a reading log where they can fill in their daily reading. This should be returned to school when it has been completed. For more information about Home Reading, please see the attached document, *Helpful Home Reading Hints*.

In addition to daily home reading, students may choose to complete one or more **monthly enrichment projects**. These will be issued twice a term and can be handed in at any time.

The aim of this program is to provide a real world context for the work we do in class, allowing students to develop a deeper knowledge of the subject matter, to pursue areas of interest and to develop further skills. This is an enrichment program and no student will be disadvantaged by not participating.

The projects are designed to be enjoyable rather than onerous, and vary in difficulty and complexity. Parents are encouraged to help their children choose projects that are both enjoyable and achievable. Parents may also need to assist their children develop organisational strategies, such as breaking the project into smaller tasks which can be completed over a series of days.

The final homework component is **Mathletics**. Just like the projects, this is a non-compulsory activity but it does provide valuable revision, drill and practice of basic maths concepts. All students have a Mathletics account and their username and password is available from the class teacher.

All homework will be uploaded to the school website along with some support materials. PDF copies of the homework can be downloaded for children who misplace their homework sheet.

**Organisation**

Please encourage your child to be prepared for school each day and to be responsible for packing their school bag with everything they need.

**Library**

Please check the timetable for your child’s class library time and ensure that students have packed their library bag. Year 2 students may borrow 4 books at a time this year.

**Scripture**

Scripture lessons take place each Wednesday. Lessons for K-2 are from 12.00-12.30pm. Please send a note to the school office if you wish your child to change classes.
School Reward System

Castle Cards, Merit Certificates and A-Day Awards are given out throughout the year. Once your child receives 10 Castle Cards please hand into your class teacher in a named envelope for a Merit Certificate handed out in class. 10 Merits earns a Bronze Award, another 10 a Silver Award and a following 10 earns a Gold Award. The cycle begins again with Bronze, Silver, Gold Award II. This award system continues throughout their school life at Castle Cove so children should retain all awards.

Attendance

If for any reason your child is unable to attend school, written notification, an email or a phone call to the office must be provided. Any student arriving late to school or needing to leave early must be recorded at the Main Office and provide the class teacher with a leave notice.

Notes

Please deposit all notes that have money enclosed into the letter boxes at the office. All other permission notes are to be handed into the classroom teacher.

Teacher Meetings

On Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons all teachers attend staff meetings/professional development. They also attend a range of team and curriculum meetings. As these occur immediately before and after school the class teacher will arrive at bell time on Mondays and will need to leave promptly some afternoons. We would appreciate your cooperation in avoiding lengthy conversation during these times. Please make an appointment with the class teacher if you feel the question or comment requires quite some time. Alternatively, please email the class teacher and we will reply as soon as possible.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We value our contact with parents and believe that we are most successful when working in partnership with children’s families. Therefore, we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or issue you would like to raise.

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