Dear Parents and Students,

Where has the year gone? Can you believe that from the start of term, there are only 83 days until Christmas Day!

It’s difficult to believe that we are already into our last term of 2016. It is wonderful, during the final term, to look back and see how far the children have progressed since the start of the year.

The term was off to a very busy and exciting start, with our Year 4s heading to Camp Manyung in the very first week. We farewelled some of our Senior students for a couple of weeks, whilst they headed over to visit Korea.

Coming up early in the Term, we also have our Science Incursion with a visit from The Hands on Science people. This is a great opportunity for the children to experience lots of amazing experiments.

Later in the term, the children will also be involved in the amazing Paintstorm Incursion.

Please make sure that you have completed consent and payment on Compass for these activities, when they become available.

SOLIDS, LIQUIDS & GASES

For Inquiry Learning this term, the Middle School is exploring the topic ‘Solids, Liquids and Gases’. This is a science unit and will include a workshop with ‘Hands on Science’.

Students will take part in a 90 minute workshop where they will investigate and compare the properties and behaviours of each state of matter. They will have the opportunity to demonstrate reversible and irreversible change, and they will investigate changes caused by adding or removing heat.

The workshops will be:
**Monday, 17th October**
**Tuesday, 18th October**
**Wednesday, 19th October**

During the term the students will learn how to classify a range of materials such as solids, liquids and gases according to observable properties. They will participate in and conduct simple experiments to explore how temperature can cause a change of state. They will also look at and describe, reversible and non-reversible change in substances.
**Reminders**

**Student Belongings** - Please ensure all student belongings are clearly labelled and encourage your child to be responsible for them.

**Rubbish Free Lunches** - We encourage students to have rubbish free lunches whenever possible - but especially on Mondays.

**Water in the Classroom** - Drinking plenty of water is essential for keeping minds alert. We encourage children to have a water bottle on hand to sip from during the day. We would prefer that children used a water bottle with a pop top or similar.

**Communication**

**Compass** - If you need any help with logging on, please ask at the office for assistance. Please record any absences for your child on Compass. All student absences must by law, be approved by parents.

We also use Compass to facilitate payment and permission for many school activities. Please ensure you log in to Compass regularly and also read the Newsletter each week. The key dates are written at the start of this newsletter but there may be changes as the term progresses.

**Uniform and Belongings**

**Hats** - Please remember that as a Sunsmart School, hats are required to be worn in Term 4 and Term 1. As the temperatures start to soar and even on cooler days when the UV readings can still be very high, it is important that all students wear their hats.

Please ensure your child’s hat, clothing, lunchboxes and drink bottles are clearly labelled with their names.

We are forever filling up the lost property bins and have many items unclaimed. Please encourage, as we do, your child to be responsible for their belongings.

**Mathematics**

We will continue to revise basic number skills, which will include automatic response using all four processes, reading, writing and ordering larger numbers. We will continue to develop our knowledge of whole numbers and further develop our understanding of fractions and decimals.

We will revise the algorithms used for each of the four processes and practise applying our knowledge to real life problems, including the use of money.

Throughout the term, we will also revisit Area and Perimeter and again use our knowledge to solve real life problems involving an understanding of these concepts. We will also be completing a variety of activities to develop an understanding of chance and data concepts.

The children will complete several assessment tasks and revision will be related to their needs.

**English**

**Reading** – This term the focus will be on further developing comprehension using a variety of text structures including recounts, procedural texts, scientific reports and narratives. We will be comparing and contrasting texts and making predictions as we read, as to what will happen next and how the text will finish.

**Writing** – Our focus will be on the structure and format of a recount and a procedural text. These will assist with writing about camp and other activities and will also be used when completing scientific reports about experiments. We will continue to develop the children’s editing skills and encourage the use of word lists, dictionaries and thesaurus to assist.

**Speaking and Listening** – There will be many opportunities for us to share our writing with the class, discuss our observations during our Science experiments, share our inquiry about Solids, Liquids and Gases and interview the Year 4s after the camp.

**End of Year Barbecue and Activities**

Our Middle School end of year barbecue is planned for the 8th December. (This is in place of class parties.)

There will be sausages in bread, drinks and an icypole. A notice will be sent home in the coming weeks. We will also be asking for some parents to assist with cooking and serving on the day.

We will be planning some special craft activities for the last few weeks of the year. The combined cost of these activities will be $9.

**Year 4 Parent Meeting**

**iPads for Year 5 in 2017**

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 26th October, to provide information for parents of 2016 Year 4 students, about our One-to-One iPad program.
LIBRARY
Please ensure that your children have their library books and library bags on their library day.

HOMEWORK
Please also refer to our school’s Homework Policy

All students have regular homework requirements. Homework should be completed in their homework books using a greylead. Pages should be ruled up and work set out neatly. There are three main components to the homework.

Reading
A daily home reading program using texts from a range of sources including personal library, class literature, school or regional libraries is to be maintained. The Reading Log book is to be filled in and returned to school to be checked and monitored by the classroom teacher.

Maths
Quick Maths
Children are to complete one column of quick maths problems. If your child would like to challenge themselves or would like some extra work, they may choose to complete two or three of the columns.

Problem Solving
We learn many strategies for solving problems in the classroom. Some of these are: guess and check, act it out, make a model, use simpler numbers, make a list, make a table, look for a pattern, draw a diagram. Children should neatly record their working out, in their homework book.

Spelling
Children are to practise their three personal words using one or some of the suggested activities.

CAMPS
Year 4 Camp Manyung 2016
At the very start of this term, the Year 4 students had a short break from regular school life, so that they could enjoy a few relaxing days away at Camp Manyung, in Mt Eliza. It is a wonderful camp with impressive, modern facilities and warm, comfortable cabins.

Although the weather was quite unpredictable, we managed to avoid most of the rain and were able to enjoy just about all of the planned activities, with the exception of Marine Discovery. (Unfortunately, it was just too windy for boating.)

The students enjoyed a range of different activities, including archery, UHF radios, rock pool ramble, rolling logs, initiatives and the giant swing. It was fantastic to see so many students challenging themselves and having a go. It was also wonderful to see the encouragement and support the children gave to each other.

David Skinner visited the camp to run his famous disco, and a great time was had by all, dancing the night away!

The final day saw the students participate in the Manyung Amazing Race, which involved a variety of team challenges, culminating in a race to the finish line!

After a wonderful three days, we hopped on the bus and headed home.

The students were all extremely well behaved, which helped everything on the camp to run very smoothly.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parent helpers who came and stayed at the camp with us, as without your help we simply would not be able to provide the students with these excellent learning opportunities.
Performing Arts
Kathryn Lane

**Classroom Music**
We will continue to practise our ukuleles, steel drums, tuned and untuned percussion and refine the songs that we have been practising throughout the year.

We will also add some Christmas songs to our repertoire, ready for the end of year concert on Tuesday the 13th of December.

Using classroom tuned and untuned percussion instruments, iPads and garageband we will compose 'soundscapes' around the 'Solids, Liquids and Gases' theme. We will continue to sing a wide variety of songs and 'dance' and 'move' lots. There will also be some drama sessions happening in Term 4.

**Music Count Us In**
All students will take part in this initiative, whereby around 200,000 students from Australia and Australasia sing the same song, at the same time, on the same day. The song is ‘Let It Play’, the time is 12:30 and the day is Thursday 3rd of November. The event is live-streamed from 12 noon and you can tune in from wherever you are, to watch and listen.

Here is a link so that you can listen to this year’s song:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLEpXT4Gn8YYCvq2N74L_RnwkXTDCQ9jVc&v=FMJgxtx_kxbo

**Choir**
Choir will continue to rehearse on Monday lunchtimes and Thursdays at 8 a.m. We have a very large and committed group of choir members this year and families have been fabulous at letting me know about absences. It’s important to keep this level of commitment going right up until the last rehearsal/performance. Students are expected to participate in the Christmas Concert on Tuesday 13th of December and at our annual Yarrunga performance, (date TBA). I’m also hoping to organise an end-of-year breakup/performance at Croydon Centro followed by a movie at the Croydon Cinema.

**Ukulele / iPad / Marimba / Steel Drum Band**
This will start up again next Thursday lunchtime. We will be working on some songs ready for the annual Christmas Concert. Everyone is welcome.

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**Physical Education**
Noreen McMenaman

Term 4 is an exciting term in PE as we do a variety of major games in preparation for the Year 4’s moving into the Senior School, as well as giving the Year 3’s a basic understanding of some of the more complex games and rules.

We will also be having some fun competitions during Hot Shots Tennis and netball. This year we will be participating in a cricket clinic with an experienced coach from Cricket Victoria. The students will be taking part in fitness testing, which involves some fitness exercises and measuring their ability in endurance, strength and flexibility. The results are kept, so that in Year 6, when they leave Primary School, they will have a record of their fitness levels over 3 to 4 years.

**LOTE**
Libby Browning

This term we will be looking at traditional homes in Indonesia and how the materials and design are influenced by the climate, environment and culture of the region. In week 6 we will commence a model of a traditional house working independently or with a partner. We are also looking forward to communicating with our Bottle for Botol partner school in Bali.
We are looking forward to a fun and exciting term with your children.

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Robyn Twining, Kelly Lawrence, Ben Burch, Felicity Puckey, Paul Brock, Aaron Halstead, Jordan Tate, Vanessa Urmston and Deb Karanzoulis.