Welcome to the Senior Learning Community. This year the learning community consists of 3 homerooms sharing the open plan learning space. Each student has a homeroom teacher, but you are welcome to speak to any of the Senior Learning Community teachers if you have a question or a message about your child. More personal matters can be dealt with directly by your child’s homeroom teacher.

**Literacy—Writing**

The students will be exploring persuasive texts. Persuasive texts include non-fiction writing used to convince the reader to agree with the author about an issue. The author relies heavily on facts to express their opinion, and uses their opinion in an argumentative type of writing style. The students will be taught the text structure and language features by reading and analysing persuasive texts and in order to be successful in writing the text type. This writing will culminate in all Senior Learning Community students writing persuasive text in order to convince their peers to vote them into a position of leadership at the school for 2015.
2015—Canberra Camp

A reminder that $100.00 camp payments for this term are due on
- Monday 2nd of February, and
- Monday 2nd of March.

Please ensure these payments are made by the due date. If you have any concerns about these or any other camp payments, please make an appointment to see Mr. Mc Glade or Mr. Buckingham to discuss your concerns.

Literacy—Reading

Along with reading and analysing persuasive pieces of texts, students will be introduced to Reciprocal Reading. Reciprocal reading will involve students working in small reading groups. The Senior Learning Community teachers will model the Reciprocal Reading process to students and then help students learn to guide group discussions themselves using four strategies: summarizing, question generating, clarifying, and predicting. Once students have learned the strategies, they will take turns in each leading discussions about what has been read. The teachers will assign students tasks to ensure an in-depth understanding of the reading material.

Numeracy—Number & Place Value

In numeracy this term, students will engage in problem solving activities and maths games that will involve all four operations. Students will be recognising and applying efficient mental and written strategies such as multiples and factors of whole numbers as well as estimation and rounding off to check calculations.

Students will also explore and recognise the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers and investigate the use of integers in everyday life and represent these using number lines.

Students will also commence writing their ‘Numeracy Reflections’ in their reflection books, recording their thinking, strategies and evaluations as they work through each unit.
Inquiry—Young Leaders

This term, our inquiry focus will be on leadership, developing the understanding and knowledge the students need in order to be ‘Young Leaders’ at our school. The ‘Young Leaders’ training is designed for students in the final two years of primary school. It develops confidence, character and citizenship in young people. It also promotes both personal and public leadership and is based on the 4 building blocks of—presentation skills, responsibility, organisation and teamwork. The ‘Young Leaders’ training is delivered in three parts:

Part 1 - Year 5 Students, who will participate in the Personal Leadership training where they will learn the behaviours of being a great role model.

Part 2 - Year 6 Students, who will be participating in the Public Leadership training where they will refine the behaviours of the four building blocks of leadership. The training will also prepare students for leadership in a more public sense.

Part 3—This aspect of the training, ‘An Induction for Elected Leaders’, will be delivered in Term 2 to the students who receive leadership positions at the school. This training will prepare those elected leaders for their position of leadership and provide them with a greater understanding of leadership in general.

“Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do.” – John Wooden

Leadership Positions - School Captains, House Captains & JSC

School Captains and Vice Captains
Applications due— Wednesday 18th of February
Panel to interview short-listed applicants— Friday 20th February
School Captains are announced at assembly—Monday 23rd of February

House Captains
Applications due - Wednesday 4th of March
Panel to select success candidates—Friday 6th of March
House captains are announced at assembly— Monday 9th of March

Elected Leaders Process— Junior School Council
Junior School applications due—Thursday 12th of March
Applications short-listed—Friday 13th of March
AEC—Get Voting - Middle and Senior School students to vote for their peers—Thursday 19th of March
Information, Communication and Technology

During ICT this term students will begin the year by establishing their daily netbook routines regarding the safe care, handling, use, transport and storage of their netbooks. We will later turn our attention to our unit titled ‘Play your Part – Be E-Smart’ where students unpack issues regarding cyber safety, discussing current trends and developing our problem solving skills to overcome them. We then will discuss the importance of becoming a responsible digital citizen in today’s world and explore the roles and responsibilities involved. The unit will culminate in students working collaboratively to develop our class ‘Digital Technologies Responsible Use Agreement’ which we will be signed by both parents/guardians and students themselves.

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” Theodore Roosevelt

Homework

The Homework Matrix will handed out to students in week 3. Homework this term will consist of a Matrix Task and Maths Mate. The matrix task, Maths Mate and parent signed diary is due every Friday. Students are to place all of their hard copy completed tasks into their homework folder and place their folder into the homework tub in the Learning Community on Friday morning. Signed diaries also need to be placed into a designated tub in the Learning Community every Friday morning.

A reminder that if for some reason students cannot hand in their homework for a particular week, a signed note in their diary will be required. Your support in this is much appreciated.
Graduation Tops
We are once again ordering the graduation tops as early as possible this year to ensure they arrive before the cooler weather. Please ensure that you place your order with a $20.00 deposit per item, no later than Monday 16th of February. No late orders can be accepted once the order has been placed with the company that the school is working with.

Please see Theodora Mc Glade if you have any queries about orders or payment or if you would like to try on a sample top.

“Anything is possible. Anything can be.” – Shel Silverstein

Key Date

**Parent Information Evening** - Senior Learning Community—Tuesday 17th of February from 6:30–7:30 pm in the Senior Learning Community rooms.

**NO Hat NO Play!**
The rule for terms 1 and 4 is:

‘No hat? No Play!’
We ask that children leave their hat in their locker at school so that it is on hand for recess and lunchtimes every day.

**Food Allergies**
Please note that we have several students in our learning community who are allergic to nuts and eggs, so please be mindful when you are preparing your child’s food and avoid these items if possible. It is for this reason that children will not be allowed to share any food from their lunchbox.