Dear parents/caregivers

Welcome back to Term 3! It’s difficult to believe that we are more than halfway through the school year… the time certainly seems to have flown since the beginning of the year!

I hope that you all had a wonderful break. I have been hearing about camping trips, visits to families in Perth, trips north, south east and west; and I’m happy to see that everyone seems to be excited about being back at school. We are returning to a beautifully renovated classroom. It certainly looks brighter and bigger and we will be using our creative skills to decorate and fill the new wall space with super work. I have lots of learning activities planned and I’m sure the term will be action packed!

This term our topic is based around the Olympics. We will be learning about the participating countries, exploring the events and sports which are taking place, tracking the progress of Australian athletes and using our data collecting skills to record special achievements.

In Maths we will be learning about data collection and representation and continuing our work on measurement and place value. We will also be exploring geometry, tessellating shapes, and looking at symmetry, location and transformation. We will make lots of graphs and continue to measure different things; including the growth of our seedlings in our garden beds and the area and perimeter of spaces in the school environment. Our plants have been carefully tended during the holidays and are looking happy and healthy!

In English we will learn how to be creative and persuasive (we did some of this in term 2) and we will improve our vocabulary. We will have a strong focus on grammar so be prepared to hear lots about parts of
speech like pronouns, conjunctions and clauses as well as about the origins of words, prefixes, suffixes and morphemes.

Today we had the Kaboom incursion. We also have Wickham Primary School’s fortieth birthday celebrations, a twilight fete, the Global Children’s Challenge, DRUMBEAT, bush dancing, a possible excursion to Cossack and lots more to look forward to this term. I have been experimenting with a classroom blog – check it out at http://room5wickham.edublogs.org/ It’s still under construction and will grow with student input; if you have any expertise in this area I would love to hear from you as I’m still working out what to do with widgets, plugins and other available tools! I will be sending home further information about privacy and about student contributors in the next fortnight.

I will continue to use Spelling Journals to enable children to complete a short spelling activity each night. Please let me know if your child has any difficulty with the process of ‘Look, Cover, Write, Check’, or if you feel that the words are too easy or too difficult. Children should also be reading to you for a short period every night. I have updated the set tasks on studyladder and on Mathletics; if your child has any problems logging in I will ensure that he/she has a valid login. We have access to an additional bank of laptops at the school this term through the Polly Farmer Science project so everyone will have time in class to work on the allocated tasks in Mathletics and studyladder. Check out the ‘Financial Literacy’ tasks in studyladder; they may help with any pocket money and saving issues! Some students will be using ‘Teach This’ homework sheets to revise key concepts and extend their knowledge and skills; others will continue to use the RIC homework cards to consolidate their class work. Please let me know if you have any queries about homework; my view is that it should be a pleasant, collaborative way of practising skills learned in class and of developing good work habits; it should not be a stressful experience for you or for your child.

A roster of ‘news’ days to the end of term is attached. The purpose of the themes is to encourage children to structure their presentation to their classmates by having a clear introduction to the item, a description, a conclusion and time for questions. We will practice this framework in class and will focus on structured recounts in language lessons throughout the term. Oral presentations help children to develop confident speaking and attentive listening skills and with our Kagan co-operative learning
activities, are helping students understand the language of interaction and relationships.

Please check that your child has an adequate supply of red and lead pencils, an eraser, glue sticks and a ruler, as many children were in need of renewed supplies at the end of last term.

This term we will have the assistance of Mrs Walter for two days each week and of Mrs Gibb for three days. It is fantastic to have two such wonderful Education Assistants in Room Five. We were sorry to lose Mrs Pratt and welcome Mrs Gibb to our classroom.

As always, I am available to talk to you briefly before or after school; but please make an appointment if you wish to meet to discuss your child’s learning in more detail. A quick chat in the morning while surrounded by children in a busy classroom is not always satisfactory for you or for me! If I don’t know about an issue I can’t help, so I am keen to hear about anything that will help me to help your child develop and enjoy his/her experience in my classroom. I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child is a happy, enthusiastic and motivated learner this term.

Regards

Mrs M Nealon
24.07.12