18th January 2015

Dear

The holidays are almost over! I hope you are enjoying your holidays and are looking forward to an enjoyable year as a Year 4 student. I would like to welcome you to Room 2.5 in 2015; you will be a valuable member of our Year 4 classroom. I’m sure you are very excited and enthusiastic about returning to school on Tuesday 27th January!

This year promises to be a very enjoyable and busy year. We have a fantastic class this year and we are going to have a lot of fun learning about lots of different things. I have lots of interesting units of work planned for us throughout the year. I am really excited about teaching Year 4 this year and hopefully we will all learn new skills and knowledge throughout the year.

During the year, there will be many interesting projects/assignments, enquiry units and learning tasks. These will require you to develop a variety of organisational and time management skills to help you manage your class and homework time efficiently. This is an important learning tool for all students and one that you will continue to use in the years to come. Some of our learning enquiry units will include:

- **My Place** - looking at our ourselves and our families
- **“Superheroes”**
- **Personal Learning Project (PLP)**
- **Theme Park Maths/Shoe Maths/M&M Maths**
- **Million Dollar Maths** - If you had $1 million, what would you spend it on?
- **History** - The First Fleet, explorers
- **Science** - The Great Barrier Reef, designing an amusement park ride and planting and growing seeds
- **Lots of great art activities** - pop art and hopefully some photography!!
Personal Learning Projects (PLP) will be an important part of our learning this year. The PLP is a project that focuses on your interests, what you are passionate about, good at or need help with. This PLP will enable you to further develop many skills such as communication, critical thinking, problem solving, personal, social, organisation and time management. Some possible ideas may include; designing and making clothes, producing a family heritage cookbook, gardening, building something, collating a Family Tree, designing a kite, designing pieces of art, photography, in fact the possibilities are endless! Perhaps you can start thinking about what you would like to investigate. The PLP’s are planned for Term 3.

Homework is an expectation and requirement of all year 4 students. You will be doing about 25 mins per night. Homework will consist of a variety of tasks such as project work, spelling, reading and daily maths mental units. Each Monday morning we will fill in our diaries that will outline the homework for the week plus any other important dates and information.

On the first day, you will be issued with a basic set of stationery. As most students like to use their own coloured pencils and textas, these will not be issued, but there will be class sets available for you to use. We will make colour-coded front pages for each of our books and then cover with plastic sleeves; this will be done on the first day of school.

On Tuesday, I will ask you to write a letter to me telling me a little bit about yourself. Some things you could include in your letter:

- Goals for 2014
- Areas that you would like to improve
- Things that you are good at
- Learning areas that you enjoy
- What are your interests
- What did you do in the holidays?
We have a fantastic class this year and I am really excited about working with you all in 2015. I hope you will feel free to talk to me anytime if you are not sure about something or need something explained a bit more.

I encourage you all to be organised each day and to always try your best at everything you do, but most of all to enjoy your time at school. During the first few days of school, we will discuss a class agreement/class motto that will play an important role in the way our classroom operates, enabling us to all work to the best of our ability.

We are going to start the year off by learning about some Australian History, as we celebrate Australia Day on the 26th January. We will also be doing some activities about ourselves and some fun art activities!
I hope you enjoy the rest of your holidays and I will see you on Tuesday.

Kind Regards

Mrs Niekel

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