Welcome to Grade 1/2’s for the 2013 Sunbury Heights school year. We hope the year will be a positive learning experience for you and your child. Most students have settled in very well and are becoming accustomed to the routines of a new class and teacher.

We would like to extend a special welcome to the new families who have joined us at the 1/2 level.

**Parent Assistance**
Parent helpers are welcome to assist in classes. Just speak to your child’s teacher if you are willing to assist.

**Donations**
To assist with hygiene each child has been asked to supply a box of tissues for the class.

**English**
The focus will be on Narrative texts. Over the term we will be looking at the purpose of the text. At home you can assist your child by asking if they can identify what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story. Handwriting will be practised on a daily basis, with emphasis on pencil grip and correct letter formation. (This should be reinforced at home.) An organised approach to the teaching of phonics happens in every classroom.

**Maths**
During term one the Year 1/2’s will be looking at and comparing the value and size of numbers. In addition the children will be using the strategy of counting on from the larger number. They will use number lines and dice and counters to practice counting and addition. They will also be expected to use this strategy in word problems. They will also be learning the order of the days of the week, months of the year and seasons.

**Integrated Curriculum**
The first few weeks will be devoted to a Start Up Program called “Fun in the Sun”. This involves getting to know each other, setting up learning goals and expectations in order to build a positive learning classroom. The foundations of the “You Can Do It” program will be reviewed and discussed regularly. Remember the YCDI foundations are:
• Organisation
• Getting Along
• Emotional Resilience
• Confidence
• Persistence

Our Inquiry Learning topic will be “How to keep ourselves Healthy” which includes identifying and avoiding hazards around the playground. There will be components on being “Sun smart”, and on keeping our body healthy by getting enough rest, water and how we can eat to help our brain learn.

**Dates to Remember**
Labour Day
11th March
Term One concludes
28th March
Easter Parade
25th March
Home Reading
We encourage all families to support our home reading program by encouraging your child to read every day both from their take home books and from their repeated reading booklets.

Specialists
This year the children will receive specialist teaching in:

- PE: Runners, a hat and water bottle are essential items.
- Art: Smocks or shirts. Please check sizes of art smocks students were wearing last year and ensure they are “paint proof” and offer protective covering of uniform.
- Science: No accessories required.
- Library: A library bag is required to borrow a book and items must be returned each week. The children will be unable to borrow if they are not returned.

Water and fruit
Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school so that it is available during the day. To help with concentration children in our rooms are encouraged to have one small piece of fruit or veg around 10 o’clock each day e.g. a small apple, celery, carrot sticks etc.

Communication
Please come and see us if you have any queries about your child’s schooling. The best times are after school on Monday, Thursday or Friday or ring the school to make a more convenient appointment. Please be aware that teachers are required at staff meetings on Tuesday afternoons and Team Meetings on Wednesday afternoons immediately after school finishes for the day, so we are unable to meet with you at these times.

We believe we are going to have a great year with your children.

Thank you from the 1 / 2 teachers:

- Mrs Carmel Ross
- Mrs Jane Xuereb
- Ms Jo Harding