We are officially past the half way mark of this term. Holidays seem just around the bend. During the next few weeks students in all classes will be completing writing tasks, math investigations, science experiments and various displays of athletic, artistic and academic feats to demonstrate how much they have improved and achieved this semester. Attendance is always important but it is particularly important that you avoid any unnecessary absences during this time or contact your child’s teacher so that arrangements can be made to ensure they don’t miss out.

We will be issuing official report cards at the end of this term and offering parent teacher interviews again in late July. In the meantime, we’re always happy to field your questions, concerns or compliments about our school.

For example, some of you have recently asked about homework. I can confirm that all children from years 1-7 have weekly homework. If your child has not been coming home without homework then would suggest speaking with your child’s teacher to confirm that it is getting done and handed in.

Daily reading is an extremely important element of homework. Please see below some information on how only 20 minutes of reading out of school can greatly enhance opportunities for your children. You are always welcome to join us before or after school to use our books and listen to your child read. Your child can also take out library books on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I’d like to take this chance to thank Tegan for her amazing day to day work which was evident at our cross country meeting. Tegan works hard to accomplish in 2-3 days what other admin officers do in 5. Please be reminded that our office is unattended every Thursday and Friday as Tegan works those days in Bloomfield and I am teaching in the SR class. We would appreciate it if you could avoid calling on those days unless it is urgent. If you would be interested in helping us out by volunteering a few hours on either of those days, we’d love to hear from you!

Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight? THIS SUNDAY 2-5 MARKET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student “A” reads 20 minutes each day</th>
<th>Student “B” reads 5 minutes each day</th>
<th>Student “C” reads 1 minute each day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3600 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>900 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>180 minutes in a school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,800,000 words

283,000 words

8,000 words

90th percentile

50th percentile

10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life? (Nagy & Herman, 1987)
Here is an overview of the weekly timetable for the Seniors for this term. Place the timetable in a visible spot at home to ensure that your child has the right equipment and is wearing the appropriate clothing for the day’s activities. It would be expected that all students wear sandshoes or running shoes, for Monday and Wednesdays when they will be participating in physical activity. It is compulsory to wear shoes for sports.

Donations for Morning Play

The Senior Girls have been organising some special play environments to stimulate children’s play before school. Lots of children really enjoyed the chalk board and blocks area last week. We would like to change these activities regularly and one idea that the girls came up with, was some kitchen items in the sandpit. If you have any old saucepans, baking trays, measuring cups etc. that would be suitable for the students’ to play with, please send them along to school. The children will surely appreciate your donation.
The Junior class has been learning about weather and cyclones. We acted out a cyclone on parade.

This week we made houses out of cardboard to see if we could make them strong enough to withstand a cyclone. We learned that builders need to use strong materials to build houses; that they need to join the materials together strongly; and that houses need to be stuck to the ground somehow. We used sticky tape to stick our houses down, but we know that builders usually use concrete and steel.

In English we have started looking at Poetry. This week we are learning to use rhymes in our writing. Here are some of our rhymes:

**Koala** by Gemma Sail
There was a koala who had a nose.
The nose looked like a hose.
The nose that looked like a hose made a little pose.
She climbed up a tree
And lived there happily.

**Kind Friends** by India Carroll
My friend is kind to me
Like I be to a tree
I played in the hay
And I said to my friend come and play.

**Remember:**
*Homework goes home on MONDAYS and is due back on FRIDAYS.*
*Students can borrow from the library on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS.*

*The more you read, the more you know,*
*The more you know, the more you grow!*