Welcome to 5D

Thank-you parents/carers for preparing the students so well for the start of 2013. We have had a smooth start to the year. Classroom expectations and rules have been established with a reward system. Our year will continue to run smoothly if we have open communication between the classroom and the home, so I’m going to list some of our procedures:

**SCHOOL EQUIPMENT:** Most of the students arrived with all of their school equipment. If your child still needs equipment could you please ensure they have it as soon as possible as their learning is being impeded. Please encourage your child to monitor his school equipment and if he/she is lacking in anything to let you know. We can’t work without our tools.

**HOMEWORK:** On Monday morning students will receive their homework sheet consisting of spelling, reading comprehension and maths. I would prefer that the spelling and number facts are written out each night Monday to Thursday however I know family life can get busy so at the most 2 columns can be done on one night. Please encourage your child to read the comprehension text each night. Homework is to be brought to school each day, however it does not need to be completed until Friday. Please insist on neatness in your child’s work. Students are pretested on the spelling words so are only learning words they haven’t been able to spell correctly. Spelling and number facts will then be tested in class on Friday.

**HOMEWORK READING:** To ensure students continue to improve their reading they need to read for at least 10 minutes each night. If they can read independently they can read to themselves, however if they aren’t independent please take the time to listen to them. At the back of each child’s homework book is a reading sheet. Please sign this each night. In order to be exposed to good writing (to improve their own writing) students need to read fiction nightly so please encourage your child to visit the school library regularly. By taking the time each day to either hear your child read, read with or to your child as well as discuss their book, (problem, characters) is the biggest investment you can make in your child.

**FOOD/WATER:** Please ensure your child has enough food for both breaks. Many of the students eat all of their food in the first break and then have difficulty concentrating in the last session because they are hungry. Because we live in such a hot climate students also need to be constantly drinking water so please encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school which they can keep on their desk. In order for students to be able to concentrate in the class they need to have eaten at the start of the day so please ensure your child has had breakfast before they come to school. The school tuckshop is open daily.

**HATS:** Our school policy is ‘no hat, no play’ so please ensure your child has a hat each day. They will also need a hat for P.E. on Thursday.

**MUSIC:** Our class lesson is Thursday. Those students learning an instrumental lesson have been given their own timetable. Instruments can be kept in the classroom throughout their day. The school is rehearsing for the musical ‘Annie” now.

**LIBRARY:** The school library is open before school from 8.30am and throughout the breaks. Please encourage your child to visit this regularly for both fiction and information texts.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL:** A school swimming carnival is to be held Wednesday March 6. This will cater for both those students who want to compete and those who want to have fun. Notes and permission forms have been sent home for this. Please return permission notes asap.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS:** April 17 & 24.

**COMMUNICATION:** If you haven’t already visited our classroom please take the time to come and see where your child is learning. In order for our year to run smoothly please feel free to come and discuss any issues concerning your child’s progress before or after school. If I can’t discuss it at that time we can arrange another time. If you cannot get up to the school leave a message at the office and I will get back to you.

Yours in Education

Tracey O’Connor