Welcome to the 2014 Grade Six Parent Information Evening
Parent Information Night: Purpose

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you at the beginning of the school year.

Our aim is to give you an insight into what happens in our classrooms and discuss ways in which you can help your child at home.

The following information delivers an overview of the grade 6 program, which we expect will provide an exciting and challenging learning environment for your child.
The 2014 Grade Six Team is:

Julie Dalton
The 2014 Grade Six Team is:

Leeanne Baddeley
Our Aims:

- To provide a stimulating classroom program that fosters development in children of all abilities.
- To develop students as independent learners who take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.
- To continue to promote effective study habits and skills.
- To develop students’ interpersonal skills, fostering a cooperative and harmonious learning environment.
School begins at 9.00am and ends at 3.30pm.

Arriving promptly (before 9:00) supports a successful beginning to the school day for your child and their entire class.
General Information

Absences

If your child is absent from school please email (fairfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au), call the school office (9489 2966) or send a written note when your child returns.
The wearing of hats while outdoors is compulsory throughout terms one and four.

Students who do not have a broad-brimmed, ‘bucket’ or legionnaires hat will be directed to sit in the shade for the duration of lunch or recess.

Students need to wear hats to all outdoor sessions such as physical education, sport and on excursions.
The Canberra Tour is taking place in only four weeks time!

Students depart on the morning of Tuesday March 11th and return from Canberra on Friday March 14th.

Information about camp arrangements including permission and medication forms have now been sent home with your child(ren).
If you require a time to discuss any social, emotional or academic concern regarding your child, please note that class teachers are available for meetings.

It is essential to make an appointment so that we will be able to give you our undivided attention.
As professional development and school meetings occur after school, teachers are available to meet from 8:20 to 8:40 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Please remember, just prior to the bell at 9.00am is not a good time as teachers are usually busy making final preparations for the day.
A variety of teaching strategies will be implemented to develop children’s skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing, spelling and handwriting.
The aim of our spelling program is to assist students in developing strategies that will support them to become independent spellers.

A range of different spelling strategies are modelled to students and children are encouraged to ‘have-a-go’, utilising the strategies they have been taught.
Students will participate in shared, guided and independent reading, encompassing many text types. The use of literature circles will continue to be central to our approach to reading.

Reading instruction will focus on developing reading strategies such as predicting, summarising and questioning.

An emphasis will also be on developing fluency and expression when reading.
Writing sessions will support students in planning, drafting, editing and publishing written pieces.

Opportunities will be provided for students to write in a variety of styles and genres and for a variety of purposes.

Incidental and focus teaching sessions will be used to develop grammar and punctuation skills.
A feature of our approach to teaching writing will be our utilisation of the *Writer’s Notebook* strategy, providing students with a wide range of different source materials as a stimulus for writing.

Students will regularly be encouraged to share their written pieces in order to develop confidence and presentation skills. In term one students’ will focus explicitly on autobiographical writing, using graphic organisers to plan. However, students will be encouraged and supported to write in a range of genres and contexts.
In 2014 all students in grade six are asked to provide their own *Writer’s Notebook*.

If this has not been provided to your child and brought to school please bring in a scrapbook or journal in the next few days.
The following proficiency strands and content strands provide the language to build on the developmental aspects of the learning of mathematics at year 6. The proficiency strands *Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning* are an integral part of mathematics content across the three content strands: *Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability*. The proficiencies reinforce the significance of working mathematically within the content and describe how the content is explored or developed.
The importance of mathematical knowledge will be highlighted through open-ended challenges and tasks that relate to everyday life.

Emphasis is placed on developing effective and efficient mental strategies and consolidating students’ understanding of place value.
Mathematical skills and concepts will be taught using a variety of strategies, including hands-on activities, maths games, problem solving activities, written work, mental arithmetic practice and integrated activities (where appropriate).

Children will work independently, in pairs, in small mixed ability/ability groups and as a class, depending on the purpose of the activity.
In term one our primary focus will be in the content area of Number and Algebra, specifically:
• Place Value
• Mental Strategies
• Addition
• Subtraction
• Multiplication
• Division
Our term one unit of work, Democracy and Citizenship links very closely to our Canberra Tour. Prior to camp we will learn about a range of national institutions that students will visit whilst in Canberra.

During this term students will investigate the role of citizens in Australia’s democracy. They will examine Australia’s system as a representative democracy and constitutional monarchy. Students will investigate the factors influencing the Australian democratic system, for example looking at absolute monarchy (in Ancient Egypt), direct democracy (in Ancient Athens), the beginnings of constitutional monarchy (with the Magna Carta) in England and the reasons behind moves to federate and forge a nation in Australia at the end of the 19th Century.

The decision to choose Canberra as our national capital will also be investigated.
Further details regarding our term two, three and four units will be provided at the beginning of each term respectively.
The core responsibility for students with regards to homework at this level is the expectation that all grade six children read (either independently or with parental supervision/assistance) for at least 30 minutes each day.

From time to time individual students may be given home tasks to strengthen areas of weakness.

Please discuss any requests for individualised homework for your child with your grade teacher.
It is our expectation that students use their diaries by bringing them into class every morning and taking them home each night.

Students are also expected to use their diaries to record their home reading. A section at the back of the student diaries allows this to be easily recorded. This need not be a chapter book or novel; it might also include a newspaper article, a website or another text type.
Tissues

Of course, from time to time students will have a little sniffle at school.

Unfortunately, the Education Department does not provide us with tissues.

Therefore we ask that every student bring a box of tissues from home at the beginning of the year. This should provide us with ample tissues for the year.
Follow Us!

During the year we will be keeping you up to date with tweets from our Grade 6 twitter account.

Our twitter handle is: @jfairfieldps14

This account will be used to keep you informed during events such as our Canberra Tour.
Now is a good time to ask questions about the grade six program for 2014.

If you want to ask specific questions of your child’s classroom teacher, we are happy to book appointments for meetings at the end of this session.
A big thank you to everyone for their attendance at the Grade Six Parent Information Evening. We hope you found this evening informative.