Dear Parents and Caregivers of Stage 3,

Welcome back to 2013! Stage 3 has had a positive and fairly settled start to the year. The students are working hard in class and generally showing respectful and safe behaviour on the playground. A few key things to note at the start of the year include:

- Please make sure your child is arriving at school **ON TIME**. Being late impacts negatively on your child’s learning, whereas being on time sets up good habits for the future and makes learning easier.
- Please make sure your child is getting **PLENTY OF SLEEP**! As teachers, we are concerned when many of our students come to school exhausted because they simply did not get enough sleep. Again, this has an extremely negative impact on their learning.
- Please make sure your child has a **BOTTLE OF WATER** and **HEALTHY FOOD** for recess and lunch. Again, this makes a huge difference on your child’s ability to focus and concentrate throughout the day.

For our Year 6 parents, high school forms and information will be sent home with your child as soon as we receive them. We will let you know about upcoming open days, selective high school tests and orientation days for the schools in this area throughout the year. Please speak to Mr Fitzpatrick or Ms Smith if you have any queries regarding high school for your child.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss your child’s progress or ask any questions. You can ring the school on 9750 0652 or email us at:

- Mr Fitzpatrick – peter.john.fitzpatrick@det.nsw.edu.au
- Mrs Peter – bree.grant4@det.nsw.edu.au
- Ms Smith - naomi.smith32@det.nsw.edu.au

With every good wish,

**Stage 3 Teachers**

**Mrs Janet Burling**

**Principal**

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**PLEASE TURN OVER FOR A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING FOCUSES IN STAGE 3 FOR TERM ONE.**
Our learning focuses for term one:

### English
- Writing an exposition
- Spelling and the four types of spelling knowledge – phonological, etymological, morphemic and visual
- Reading comprehension strategies
- Our grammar focus will be on writing clearly structured sentences, using tense correctly and using adjectives effectively

### Human Society and its Environment
We will be investigating rainforests and attempting to answer the questions:
- What is a rainforest and where do you find them?
- What makes up a forest ecosystem?
- Who and what depends on a rainforest and why?
- What is the human impact on rainforests and how can we protect them?

### Maths
Each maths lesson this term will begin with counting and number revision, followed by teaching on the following topics:
- Whole numbers
- Time
- Patterns and Algebra
- Data
- Addition and Subtraction
- Money
- Multiplication and Division
- 2D Space
- Angles
- Fractions
- Volume and Capacity
- Position
- Chance

### Personal Development and Health
During our PDH lessons, we will be learning how to keep safe and healthy while exploring issues such as bullying, friendship and body image.

We will be using the ABC3 Kids website below, so feel free to visit the site and talk about it with your child.

http://www.abc.net.au/abc3/mygreatbigadventure/

### Sport
- Our daily fitness program consists of rotating between aerobics, dance, a fun run, relays and circuit activities.
- Friday afternoon sport involves rotating between table tennis, kickball, continuous cricket and other organised sport, unless your child attends PSSA sport.

If you or a family member have particular skills in one of these areas or would be able to spend a little time in our class this year helping out, please let me know.

We are always in need of an extra hand and value your support.