**Welcome Back**

We hope that you and your children have had a fantastic holiday and that you are ready for another busy term at GIPS. We have lots of exciting events planned for the coming weeks and look forward to all that our Grade 3 students will learn and achieve during Term 2.

**Literacy**

This term, as part of the reading program, students will explore a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. A major focus will be on comprehension skills, and completing research tasks that relate to our integrated studies topic. Students will continue to take part in daily ‘free choice’ writing sessions as part of the Writer’s Notebook program, and will be encouraged to experiment with different text types. Students will also be revising the organisational structure of narratives and persuasive texts, and examining the key language features of these text types. Regular spelling and grammar activities will give students the opportunity to look at suffixes and prefixes, and consolidate their understanding of punctuation, homophones and contractions. This week, some Grade 3 students have presented their celebration talks to their classmates. We have been very impressed with how well prepared the students have been, and look forward to learning more about a variety of celebrations during the next two weeks.

**Numeracy**

In Maths we will continue to have a major focus on Number. Students will be extending their understanding of place value, number patterns and relationships, and explore the four operations (multiplication, division, subtraction and addition). We will also be investigating a range of other topics including location and direction, length and perimeter, money and problem solving strategies.

**Integrated Studies**

Our integrated unit of work for this term is Celebrations and Commemorations which focusses on the curriculum areas of History and Civics and Citizenship. The students will be investigating how and why people choose to remember significant events of the past. The students will be utilising a range of thinking, research and social skills to conduct investigations and find answers to their questions about this topic. We know that our parent community can be a wonderful resource for our investigations and is something we really value at GIPS. Therefore, we would like to invite parents who may have artefacts or personal experiences related to our topic to come along and share them with the Year 3 classes. Please contact your child’s teacher if you would like to contribute in any way.
**NAPLAN**

On Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th of May all of the Grade 3 students will be participating in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). In the coming weeks we will be starting to prepare the students for this assessment program by working through example questions during our weekly Literacy and Numeracy sessions. More details about NAPLAN will be sent home shortly, however information is also available on the ACARA website – www.nap.edu.au. If you have any concerns about NAPLAN, please see your child’s teacher or Barb Maclarn, our Assessment and Reporting Coordinator.

**CAMP**

Very soon, all of the Grade 3s will be heading off on their first school camp at Camp Manyung in Mount Eliza, an exciting and highly anticipated event for staff and students alike. Final payment is due on **Friday the 8th of May**, however any part payments can be made prior to this date. Last week you will have received a Confidential Medical Information form. Please have these filled out and returned by **Monday the 4th of May**. For parents who would like more information, or have questions, there will be an information evening closer to the camp date – stay tuned! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to be a parent helper on camp. We are lucky to have Tony Dimopoulos, Neil Hodgson and David Humphrey joining us, and we are very grateful that they are giving up their time (and sleep!) to help make this a happy and memorable occasion for all of our students.

**COMMUNICATION**

Just a reminder that in the case of a child’s absence, parents are required to provide a note stating the reason for absence even though you may have advised us of your child’s absence either in person or by a phone call to the office.

**TAKE HOME READING**

Grade 3 students should be reading for 15 – 20 minutes every day. Please support your child by confirming that they have filled in their take home reading books in their Home Reading Diary. We also encourage all students to borrow library books on a weekly basis.

We look forward to a wonderful term and appreciate your continued support.

Rebecca Givogue, Mary-Anne Jansen, Niki Judd and Tanya Tomic
Grade 3 Teachers

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**GRADE 3 TIMETABLE**

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<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>PE 3J</td>
<td>Library (All Grades)</td>
<td>Art 3J</td>
<td>Art 3G &amp; 3TJ</td>
<td>Assembly (Fortnightly)</td>
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