Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome to Year 1 for 2017. We all hope you have had an enjoyable, safe holiday and are ready for a fun and productive year ahead. Thank you for your help in ensuring your child has had a happy start to the new school year by supporting the school routine and procedures.

We are pleased to introduce our teaching staff for Year 1. Through extensive collaboration at all stages of planning and the implementation and assessment of learning programs, we aim to provide a quality learning environment to successfully meet the needs of all students.

### Year 1 Programs

During the first initial days of school, your child has been participating in our Personal Development and Health program of Healthy Choices, where topics of Road Safety, Sun Safety, Cyber Safety, Drug Education as well as Fire and Water Safety were explored as part of the PDHPE Stage 1 program.

Over the coming first few weeks, students will be participating in initial formal and informal assessments in order for teachers to gather valuable information on their students. We will also be establishing class routines, discussing school and class rules and having fun getting to know each other in our new classes.

### English

During literacy, students will be participating in speaking and listening activities, reading and comprehension, as well as a variety of writing activities which are based on the NSW English syllabus. Guided, modelled and independent reading and writing will be used throughout classrooms. The children will be taught to write using a variety of genres, with an emphasis
being placed on their use of spelling strategies, grammar and punctuation in context. Students will be given differentiated spelling lists each week where the focus is on the phonemic sound of the words. Activities will focus not only on teaching children how to spell but also on how to transfer this knowledge to their writing.

All classes will soon begin **Literacy groups**. Teachers will be asking for parent volunteers to assist with these groups in the coming weeks.

**Mathematics**

During numeracy lessons, students will be participating in differentiated activities which develop their skills in the strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability. Our teachers have worked collaboratively to program a variety of hands-on and written activities based on the NSW Mathematics syllabus where mathematical strategies have been sequenced over the course of the year. Teachers will also be implementing the **TEN (Targeting Early Numeracy) program** within their numeracy groups and children will be working in small groups on games and activities differentiated to their numeracy level.

**History**

This year, we will be implementing the NSW K-10 History Syllabus with two topics over the course of the year. During Term 1, we will be exploring the topic, **Present and Past Life**.

**Science and Technology**

Students will be involved in weekly Science activities each week, actively learning through exploratory play, observations and inquiry-based learning. This term’s topic is, **Look! Listen!** Students will also have a weekly session in our PC lab to develop their computer skills and they will be using iPads to complement classroom activities.

**Creative and Practical Arts**

During the semester, students in Year 1 will be taking part in creative and practical arts activities where each child will participate in music, drama and visual arts. Children will also have a weekly dance session with Ms Morgan Randall or Mrs Amber Kriletich. **Dance days are Mondays for 1T, Wednesdays for 1R and 1M and Fridays for 1C, 1P and 1S.** Please ensure your child wears their sports uniform and sneakers for their dance session.

**Sport and Fitness**

This term, sport will be taught as part of the classroom program with the class teachers. Sport days are **Tuesdays for 1S, 1M and 1R and Wednesdays 1P, 1T and 1C.** Please ensure your child wears their sport uniform on these days.

**Homework**

**Home Reading:** We will begin home reading in the coming weeks. All teachers will be assessing children’s home reading levels on an individual basis. Once your child’s reading has been assessed, their home reading level will be adjusted. Readers are given so that students are fluent with their text and are able to easily understand literal comprehension. Further information on home reading will be sent home with readers.

**Formal Homework:** Formal homework will begin in **Week 5.** Homework will be send home each **Tuesday** and is due back each **Monday.** We will explain the homework expectations and organisation during our Parent Information Evening.

**Mathletics and Reading Eggs:** Part of our homework will involve your child accessing their Mathematics program via the Internet. Usernames and passwords with further information will be sent home soon.
**Library**

Your child will have a regular weekly borrowing session in the library with Mrs Ellen Swick. Library day is **Tuesday for 1P, Wednesday for 1C, 1T and 1M and Friday for 1S and 1R.** Your child will need their **library bag** in order to borrow.

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**Additional Information**

### Pick up and drop off

All children are to place their bags in their class lines under the cola in the mornings after 8:50am and then be seated by the second bell.

To assist your child in developing their independence and to ease congestion in our line up area, we ask that you say goodbye to your child by the bell or wait behind the class lines so children have full attention to their teacher’s instructions.

In the afternoons, **1P, 1T and 1C children are collected at the bottom of the steps** near the big tree, while **1M, 1R and 1S children are collected from the basketball court.** If your child is attending after school care or catching the bus home, please ensure your child is aware of this and advise your child’s teacher via a written note.

### Parent Helpers

Please be aware that as part of the Department of Education and Communities policy, any volunteer must complete a Working with Children Check. You must complete an application at the school office using a 100 point identity check. Working with Children Checks will be current for 5 years. This applies to all parent helpers, including classroom helpers and those parents attending school excursions.

### Equipment

Most children have now ordered or brought in the required Stage 1 equipment and have paid for student textbooks. The **stationery and class requirements list for Year 1 is attached.** To support our class routines, most stationery items are pooled together in order for students to work collaboratively in differentiated groups.

To support hands-on lessons during art and craft activities, we ask that parents assist their child’s class by bringing in a packet of baby wipes. We also ask if girls can bring in hand sanitiser and boys bring in a packet of paper towels.

Thank you for your support. We encourage you to speak to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

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Kind regards,

**Jenni Milburn**

*Stage 1 Assistant Principal*

**Julie Organ**

*Principal*
Stage 1 Equipment List for 2017 – Year 1

Below is the Year 1 list of stationery and class requirements for 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAEDTLER NATURAL HB PENCIL Bx12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITEBOARD MARKERS 4 PACK (COLOURED)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOSTIK BLUE GLUE STICK</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELCO ERASER MAXI</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUBLE HOLE PENCIL SHARPENER</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCISSORS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISPLAY BOOK A3 20PCKT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISPLAY FOLDER A4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 DOCUMENT POCKET WITH BUTTON</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGNETIC WHITEBOARD ERASER</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEADTLER NOVIS CLUB MAXI 10 PACK – COLOURED PENCILS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RULER 30CM CLEAR PLASTIC SOVEREIGN</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OPTIONAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEADPHONES SET WITH VOLUM CONTROL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONNECTOR PEN TEXTAS – WALLET 20 FABER CASTELL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most resources will be shared within the class and children will not require a pencil case this year.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

**Jenni Milburn**
*Stage 1 Assistant Principal*

**Julie Organ**
*Principal*