Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the Year 6 students and families for 2017. The students are now settled in the home rooms for each class, with teachers already establishing expectations for the year. Our aim in Year 6 is to provide a highly collaborative environment where students are well prepared for their academic, social and emotional needs for High School. Our focus on learning will be explained in further detail on our Parent Teacher Evening on Monday, 20th February at 6pm. Parents are also invited to attend an information session with the Principals of Mackellar and Balgowlah Boys’ at 5.15pm in the hall.

Teachers for 2017 are:

| 6M Mrs McLean | 6C Mrs McMaster |
| 6T Mr Turner | 6P Mr Pye |

Students have already participated in the ‘Healthy Lifestyle’ program during the first week of the term, completing lessons in Bounce Back, Cyber Safety, Drug and Alcohol Education, and Road and Sun Safety. As well as establishing routines and timetables over the next few weeks, teachers will also be conducting formal and informal assessments in Key Learning Areas.

We are already impressed with the attitude of students as school leaders. Many are wearing correct uniform each day, which is particularly important in their position as role models of the school, as is their standard of behaviour throughout the year. In Term 1 we will be organising the students for their ‘Hoodies’ and a note will come home as soon as we know costs and sizes. We ask that sports uniform only be worn on appropriate days which will be Dance on Mondays and sport on Fridays.

Classroom needs.
Students will be issued with text books this week and already have their exercise books. Most students are well equipped with the necessary classroom items and if you did not receive an equipment list last year there are spare copies in each classroom.

English.
In English, 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. In Writing, the focus will be on descriptive text. As part of our Visual Literacy unit the grade will be studying the novel ‘The Lost Thing’ and ‘The Arrival’ by Shaun Tan. Students will also participate in cross grade reading groups focusing on the Super Six Reading Strategies. Reading skill development using guided, modelled and independent activities will also be supported by resources such as the School Magazine and Reading Eggs. Students will be given differentiated spelling lists each week. Activities will focus not only on teaching children how to spell but also on how to transfer this knowledge to their writing.

Maths.
Strands to be covered this term include whole number, addition and subtraction, patterns and algebra, data, length and 2D space. Problem solving skills will be a focus for all strands. Students will be grouped according to ability for a number of lessons each week, with Mrs Bruce also taking a Maths Enrichment
class once a week. Mathletics, iMaths text books and the Maths Olympiad will also be incorporated in the Maths program.

History
The unit of work to be studied will be ‘Australia as a Nation’. This will focus on investigating the contributions significant individuals and groups have made to the development of Australian society.

RFF for Year 6 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
This year all Year 6 students will have **Music** with **Ms Esparraga** and **Science** with **Mrs Bergelin** for Semester 1. The science unit will be ‘Change Detectives’.

Kinder Buddies.
Term 1 will see the establishment of Kinder Buddies in Week 4. The students will meet with their Buddies once a week from weeks 5-10, participating in a variety of activities throughout the term.

Leadership development.
We are also currently training the students in their role as PLP leaders within the school in which they take active roles assisting in the school playground throughout the year. The students will also be attending the Young Leaders Conference (also known as **Imagination**) at the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour on Friday, 3rd March. They will have the opportunity to listen to prominent leaders from all walks of life such as the young explorer Jade Hameister, the youngest person to explore the North Pole, and Dr Jordan Nguyen, a biomedical engineer who uses technology to create life changing resources for people with disabilities.

Homework
Homework will begin next week. It will cover a variety of subjects including weekly spelling and reading, maths activities, Mathletics and research assignments. This will be explained in more detail by the teachers on the Parent Information night, including the use Google Classroom for submitting assignments and homework tasks. We will be gradually implementing these activities as the term progresses.

Dates to remember.

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>15th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. High School Principals Information session</td>
<td>20th February at 5.15 pm in the hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>20th February at 6.00 pm</td>
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<td>7. Young Leaders Conference</td>
<td>3rd March</td>
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<td>8. Selective High School Test</td>
<td>9th March</td>
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<td>10. Canberra and the Snow</td>
<td>24th - 26th July</td>
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We look forward to meeting parents at our Year 6 Information Evening where each teacher will explain their class routines, expectations and yearly overview. We will also be supplying updated information on High School enrolment procedures for 2018. If, however, you have any concerns prior to this evening, please don’t hesitate to contact the school and make an appointment with your class teacher to discuss any issues.

Kind Regards,

Sue McLean, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Julie Organ, Principal