Welcome
Welcome to the SSPS school year of 2012. Our team this year comprises of Mrs Sheryl Ecker, Ms Flavia Petrucci, Mrs Julie Jellis and Miss Danielle Canavan. Mr Charlie Kenez will also be working closely with our team, one day a week, providing extra support in English and Mathematics. This will allow us to target specific learning needs in smaller groups than the current grade sizes. Due to the success of the Quick Smart Maths Program in 2011, it will be implemented again at the Year 4 level in 2012. Mrs Sally Blaber will continue to run this program. We look forward to another exciting year of learning at Syndal South, including our school concert extravaganza in October.

English
Our learning focus for English for Term 1 will be developing comprehension skills in relation to identifying the main idea, sequencing events, distinguishing between fact & opinion and comparing and contrasting events. Our writing focus will be persuasive text; learning to present one point of view and then presenting more than one point of view allowing the reader to examine both arguments.

Inquiry
Our Inquiry unit for Term One is ‘Why come to Victoria?’. Students will investigate the human and physical characteristics of regional Victoria. They will learn about major land uses, communication networks and the location and variety of National Parks in Victoria. Students will develop an awareness and understanding of the effects of people’s interactions with their environment and the ways in which these affect their lives.

Music
In Level 3, students have a combined class with others in their year level to learn the skills and techniques of playing the descant recorder. In this class they experience formal written music and the skill of ensemble playing. Each class also participates in a variety of songs and activities from the ABC Sing book for 2012. Choir will occur in term 3. ‘The Rhythm Works’ is a percussion group who will entertain the school in term 4. Music classes develop skills such as singing, playing, moving/dancing, listening, performing and creating. In term 3, students can perform their own compositions in the ‘Song Writers’ festival, held in September. The school concert will be held in October.

Japanese
The topic is Sushi. Students will be able to order sushi in Japanese. They will do role play between a customer and a sushi shelf. Also Grade three students are introduced the hiragana reading assessment which they will read hiragana words and get certificate.

Physical Education
Years 3/4 have commenced their swimming sessions at the newly constructed Aquatic Centre at Huntingtower. I have already been getting lots of positive feedback about the new facility and the quality program that they are offering. Weekly Physical Education sessions are concentrating on athletics in preparation for the Twilight House Sports to be held at Waverley Athletics Track on Friday 23rd March commencing at 4pm. Weekly Summer Sport has also commenced, with the students participating in games of cricket, softball, tee ball, rounders and Danish rounders.

Our Motto for this Year “Have a go!”

Extra Curricular Activities for this Term
Swimming.

Reminders
Please remember to sign your child’s diary each week to show that you have seen them finish their required weekly reading.

Visual Arts
Colour is the main focus in art lessons in term 1. Students have made a colour wheel and are investigating how to create secondary and tertiary colours from the primary colours. Creating tints and shades by adding black or white to a colour will also be investigated. Students will view paintings by well-known artists and will examine how various artists use colour in their paintings. Students will also take photographs that show the colours in nature around the school. Since the students will be using paints and food dyes it is most important that they have a suitable protective art shirt or smock to wear each week. Please make sure your child has an art shirt that is clearly named.