Term 1 Important Calendar Dates

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1 Begins</td>
<td>Thursday 2nd February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team building day</td>
<td>Tuesday 7th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome back BBQ</td>
<td>Friday 10th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canberra Tour Camp</td>
<td>Monday 20th – Friday 24th Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDSSA Swim Trials at Huntingtower</td>
<td>Tuesday 28th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDSSA Summer Sport Round Robin at Jells Park</td>
<td>Friday 2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Day – No school</td>
<td>Monday 12th March</td>
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<td>School photos</td>
<td>Wednesday 14th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate Syndal Day</td>
<td>Friday 16th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td>Monday 19th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ride2School Day</td>
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<td>SSPS Twilight Sports at Waverley Athletics Track</td>
<td>Friday 23rd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDSSA Athletics Carnival at Knox Athletics Track</td>
<td>Thursday 29th March</td>
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<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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Welcome back to the start of 2012. We hope that your children were able to enjoy their school holidays and are ready to begin the school year refreshed and enthusiastic. This parent newsletter will give you an insight into what will be happening within the senior school and what the students will be learning and covering this term.

Melinda Baumgarth, Nicole Lush, Maria Giannone-Perrin, Michelle Dodson, Leanne Chidgey and Gabby Hutchison

Inquiry Learning
Our Inquiry topic is:
Who has the power?

Our key understandings are:
- Citizens in a democracy have rights and responsibilities.
- There are three levels of government in Australia which influence different aspects of our lives.
- There is a process for making a changing rules in the home, school and community.
- Australia’s policies change over time to suit the needs of the community.

The key questions are:
- What are the key features of the Australian political, government and legal systems?
- How are decisions made at home, school and government?
- How can we bring about change?
The children will move through the stages of Inquiry (Tuning In, Finding Out, Sorting Out, Going Further, Taking Action and Reflecting) to investigate, and apply their understandings.

Literacy and Numeracy
This term, we will be focusing on persuasive writing in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.
In Mathematics, we will be focusing on a number of areas. These will include place value, number patterns, square, square root, prime, composite and cubed numbers, number facts, and BODMAS.

Home Tasks
Grade 5/6 students are expected to read for a minimum of 1 ½ hours per week and should record their reading in their diary each week, to be signed by a parent and teacher.
Children may also be required to finish any work that they did not complete during allocated class time.
Clear, explicit explanation and expectations of tasks will be given when whole cohort home tasks are distributed. For any further clarification, students should ask their teacher as soon as possible after distribution of the task.

General Information
Punctual arrival to school
Instruction starts at 9:00am and arriving even 5 minutes late can mean your child has missed out on information about the day, which puts him/her at a disadvantage. Late arrivals and early departures must be signed in or out at the office and handed to your child’s teacher.

School Diaries
Diaries will be kept up to date with school events and student deadlines. Could parents please read and sign the school diary weekly.
School diaries may be used for parent/teacher communication when necessary.

Meeting times for teachers
Team and Professional development meetings for all teachers will continue to be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons beginning at 3.45pm and finishing at 5pm. Please understand that teacher availability will be limited during these times.
Significant Dates to remember -:
28th Feb - SDSSA Swim Trials at Huntingtower

2nd March – SDSSA Summer Sport Round Robin at Jells Park
23rd March – SSPS Twilight Sports at Waverley Athletics Track
29th March – SDSSA Athletics Carnival at Knox Athletics Track

Parents are always more than welcome to attend any of the above activities.
As you can see we have another BIG term in sport coming up!

Music
Level 4 students further develop their musicianship through a variety of activities offered as general class lessons and also extension classes. These activities could include choir, xylophone, drumming, song writing, improvisation and recorder ensembles. General class lessons strengthen students’ listening, interpretation of rhythm and the experience of music from a variety of genres. For example, thoughtful presentation of songs (using the ABC Sing book for 2012), preparation of creative tasks, formal written work and appropriate responses as audience, performer or learner.

Art Program
The main area of study for Term 1 will be Australian Art. This ties in very well with the excursion to Canberra and the visit to the National Gallery of Australia where students will have the chance to see a selection of the best Australian Art. All students will have the chance to select their own Australian artist to study and prepare a visual and oral presentation to their class. This project will take the form of a homework task this term. Students will have the chance to explore some painting and drawing techniques used by the artists they have studied.

Please ensure that your child has a suitable protective shirt to wear in all art lessons as some of the paints and dyes are very difficult to wash out of school clothing.

LOTE
This term’s topic is Japanese history—Where have samurai spirits gone? The focus will be on the Samurai era history and how they lived.