Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Another busy term is well underway. The majority of students have settled in to an excellent routine and are engaged in some exciting areas of study.

Our major focus this term is ‘survival’ which we are addressing through English, science and visual arts. Across the stage, students are enjoying rich literature by Colin Thiele or Gary Paulsen, two authors who are masters of imagery. In focusing on the language choices made by authors, our key target is unpacking figurative language so our students can use personification, metaphor, etc. to effectively embed imagery in their own writing.

On the theme of survival, Year 5 is well into ‘Project Penguin’ having already spent two days in the field. In week 5, we will be joined by Year 10 mentors from Mackellar Girls’ Campus, who will support our students to work collaboratively in creating a film, performance or display piece to raise community awareness of the threats to the Little Penguin colony in Manly. Our Year 6 students are studying survival of plants and animals through behavioural and physical adaptations beyond Manly’s shores. They have already discovered some very interesting creatures! These units of work address both science and HSIE.

Maths Olympiads is underway, with our team preparing for the first round of competition with Ms Marshall. This program runs on Tuesday mornings for two terms. It is open to students from Years 5 – 8 within Australasia and therefore, a challenge for primary school students. The remaining students will be grouped across the stage and also focus on problem solving strategies at varying levels of difficulty.

Our RFF teachers, Ms Wilcher and Mrs O’Driscoll, are working in the key learning area of creative arts this term through a combination of music and drama. They have planned an engaging program where students are exploring improvisation in music and/or drama, as well as other drama forms such as mime and play building. Our students are enjoying the opportunity to work creatively.

PSSA begins this term – if the rain holds and the fields dry out! Many of our students are involved in this competition which provides a wonderful opportunity to get active and compete against students from nearby schools. All our students have signed a code of conduct form and we seek your support in maintaining appropriate behaviour on and off the field.

Also within the PDHPE syllabus this term, students will be participating in the Child Protection program; an important series of lessons that develops the skills for personal safety and how to seek help if needed. This program is delivered by the class teacher.

I would like to finish on a ‘uniform’ note and thank you for your support with our endeavours to have all students in correct uniform. As Year 6 students tend to grow at a rate of knots, this can present some challenges as the year progresses. Our second hand uniform shop may be able to assist in this department. Our current challenges are footwear and shorts. Our regular uniform is white socks and black shoes, white socks with runners for sports’ days, and navy school shorts. Skate shoes and black socks for boys and brief, tight shorts for girls are drifting in to the culture. Apart from not meeting uniform requirements, this only creates a sense of competition, which is undesirable.

Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns. We love good news stories too!

Kind regards,

Jennifer McCredie (On behalf of the Stage 3 Team)