Welcome, students, staff and parents to the 2014 academic year. I trust you have enjoyed a restful summer break and are eagerly anticipating the excitement that lies ahead for Term One.

This year we welcome 56 preps and their families to the school. Our school enrolment has climbed to 284 and increased the number of classes to 12. We also warmly welcome Nicholas Bevilacqua as our new Grade 2/3 teacher to Seaholme Primary and Rebecca Swinton who will be supporting our Art and Music classes.

Term 1 is shaping up to be very busy with the Japanese Nagoya University Student Homestay Program, Family Picnic & Movie Night, Summer Sport competition for the grade 5/6’s and interschool Swimming Carnival.

Our school has been a successful applicant for a 2014 CASS Foundation Education Grant. This grant will allow us to engage a recognised artist to work with teachers and students in a planned sequence of curriculum-related activities during Term 2 and Term 3, titled ‘Reflections On Our Landscape to Create Our Own Ecosystem’. We will provide further information regarding this project in future newsletters.

Thank you to students, staff and parents for such a positive start to the school year. I look forward to working closely with everyone to optimise the learning opportunities for all of our students.

Have an enjoyable week.

Merridy Patterson
Music News
Mrs Bansky’s piano lessons will begin next Monday 10th February. If you require a piano lesson note, you’ll find them at the general Office. A reminder that all money and notes should be returned by this Friday 7th.

Guitar lessons will commence next Tuesday.

All students in grade 3 & 4 should have their recorders and they should be taken to every music lesson.

Second Hand Uniform
Second hand uniform items can be ordered by texting your order to Janeen on 0435739436. I’m not at the school unless required, so a text is the best way to ensure I receive your order. The form with the list of available items is located at the front desk. Stock is in short supply so your order may not be fully met. Clean used items in good condition for donation to the second hand uniform stock can be left at the front desk.

Swim Trials
Trials will be held tomorrow, Thursday 6th February at Bayfit Leisure Centre. The bus will be departing school at **8:30am** so students attending will need to arrive at **8:20am** to be ready to go.

Seaholme Primary
Family Picnic & Movie Night

The school will be holding our annual outdoor movie night and we hope you can all come and join in the fun!

Family & friends are all invited.

**DATE:**
Friday 21st February

**TIME:**
Family picnic beginning 7:00pm
Movie to commence at dusk, approx 8:15pm

**SCREENING:**
The Croods (rated PG) 98 mins
The prehistoric comedy adventure follows the world’s first family as they embark on the journey of a lifetime when the cave that has always shielded them from danger is destroyed. Travelling across a spectacular landscape, the family discovers an incredible new world filled with fantastic creatures—and their outlook is changed for ever.

**VENUE:**
School oval (if inclement weather, then school hall)

**COST:**
FREE

**WHAT TO BRING:**
Blankets or beanbags to sit on, food/drink (picnic hamper/ fish ’n chips etc). Low chairs are best to avoid blocking others’ vision. There will be popcorn, choc tops, lollies, drinks etc for purchase on the night.
**Student of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep F</td>
<td>Jerome K.</td>
<td>For trying so hard to write his name independently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep M</td>
<td>Jasmine G.</td>
<td>For an excellent start to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Harper M.</td>
<td>For being an excellent friend to her new classmates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Millicent S.</td>
<td>Asking for help straight away when she needed it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Jonathon N.</td>
<td>Reading independently in all morning reading sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2F</td>
<td>Morris D.</td>
<td>For just getting on with his work and not wasting time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3B</td>
<td>Santiago</td>
<td>For an excellent start to the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L</td>
<td>Noah R.</td>
<td>Welcome to Seaholme Primary School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>William N.</td>
<td>For a fantastic start to the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5W</td>
<td>Mikaela K</td>
<td>Excellent contributions to class discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Journey L-S</td>
<td>For being a quiet achiever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Olivia W.</td>
<td>For a fantastic start to the year and being a valuable team member.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Canteen News**

The canteen has been open every day this week, mainly due to the hot weather and the availability of our canteen coordinator, Cheryl. However, the normal days of canteen operation will return to Wednesdays and Fridays. A canteen price list was sent home last week and you can also find a copy on our website. Lunch orders should be written on a brown paper bag and placed in the lunch baskets provided in the classrooms on the day prior to the canteen days. We are always on the lookout for new parents/grandparents or friends to help out in our canteen, so if you could volunteer any time on our canteen days, please see Cheryl.

**Fun ‘n Funds**

An invitation is extended to any ‘old’ or ‘new’ parents/grandparents or friends to join the Fun ‘n Funds team in the Parents Room next Tuesday Feb 11th after assembly. Our Fun ‘n Funds team do a great job organizing activities during the year to help raise funds that go towards making a difference within our school. Eg. Mothers/Fathers Day stalls, raffles etc. If you are interested, please come along and introduce yourself, have a chat and a cuppa. Toddlers are welcome!!

**EFTPOS IS COMING SOON**

**Access to Classrooms**

You will have noticed that our library is now located in the BER building. There is also a new classroom (1W) located at the other end of this building. The doors at the Millers Road end of the building are the access doors for 1W only. They are not to be used as a thoroughfare. Parents are reminded to use the external doors of ALL classrooms when they are dropping off and collecting their children. Thanks for your cooperation.
Education Maintenance Allowance, EMA, APPLICATION FORMS can be obtained at the

EMA Eligibility:

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2014 for Instalment 1 and 1 August 2014 for the second Instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:

(a) be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and

(b) be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR

(c) be a temporary foster parent AND

(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates

The application form must be lodged at the school by:

28 February 2014 for the first instalment or
1 August 2014 for the second instalment.

Important information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.

If your child transfers schools during the year, you will need to make an application at the new school.

How to Complete the Application Form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT / PARENT

1. Complete the APPLICANT/PARENT DETAILS & STUDENT DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your Centrelink card - unless you are claiming as a Foster Parent or Veterans Affairs Pensioner. You will also need to provide your Centrelink card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, tick the appropriate box. In this case, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner card to the school.

2. Nominate your payment method for EMA. You can choose to have your EMA payment;

   • Paid by direct deposit (EFT) into your nominated bank account or
   • Paid by direct deposit (EFT) to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses.
   • Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or

3. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

   Enter SURNAME AND FIRST NAMES in full.
   Enter the DATE OF BIRTH e.g. 15/09/2007.
   Enter the YEAR LEVEL, unless the student is ungraded, e.g. attending a Special School or Language Centre, then enter ‘UNGRADED’ in the YEAR LEVEL column.

4. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Queries relating to eligibility and payments of EMA should be directed to your school.