Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for 2015! We warmly welcome five new families to JP – the Geluk family, Spence family, the de Jong family, the Cummings family, and the Brewer family. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break with your family and that the holidays have been a great time of togetherness, joy, rest and relaxation. The JP Team are super excited for what lies ahead in JP this year.

The Junior Primary team for 2015 is:

JPRH: Mrs Daniela Repse and Mrs Angela Hicks. Learning Assistant: Mrs Roslyn Berg.
JPS: Mrs Kaye Smith (JP Cluster Leader) and Mrs Ange Smit. Learning Assistant: Mrs Amelia Thomas.
JPT: Miss Susannah Timmins. Learning Assistant: Mrs Narelle Wilson.

At MECS we are committed to partnering and communicating with parents. There are three important ways to stay connected within the MECS and JP community:

- School Newsletter – sent home every Thursday with the youngest child in the family.
- Term Newsletter – sent home at the beginning of each term.
- JP Blog – weekly highlights and updates. All families received an invitation via email to access the blog. Please accept the invitation to stay in contact.

**Dates for your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 6 (Week 1)</td>
<td>JP Summer Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 13 (Week 2)</td>
<td>Parent Morning Tea 9:00am in the Main Staffroom. All welcome. Whole School Assembly 10:00am in the Gym. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 26 (Week 4)</td>
<td>JP Information Coffee Morning 9:00am in the Main Staffroom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 5 (Week 5)</td>
<td>PS Grandparents and Special Friends Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 9 (Week 6)</td>
<td>Labour Day holiday (school closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Mar 10 (Week 6)</td>
<td>JP Excursion to Melbourne Zoo (Further information will be sent home soon, including expression of interest to be a parent helper. It would be helpful (not compulsory) if your child has a green MECS top.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 11 (Week 6)</td>
<td>P/T Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 17 (Week 7)</td>
<td>School photos P/T Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 19 (Week 7)</td>
<td>P/T Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 25 (Week 8)</td>
<td>JP Animal Dress Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Mar 27 (Week 8)</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – 3.15pm dismissal</td>
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<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday April 13</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences Parent Morning Tea 9:00am in the Main Staffroom. All welcome.</td>
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**JP Summer Day – Friday February 6**

This Friday, all Junior Primary classes will enjoy a Summer Dress Up Day! What do you wear in summer? Where do you holiday in summer? What do you do in summer? What do you eat, especially in summer? Students are to come dressed in summer clothes (please abide by the MECS Dress Code) and we will enjoy marvellous activities of writing, craft, exploring, and games.
Animals
We are excited about commencing our Core Studies Investigations unit *Animals* this term. We anticipate a great time of wonder, questioning, exploring, research, and excitement as we seek to investigate the question – *What do animals show us about God?* We learn about the world around us when we wonder, observe, question, and respond. Core Studies Investigations allows students to pursue interests, discover new things, work with others, develop investigation skills, and learn in an open guided learning environment. We hope we will grow in thankfulness to God and understand Him as an amazing and intricate designer and creator. As a part of this unit we will be going on an excursion to the Melbourne Zoo. Further information regarding the excursion will be sent home soon, including expression of interest to be a parent helper. It would be helpful (not compulsory) if your child has a green MECS top to wear on the excursion.

**JP Information Coffee Morning – Thursday February 26**
All Junior Primary parents are warmly invited to come and meet the new JP Team, hear about what is happening in Junior Primary, meet other JP parents, and enjoy morning tea together. The Information Coffee Morning will be held in the Main Staffroom from 9:00am to 10:00am.

Animals Dress Up Day – Wednesday March 25
To celebrate our learning about *Animals*, we are excited to invite parents and families to join us on the morning of Wednesday March 25 at 9.00am in the PUMP Room for a parade of costumes and sharing of some of the wonderful things we have learnt through Term 1. Children and teachers will come dressed as an Animal of their choice. Please work with your child to make an Animal costume from items found around your home.

*Parents and families are invited to join us for a short parade and sharing of learning at 9:00am in the PUMP Room.*

Take-Home Readers
Student readers are chosen within your child’s reading ability and comprehension understanding. They should be easy enough for the child to read with fluency, expression and deep understanding. This year readers will come home Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They are changed each school day (when it is noted the book has been completed) for coloured reading levels. Children who are reading at library level (students alternate between borrowing good-fit non-fiction and fiction books from the school library) are able to change their reader once they have completed the book. The class teacher checks each day to see if a child needs to change their library reader.

All JP children will have a READING RECORD BOOK to record the title of the book, how many pages of the book they read each day, and if they *Read to Self, Read to Someone* or *Listen to Reading*. The class teacher and learning assistant will be checking these regularly.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher if you would like clarification or have any concerns.

Reading Eggs and Mathletics
In JP all students will have access, at home and school, to Reading Eggs, Reading Eggspress and Mathletics. These tools are used within various classroom sessions to engage learners in a variety of ways. You will receive your child’s login details soon.

Parent Helpers
We are thankful for parents partnering with us by being willing to be Parent Helpers in the classroom, and on excursions and camps. All Parent Helpers must have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) and register this at the School Office before committing to becoming a Parent Helper. Shortly a notice will come home for parents to express their interest in being a helper in the classroom and on our Zoo excursion.
Food

**Breakfast** – please ensure your child has a healthy breakfast before school. Research shows we work and concentrate best when we eat breakfast. *Please, no TV prior to school.*

**Brain Food** – each day, at approximately 10/10:10am, we stop for Brain Food. This allows the children to eat fresh fruit, vegetables, sultanas, nuts, cheese and plain yoghurt (unsweetened). Please cut up fruit (i.e. apples/pears/oranges) into smaller pieces.

**Morning Tea** – a nutritional snack is advised (i.e. cheese, fruit/vegetables, crackers, muffin etc.)

**Lunch** – children enjoy eating their lunch inside or supervised outside in the seating area. Please provide the amount of food they can handle e.g. a sandwich/roll, salad box, and a snack.

JP Housekeeping

**Banking:** Student banking is available – for enquiries please contact the School Office. Banking books are to be brought to school each Wednesday.

**Boomerang Bags:** All correspondence, readers, notices etc. from the classroom and home will use the Boomerang Bag. Please ensure your child’s name is clearly written on their Boomerang Bag and that it is brought to school everyday. The Learning Assistants will be checking and changing Boomerang Bags this year.

**Class Timetable:** By now you will have received your child’s class timetable. Please place this in a visible area to know what to bring or wear to school on each day.

**Cushion:** Children are encouraged to bring their own small cushion (clearly named) to keep in the classroom during each term. The cushions are frequently used during various learning sessions. Please bring your cushion to school during Week 1.

**Dress Code:** Please ensure your child is dressed according to the dress code, especially in the warmer weather. Also, please ensure runners are worn to school when your child’s class has PE. Thank you. Details of the dress code can be found at [http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear](http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear)

**Drink Bottle:** To encourage students to stay hydrated please send a drink bottle for water (clearly named) to school each Monday. The drink bottle will remain in the classroom during the week and be sent home every Friday for washing.

**Hats:** It is compulsory to wear a broadbrim hat during Terms 1 & 4. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly named. Children without a hat will not be able to participate in outside activities. We do not keep spare hats due to health issues.

**ICT Agreement:** Before students can use any school ICT (computers, laptops, iPads etc.) a 2015 ICT Agreement must completed. These are emailed directly from our IT Department. Please read and discuss with your child about appropriate use of our IT resources.

**Lunch Orders:** Lunch Orders can be ordered on a Wednesday or Friday. Canteen price lists will be sent home shortly.

**Oval Games:** During Term 1 the ball games allowed on the oval are:
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Soccer
- Tuesday, Thursday – Cricket
**Recyclables/Craft:** We would greatly appreciate the following items (please ensure they are clean):
- Ice-cream containers and lids
- Margarine/butter containers and lids
- Egg cartons **(strictly no egg residue on cartons)**
- Buttons
- Beads
- Wool
- Cardboard
- Nuts and bolts
- Small to medium (i.e. muesli bar / cereal) boxes and packaging (i.e. cling wrap roll) suitable for construction

Due to health regulations toilet rolls cannot be supplied. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Rest:** In the first few weeks of school children need lots of rest as they adjust to the routine of school, plus the days are long and usually fairly warm. Please give them a great start to the school year by making sure they are in bed early as well as enjoying relaxation time in the afternoon - a snack and play time.

**Show and Tell:** A class roster and weekly focus list will be sent home soon. Show and Tell encourages listening and growing in confidence in speaking in front of others clearly. We look forward to hearing each child share with their peers.

**Tissues:** Please send in a box of tissues during Week 1 or 2 for your child’s class. Thank you.

**VIPs:** VIP of the week will commence shortly. Please remind your child, when they are VIP in their class, to bring on:
- Monday: 5 photos
- Wednesday: a ‘ME bag’ containing 5 personal/special objects to show the class.

VIPs will enjoy special privileges throughout the week, including an opportunity to enjoy a special morning tea with our Principal, Ms Sketcher. The class will also make a memento book for each VIP to take home.

We look forward to a wonderful term ahead!

Blessings,

Kaye Smith, Ange Smit, Daniela Repse, Angela Hicks and Susannah Timmins
Junior Primary Teachers