Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Spring break after a brilliant yet busy end to Term 3. This coming term will run for 10 weeks and we are excited about the JP Water Camp at the end of October! We anticipate a fantastic term with students continuing to learn and grow. Junior Primary’s overarching theme for Term 4 is **Water**.

**WATER: SPLISH, SPLASH...THE WONDER OF WATER!**

The Earth and everything in it belongs to God. God uses all of creation, including water, as a means to reveal His creativity and might. The roar of the ocean and the power of the sea provide a glimpse of God’s omnipotence. Water, in its various forms, is a crucial part of the environment and integral to human, plant and animal survival. Throughout this unit we will be exploring water through play, experiments, art and the Oasis Camp.

An activity being conducted in the first week of school is ‘Teddy Washing’. Students will need to bring a small, non-special, washable teddy bear to school by Friday, 18 October (Week 1). The teddy will come home by the end of Week 2.

**PS ATHLETICS DAY – TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER**

Tribal Athletics Day will be held at Morrison’s Reserve on Tuesday, 22 October (Week 2). Students are to wear their tribal shirts/colours and school hat on the day. Further details about the day will come via the PE Department. Parents and families are encouraged to come along and cheer on the children.

**TERM 4 – SUN SMART & SPORT**

It is now compulsory for all Primary students to wear a named MECS bucket hat during Terms 1 and 4. Students are to wear their hat whenever they are outside. We encourage students to bring a named water bottle to school to ensure students remain hydrated throughout the school day. Cricket and soccer are the chosen oval sports during Term 4. Cricket can be played on a Tuesday and Thursday, with soccer being played on the other days.

**DRESS CODE**

As we move into the warmer months it is imperative students are dressed according to the MECS dress code. MECS dress code guidelines can be found by clicking on the link below: [http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear](http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear).

Please also ensure runners are worn to school when your child’s class has PE.

**JP CAMP – THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER TO FRIDAY, 1 NOVEMBER**

The much anticipated JP Camp will be held at Oasis Christian Camp at the end of Week 3. The aim of this camp is to participate in activities relating to our Water Unit, to develop some independence from families in a safe and nurturing environment, cooperate and work as part of a team, be responsible in carrying out duties and finishing tasks, build healthy and strong friendships and enjoy a fabulously fun time!

Further information relating to the camp will be provided closer to the date.
READING EGGS
The children are engaged with the various activities on Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress. This programme is accessible at home and we encourage children to participate in activities at least once a week.

HOME STUDIES
LEM
To enhance literacy understanding it is imperative students continue to practise the LEM phonograms – recognising the letters and all of the sounds.

SPELLING
Each week students are given LEM spelling words and/or High Frequency Words as part of their spelling. Students will write spelling words into their Home Studies book each Monday and choose to complete a different activity Monday to Wednesday. We encourage students to write their spelling words into a sentence to show they understand how to use the word correctly. Each Thursday students are to have a practise test of their words on a scrap of paper.

READERS
Readers are chosen for your child within their reading ability and understanding. They should be easy enough for the child to read with fluency, expression and deep understanding.

We are grateful to the many parents who check Boomerang Bags and change readers. Readers are changed each school day. Students on Library Level are able to change their reader once they have completed the book.

Students, regardless of reading level, are to record the title of the book into their Record Book and have this signed off by a parent.

Reading and spelling homework are incredibly important methods for developing your child’s language skills. We would appreciate your support in completing the required tasks.

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

RECYCLABLE SUPPLIES
Thank you for contributing cardboard boxes, plastic containers, egg cartons and the like. We ask for you to please recycle them at home.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!

Blessings,

Matt Macreadie, Daniela Repse & Susannah Timmins
Junior Primary Teachers

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4:
**Tuesday 22 October 2013**
PS ATHLETICS

**Saturday 26 October 2013**
MECS 40th REUNION / FESTIVAL DAY

**Week 3 (Commencing Monday 28 October)**
GT – will recommence

**Thursday 31 October to Friday 1 November 2013**
JP CAMP

**Thursday 31 October 2013**
Connect JP PARENTS MORNING TEA (Main Staffroom: 9am-10am – toddlers welcome)

**Monday 4 to Tuesday 5 November 2013**
SCHOOL CLOSED: MELBOURNE CUP

**Thursday 19 December**
TERM 4 ENDS