Dear Parents,

Welcome Back
Staff would like to welcome back our students and parents and also extend a warm welcome to our new students starting with us for the first time this year.

We hope all are well-rested and ready for another exciting, challenging and rewarding year.

Changes, Changes, Changes
Classes
First of all I must inform our community of some changes that are necessary to our operations and routines.

For a number of reasons, our class structures will change in the following way…………….

Mrs Savage will teach a straight Kindergarten class.
Mrs Lindsay, (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), returns from maternity leave on a class share basis with Mr Piggott, (Mondays, and Tuesdays) on a year 1 class.
Mrs Thompson is with us for term 1, after which she will go on extended long service leave, running into retirement early next year. She will teach a year 1/2 class.
Mrs Hubbard will be teaching a year 2/3 class.
On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Mr Piggott will teach a 4/5 class, and on the other days the class will be taken with Mr Howell on Monday and Tuesday.
Mrs Westwood will be teaching the year 5/6 class.
I will take over the Release from Face-to-Face role previously filled by Mrs Adams.

These arrangements are not set in concrete and, and as is always the case, depend upon any changes to enrolments as we start the year.

May I also emphasise that in the two classes that will be sharing teachers, there will be every effort made to make the transition between teachers mid-week as seamless as possible, with both teachers collaborating and teaching from the one program.

Lesson breaks
As advised last year, after consultation with P&C, we have re-arranged the lesson break times to maximise instruction time.

Meat the Teacher Information Evening
Coming up soon, on the evening of Monday 9th February, staff will be staying back to hold an information session about the class plans, routines and practices for the coming semester and year.

Topics such as assessment and reporting, homework, excursions, equipment, groupings, rewards, etc will be covered and questions will be welcomed.

We are aware that many parents and carers have a child in more than one class and grade, and we will be splitting the sessions into two times in an attempt to assist some folks to attend both if possible. Between the two sessions, we will all gather in the hall for a general discussion with myself, where topics on whole-school issues will be covered and again questions will be welcomed.

If it is not possible, don’t forget that every teacher will be preparing a hand-out of their discussion topics that will be given to every parent/carer from that class, and also remember that we are always willing to make an interview time to discuss class issues.

The timetable is as follows:
4.30pm – 5.00pm.
Parents from classes KS, (Mrs Savage), 1LP, (Mrs Lindsay & Mr Piggott), 1/2T, (Mrs Thompson).
5.00pm – 5.30pm.
Whole group discussion in hall with Mr Firth and staff.
5.30pm – 6.00pm.
Parents/carers from classes 2/3H, (Mrs Hubbard), 4/5PH, (Mrs Piggott & Mr Howell), 5/6W, (Mrs Westwood).

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.
Bell times are as follows.....
8.30am – if children at school, supervision begins.
9.00am - lessons begin.
(A crunch & sip break at about 10am is timetabled in for classes)
11.00am - 1st half lunch
11.20am - 2nd half lunch
11.40am - lunch ends, middle session begins.
1.40pm - afternoon tea.
2.00pm - lessons resume for afternoon session.
3.00pm - finish.

If children arrive before 8.30am they sit on seats outside kinder room.

Syllabus
We have implemented the new English and Maths syllabus prior to this year and we will be implementing the new Science and Technology syllabus this year, along with planning for the implementation of the History syllabus.

Early Action for Success
All staff will be trained in the implementation of a successful reading program titled Focus on Reading, which will take the whole year for staff to complete.

Year Kinder to Year 2 staff will continue their intensive training in L3 which has shown phenomenal success already, and the emphasise will go to writing and numeracy.

Teacher Performance and Development
As our whole system of accreditation and professional advancement changes, staff will begin a new process for maintaining their qualifications and advancing through teaching levels while ensuring training and development is focussed, targeted and related to the new 3 year plan, which begins implementation this year.

These are just some of the changes that staff is required to grapple with, while maintaining the highest quality of education possible for your child.

Thank you for understanding that over the past 12 months and into the next 24, almost everything we do at the school will change in some way, sometimes enormously.

Rest assured that everything we do is targeted at giving our students the very best education possible.

School Swimming Trials
We will be holding time trials for competitive, suitably able students who turn 8 years old this year and up to try out for the school swimming team to compete at the next level, the Zone Trials.

Our school trials will be held next week at Speers Point Pool, on Thursday 5th February, starting at 9.00am and concluding at about 11.30am.

A detailed note with a nomination section will be sent home this week. If your child has the necessary ability to compete, and is willing to move on to the Zone level, please return the nomination and permission slip immediately.

These time trials are for competitive students who can swim the distances comfortably using the correct stroke technique ONLY.

P&C Meeting
The first meeting of our Parents and Citizens is set down for Tuesday evening the 10th February, starting at 7.00pm in the staff room.

We would love to see new faces and fresh ideas at this first meeting, and again of course at the annual general meeting, set down for Tuesday 10th March, starting at 6.30pm.

Canteen Support
We are always looking for additional support to run our canteen 5 days per week. If you have any time you can spare, please contact the school or Canteen Manager at 49540404 during school hours or in person at the canteen.

Our canteen is a major source of funds that are returned to the children via resources and facilities.

Home Readers Return
At the end of last year many children took home some readers from the school to maintain their reading over the break.

If they haven’t already, could they be returned please so we can begin our 2015 home reading program.

We hope the readers were fun and successful in avoiding that ‘slip’ that sometimes happens over holidays.

Mosquitoes
With the recent rain, we may see, (and feel), a surge in mossies when the sun returns.

It’s often best to have a roll-on or pump repellent in the bag, especially for those with sensitive skin.

Classes
As is the case every year, we will be waiting a couple of days before finalising classes. This is particularly necessary this year as we have had an influx of new enrolments.

We are hopeful of being able to place children into their new classes for the year on Thursday afternoon.

Following this, in only exceptional circumstances will changes be made. I apologise in advance for not being able to organise the whole school around one individual’s request. Staff has taken time to investigate all aspects, including relationships, and have recommended placement that they feel will best suit the child’s progress.

On behalf of the students and staff at Cardiff North Public School.
Thank you for your continued support.
Mr Colin Firth - Principal