Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for taking the time to read our Team Newsletter. It is of utmost importance as there are no Information Evenings this year due to the AEU bans. The 3/4 students have begun the year in a very positive manner. The 3/4 teaching team have been impressed with the enthusiastic and eager approach our students are displaying. Year 3/4 are vital years in your child’s schooling – a time to develop and embed productive work habits, an opportunity to build upon the social relationships from previous years and continue the learning journey in readiness for Year 5/6.

COMMUNICATION
The Year 3/4 Team are committed to building upon and nurturing the partnership between home and school. Communication between home and school is a key factor in assisting your child to achieve his or her best. We encourage you to contact your child’s classroom teacher, Gavin Nelson – Team Leader or our 3/4 Assistant Principal Christian Smith about any issues or concerns you may have. This united approach will enable us to support your child to achieve his or her potential.

STUDENT DIARIES
Your child has a diary that is expected to be at school each day. Please use your child’s diary to communicate with us.

ABSENCES
It is strongly reminded that if your child is absent for any length of time a written letter is required for our recording processes. Also, arriving on time is crucial to how your child starts the day. Please be vigilant! Your assistance here is very much appreciated.

UNIFORM
The correct school uniform should be worn at all times. A note should accompany your child if they are out of school uniform. We appreciate your support with this.

NUDE FOOD
Our school is heavily committed to reducing the amount of waste that is seen and placed in bins at school. We promote ‘nude food’ at any opportunity and ask that your child take home any rubbish in their lunch box that can help our cause. Your support with this.
**READING**

Homework expectations for year 3/4 students are not onerous and time consuming, but it is expected that there should be consistency in completing the following tasks: Independent readers are expected to read appropriate texts most days, and the reading tracked in yellow diaries and signed by adults. Diaries will be handed to some classes daily, others weekly for checking. Please check with your child’s teacher. Students have indicated that they prefer to read their own books from home or libraries.

Some students may have specially selected books matched to their reading levels. These will also be tracked in the yellow diaries also. Please write comments in diaries regarding any concerns or queries that you may have.

**SPELLING**

Spelling varies slightly in every class, however lists have been pasted into homework books. These are high frequency words that are non-negotiable. Students are asked to read and spell words with consistency and creativity is recommended. There are spelling activities to make learning spelling fun; when one sheet is complete, students need to have it signed by you, and move on to the next sheet. (there is an endless supply!!) Spelling can also be reinforced by SPELLODROME which is on the MATHLETICS website.

www.mathletics.com.au
www.spellodrome.com.au

**MATHS**

It is recommended that students use Mathletics on a daily basis if possible. The improvements in automatic response skills have been significant in students who use this program consistently. Rainforest Maths is also an excellent website attached to Mathletics and highly recommended. Times Tables are in the yellow diaries for ready access for practice and will be checked at school, however a greater emphasis is placed on place value.

**INTEGRATED UNITS**

This term our Integrated unit is Our Australian Story which will follow a number of events in Australian history including pre-European settlement, The First Fleet, Exploration and the Discovery of Gold. If you have any queries or concerns throughout the year, or just want to come in for a visit, please just let your teacher know.

Term 1  Our Australian Story
Term 2  Our Australian Story
Term 3  Cockatoo Island
Term 4  TBA

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

This year we will be holding our camp at Sovereign Hill. The dates of this camp are held between May 13 to May 17. Information regarding the camp will begin to filter out shortly.

Our swimming program is also strongly recommended that children participate in and the dates are Monday 9th September to Friday 20th September inclusive.

Bike Education too is held at school over one week. This will be in Term 2 and children have the option of leaving their bikes at school overnight in the classroom.

**LUNCHTIME CLUBS**

Torquay College offer our students a variety of activities and clubs at lunch times. The lunch time clubs timetable was published in last week’s newsletter and is displayed in all classrooms. We encourage you to discuss these opportunities with your child.

**CAMP**

We hope the government makes a fair and reasonable offer on our bargaining agreement soon so that it will not disrupt our camp program. At this point in time however we will be going to Sovereign Hill for a two day camp. Camp will be spread out across the week beginning Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May.