Welcome back! Welcome back to school and the first edition of ‘In a Nutshell’! We both really hope that you’ve had the opportunity to have some time with your precious families over the holidays. So… Welcome to Year 5! We look forward to working with you in providing a year of positive and unique learning opportunities for your child. We promise that this is the longest newsletter that will be sent home this year!

Stationery We reviewed the stationery list at the end of last year and were able to simplify the list considerably. One of our goals is to encourage students to both maintain effective organisation and to take care of their personal resources. If you have any stationery left over from last year that you would like your child you utilise please feel free to send it in with them and we will store it in the classroom for future use.

‘Tool Kits’ Your child has been provided with a small transparent ‘Toolkit’ (pencil case). The contents of this ‘Toolkit’ are ‘minimal by design’. The aim of this ‘Toolkit’ is to simplify your child’s belongings and encourage ownership of them. We have discussed the contents of the toolkits and the reason behind them to the students. If you and your child would still like to send in a larger pencil case, we will ask that they are kept in the lockers to allow optimum space on their desks for their MacBooks and other learning materials. Bigger items such as rulers and glue sticks will be kept in small pots on the children's desks.

Uniform Both classes will need to wear their sports uniform on Wednesdays (PE lesson) and Fridays (beach fitness). Sports shoes should be ‘mostly white’ as stated in the school uniform policy.

Reading Focus We focus on reading fluency and comprehension strategies this term. Research tells us that ‘Reading Volume’ is paramount to children becoming more effective readers. Put simply, our students need to read as much as possible, as often as possible. Our learning design this term aims to further increase the volume of texts that our students read, through not only our Daily 5 Literacy program, but through exploring Non-Fiction texts, news articles and various texts.

It is imperative that this continued focus on Reading is supported at home. We ask that students read for at least 15 minutes a night. While some children read far more than this, some of our students would struggle attending to home reading at all. Sharing the ‘reading experience’ with your child is the most important and influential way you can positively influence your child’s learning at home. Research tells us that parental interest and involvement is the #1 influence on children becoming effective, enthusiastic and life-long readers.

Each student has a personal ‘Reading Box’ in the classroom. Please send in 3 personal reading texts for use in our Daily 5 program. Magazines, graphic novels and comic books are most welcome!

Single Gender Reading Workshops Following on from this on a Friday morning students will be separated by gender for an additional ‘Reading Workshop.’ These sessions will be aimed at utilising the Reading Skills – Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics & Phonological Awareness. We are aware of the fact that boys and girls both learn and engage with texts differently and we anticipate that this will be a fruitful and fun experience for all of us!

Inside Out Early this term we commence an integrated Religion and Health unit to accompany our work on Social and Emotional Intelligence. We plan to use the Disney Pixar movie ‘Inside Out’ to provide a reference point for identifying emotions and providing strategies for how to deal with them. The movie is about a girl named Riley Andersen and within her mind, five personifications of her basic emotions—Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger—gradually come to life and influence her actions. Even more so as she faces change in her life when she moves interstate and has to make new friends. We see this as being a great entry point into our work on self and identity.

Please fill in the permission slip sent home and return it by Monday of Week 2.
### The Kitchen Garden Program
As Yr. 5’s we are engaged in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The program teaches students to grow fresh, seasonal produce and use it to prepare nutritious, delicious food. We are fortunate that the Multipurpose room now has 2 brand new kitchens for students to use. Students will be given skills and experiences that give them greater insight into the cycle of produce and cooking and sharing a meal. Our first task is to prepare the gardens and plant appropriate produce for the season. Parent involvement is always needed during these sessions – stay tuned. We’d love for you to come in and give us a hand!

### Edmodo
We will utilise Edmodo as a form of communication with the students this year. Students will be provided with their own login details and we ask that the students check the page once a night for any reminders, notes or observations we have shared. This has proven to be a brilliant platform for students to communicate with each other about their learning. We will also invite you as parents to be part of this ‘online community’ so that you can check in to see what we’ve been learning about and discussing. We will also be using Edmodo to provide educational and inspiring videos that will be discussed the next day.

### Homework
Star of the Sea staff are in discussions regarding homework. At this stage, our homework will be based upon learning spelling words, practising ‘known numerical facts’ and consolidating understanding through the online Study Ladder program.

### ‘Number Club’
Yr 5 students are offered the opportunity to attend ‘Number Club’ on Monday afternoons. This is an opportunity for students to seek extra guidance and consolidate numerical skills with our help. All students are welcome to attend from 3:00 – 3:45pm and will be supervised by both of us. Number Club will begin next Monday 6th February – if you would like your child to attend, please sign and return the permission note that has been sent home.

### MacBook Program
Students will receive their MacBooks on Thursday morning. Our IT Department is finalising the ‘User Agreement’ which will be sent home. Once this has been read through thoroughly and signed by you, your child will be permitted to take their MacBook home.

### Parent Representatives
If you are willing/able to act as a ‘Parent Rep’ for your child’s class, please let us know. This role entails helping to coordinate school events, class excursions and cleaning of desks every now and then.

### Classroom Open Night
Our ‘Classroom Open Night’ will be held on Wednesday 22nd March (Week 8). Keep an eye on the School Newsletter for further details.

### Yr. 5 Camp
Our camp will be held on March 14-15 (after Adelaide Cup holiday) in Week 7 of this term. Both classes will be attending this one night camp in Mylor. Further information will be sent home in a letter in Week 2.

### Gratitude Journals
As part of our daily routine, the students will reflect in a ‘Gratitude Journal’. We are asking for any willing/able parent helpers to pop in on Friday morning to help cover both the journals and our Writer’s Notebooks with contact. If you can help out, please let us know by email. We’ve booked a quiet spot for you in the Board Room from 9am.

### Parent/Teacher Communication
As experienced educators, we know that effective communication with parents is pivotal in ensuring your child has a successful and enjoyable year. We encourage you to email us to make a time to catch up should any concerns arise throughout the year. Whilst we appreciate that it may seem easy to pop in to see us quickly at the start or the end of the day, these are the busiest times of the day for us. Please don’t hesitate to email us to arrange an appointment whenever you feel the need.

Regards,

Georgia & Toby

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