Welcome back to all students and families in the senior school. We trust you’ve had a wonderful break and are ready for the term ahead. A special welcome to Miss Harvey, our new grade 5/6 teacher. If you haven’t already done so, make sure you visit the 5/6 classroom and introduce yourself. Miss Harvey (Alexandra) has a wonderful association with Wandin Yallock PS. It’s true – her primary school years were all spent here at Wandin Yallock, and yes, Mrs McCracken was her grade 6 teacher! Alex has many fond memories of her years at Wandin Yallock and is very keen that her students also love school as she did. We are both looking forward to developing our new professional relationship!

Catherine Byatt (teacher aide) will also be working in the 4/5 room and our team of 3 (Alex, Jo, Catherine) will be planning and working together very closely.

Although term 1 is a short one we have many activities and learning experiences planned. Our Inquiry comes from the Civics & Citizenship strand of the Australian Curriculum with a focus on Government & Democracy. The 5/6 students will of course have first-hand experiences when we visit Canberra, while the grade 4 students will investigate the subject in less depth.

**WRITER’S NOTEBOOK**

We’ll be starting work in our Notebooks on Monday so if you have any ‘seeds’ (photos, brochures, maps etc) please bring them in on Monday.

**5/6 CANBERRA CAMP**

With the camp coming up so quickly, (8th Feb) it is vital that medical forms and other paperwork is collected as soon as possible to assist with planning. If you have not already done so, please ensure medical forms, dietary requirements and student agreements are returned to school by Monday 1st February.

Details regarding departure times, what to bring and emergency contact details will be sent home next week.

Grade 4 students will continue their regular program with Mrs Marshall as their teacher for the week.

**‘HOUSEWORK’**

There is always lots of organising to be done at this time of year. Please help us by:

- Returning 2015 reports
- Naming EVERY THING your child brings to school, especially lunch containers & jumpers.
- Supporting our rubbish free policy and aiming to have ‘nude food’.
- Considering getting a Working With Children Check so that you can assist in the classroom or help with excursions. We particularly need parents of 5/6 students to drive small groups to Yarra Valley FM in Woori Yallock for the ‘Schools In’ radio program. Without parent drivers we cannot continue with this extremely beneficial program. Please see Veronica for information re a Working With Children Check.

**TERM 1 DATES**

- 8th – 12th Feb. - 5/6 Canberra Camp
- 2nd March – Grade 6 Young Leaders Day at Rod Laver Arena
- 11th March – Curriculum Day
- 14th March – Labour Day public Holiday
- 15th March – Grade 6 Activity Day at Lilydale HS
- 22nd March – School Photos
- 24th March – End Term 1

*Alex and Jo*
4/5/6 Information

The senior school is where students begin to take more responsibility for their own learning. They are encouraged to take on responsibilities around the school and act as role models for younger students.

- 5/6H and 4/5M will work closely together, with literacy and numeracy being timetabled at the same time. Students may sometimes work out of their regular classroom, with a mix of students from both classes, with either Mrs McCracken, Miss Harvey or Catherine.
- While grade 6 students are doing peer support activities with their prep buddies, grade 5s will do peer tutoring with the grade 1s (with Miss Harvey) and grade 4s will work on Inquiry topics with Mrs McCracken.
- All grade 5/6 students will be rostered on for Office Duty.
- All 5/6 students will take part in the Yarra Valley FM ‘School’s In’ radio program.
- All grade 6 students will be rostered on for assembly.
- All students have a personal student diary. This is to be used to record important dates, for communication between parents and teachers, and to record weekly reading. Parents are requested to sign the diary each day and students must hand it in each Friday.
- Homework will be given out each Monday. All students received a plastic folder which should come to school every day with their diary and reading book. Notices and money should be kept in the folder. It is expected that all students complete their homework and hand it in, together with their diary, on Friday.
  - 4/5/6 students – Personal spelling words to be tested on Friday.
  - 4/5/6 students – Reading. Aim for 15-20 minutes at least 5 times a week. This can be on weekends. Record what you are reading in your diary, including the page number you are up to, and have a parent sign the page. Books may be chosen from school, home or your library. You must have your reading book at school every day. Students who don’t complete the weekly reading requirements will join the Monday ‘reading club’ at lunchtime.
  - 5/6 students – Maths revision sheet. This is optional for grade 4 students.

- SEMESTER 1 TIMETABLE

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>8.50-9.00</th>
<th>9.00-11.00</th>
<th>11.30-1.30</th>
<th>2.30-3.30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Class Community</td>
<td>4/5M French</td>
<td>5/6H French</td>
<td>Peer support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Time &amp; Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Peer support</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/6H Phys Ed</td>
<td>4/5M Phys Ed</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>5/6H Phys Ed</td>
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<td>4/5M Art</td>
<td>5/6H Jigsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>5/6H Art</td>
<td>4/5M Art</td>
<td>5/6H Jigsaw</td>
<td>4/5M Jigsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>One hour farm session, and one hour sport session, time to be confirmed</td>
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French – Ma Mathers
Art/Phys Ed – Mrs Sharp
Jigsaw – Mrs Watson