What a fabulous time we had in Canberra! By now the 5/6 families would have heard many stories and anecdotes, and realised just how educational the week was! Congratulations to our students, who were a pleasure to take away. Back at school with Mrs Marshall, the grade 4s kept up with our travels, researching a number of venues and responding to Mrs McC’s questions via text. We now begin our Civics & Citizenship unit titled Everyone’s A Leader. This focuses on:

- The rights & responsibilities of being a citizen in a democracy, including; democratic decision making, representative & accountable government, freedom of speech, equality before the law, social justice & equality.
- Knowledge of political & legal systems.
- Identifying the characteristics of a successful leader who contributes or makes changes to their community.
- Human rights, social justice and sustainability issues on a local, national or global level.

**WRITER’S NOTEBOOK**

It was wonderful to see so many students with material for their Writer’s Notebook in the first week of school. Letters, birthday cards, postcards, tickets, menus, natural items such as leaves, etc are wonderful prompts, or seeds, for writing and the students with full notebooks are never short of ideas. Time will be given each Monday to complete a ‘seed page’, so please continue to bring in material.

**‘HOUSEWORK’**

- Thank you to those families who have returned 2015 reports.
- Please ensure EVERY THING your child brings to school, especially lunch containers & jumpers, is named.
- Thank you for your excellent support of our rubbish free policy. ‘Nude food’ is definitely winning over packaged!
- Have you considered 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 for a Working With Children Check.

**HOMEWORK**

Formal homework begins this week. Each student has a homework book that must be returned on Friday with the student diary. Homework sheets are to be stuck into the homework book, not handed in loosely.

1. **Reading – 4/5/6;** Read at least 5 times per week (can be weekends). Record title, page number & minutes read in your student diary. **Parents must sign the diary.** ‘Reading Club’ (Monday lunchtime) is compulsory for students who do not meet reading requirements.
2. **Spelling – 4/5/6;** Individual spelling words are written in the student diaries each Monday. Learn your words by practicing Look, Cover, Write, Check in your homework book. You will be tested on Friday.
3. **Maths – 5/6;** Complete the place value revision on the back of this newsletter. **This is an optional task for grade 4 students.**

**TERM 1 DATES**

- 24th Feb – Parent/Teacher interviews – Details coming soon.
- 1st March – Somers Camp; Select 5/6 students
- 2nd March – Grade 6 Young Leaders Day at Rod Laver Arena
- 8th March – Yarra Valley FM ‘School’s In’ program; Aaron, Grace, Will, Callen
- 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