A very warm welcome to everyone! It is always an exciting time of the year meeting students, staff, parents, caregivers and community members.

The following is a break-down of units of work that will be covered across the first two terms this year.

**ENGLISH:**  Persuasion in speeches - Students understand how text structures and language features combine in media texts to influence audiences. Students will deliver a persuasive motivational speech to promote a point of view.

Reading and creating biographies - Students read biographies to identify text structures and language features. They demonstrate their knowledge of the language features of a biography in a reading comprehension and gather information to create a written biography about a person who has displayed courage.

Reading and creating life writing: Literary memoirs - Students continue their study of life writing by reading and analysing autobiographical narratives, including picture books. They create a literary memoir inspired by an abstract noun, adapting stylistic features of literary texts.

Reading and interpreting literature about Australia and Australians - Students listen to, read and view literature about Australia and Australians, including the close study of a literary text. They explore ideas and viewpoints about events, issues and characters. Students create an imaginative recount to convey a particular point of view.

**MATHEMATICS:** A range of concepts will be covered, some of which will be revision and others a continuation of current learning. These include: index notation, square numbers, fractions, measurement using formulae, 3D shape, properties of 2D shape, percentages, patterns and algebra, linear and non-linear relationships, chance and data and problem solving. A combination of exams, short responses and a group investigation will form the assessment.
**SCIENCE: MOTION** - Students build on their knowledge from Year 4 of how forces affect motion. They develop understandings of balanced and unbalanced forces and apply these to predict and justify conclusions about changes in motion. At the end of the unit, students will apply their understanding of fair testing to construct, test, and modify a balloon-powered racer and analyse the forces acting on the vehicle.

**NAPLAN:** This can be challenging but students will be well prepared and supported throughout testing and the lead up to this testing. Please encourage reading, spelling and math revision on a daily basis.

**ITD:** Students will learn and engage in the safe operating standards expected within Industrial Technology and Design so they can design and develop projects in a safe and timely manner. Students will work both individually and in groups and they will be assessed on their knowledge of workplace safety.

**PASTORAL CARE:** These lessons are centred on student well-being and topics that link with current learning and life experiences. Working with smaller groups and covering relevant topics will provide opportunities to access information within a supportive environment while establishing a strong Junior Secondary setting.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework is handed out on Monday. In addition to a sheet, students must be working on their time tables, spelling and reading on a daily basis. Homework forms an important part of what we do in the classroom. If you are having difficulty assisting with homework or your child is not engaging in regular homework, please contact me immediately. Homework Club and High-school Tutorials are available. Homework may vary throughout the term as assessment is handed out. Dates for assessment will be printed in our school newsletter.

I look forward to an exciting and highly productive semester.

_Bereniece Cumming_

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In Term 1, students will be learning about a variety of Japanese food and drinks, and will also be examining different types of Japanese restaurants. Students will learn to ask questions such as 'what is this?' and 'do you have this?' By the end of this unit, students will be familiar with phrases commonly used when making decisions and ordering food at a restaurant.

In Term 2, students will learn to discuss their daily routines including what time and what day of the week they do certain activities. Students will examine typical daily routines for students in Japan, as well as what Japanese students typically eat at school, and club activities offered at schools in Japan. By the end of Term 2, students will be able to deliver a speech about their daily routines to the class in Japanese.

Students analyse factors that influence emotional responses during adolescence. They evaluate strategies and resources to manage the changes and transitions during adolescence and investigate their impact on identity. Students will also, apply personal and social skills to establish and maintain respectful relationships and promote fair play and inclusivity in volleyball. They will apply movement concepts and refine strategies in response to a range of negotiated volleyball contexts.

Students will make and respond to music by exploring popular music from a range of cultures, times and locations. Building on their knowledge on the elements of music, they will listen to and perform music in a variety of styles.

This semester we will be exploring the ancient world. Starting with “how do we know about the ancient past?” students will look at artefacts and sources that have helped shape our understanding of the ancient world and the importance of conserving it. In term 2 we take a look at the ancient Romans and what it meant to be a Roman. Early forms of farming, trading, and law will be investigated to help develop the inquiry process.