Welcome to the new school year! I trust that you all have had a relaxing break sharing time with each other and making memories. We have begun the year very well with all grades being very settled and our wonderful students ready to take on all the challenges that a new year brings. Our first whole school assembly will be on Monday 6th February. All members of the community are welcome to our assemblies that are held each Monday of the term from 9:05am to 9:30am.

On Monday, we welcome our newest members of our Mackellar learning community, when our 2017 Preps have their first official day of school. It is such a momentous occasion for so many families and I welcome all the new families and that you for entrusting us with your child and their learning. One of those Preps is Jack Davis who features on page 3 in this week’s Star Weekly newspaper, as well as an article about our outstanding school. Word is definitely out about all the great things we do here at Mackellar! A picture of our students with their iPads also feature on page 11.

OVAL

Our NEW oval works have begun over the holiday break and will continue during term 1. Although we have a reduced play area while the works are underway our students have been coping really well as they all know that its only for a short amount of time and then they will have a brand new synthetic soccer pitch to play on with a four-lane running track. There will also be a landscaped synthetic area near the rotunda that will join the basketball courts with the oval. We are all eagerly watching the daily progress.

In 2017 we welcome back two staff members who return from family leave. Anita Magliozzi returns to year 1 and Brenda Elliott returns to year 6. I am sure that you will all make them feel welcome.

The Hive!

We are pleased to be launching our Mackellar STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) / Maker Space this year. The HIVE is more than a STEM/STEAM Makerspace. The HIVE is a space where the Curriculum Merges into one, a space where learner engagement is at its peak and work is infused by four main Vic Curriculum areas: Digital Technology, Design and Technology and critical and creative thinking.

The Hive space where collaboration and innovation is taught, nurtured and expected. Each grade will have a session in the HIVE each week working in collaboration with their grade teacher and our expert STEM leader Mr Dean Darmanin. Our students are a BUZZ with excitement about the new HIVE space!

Some of the learning that students from Prep to 6 will experience in the HIVE are:

Coding, Game design and development, Robotics - Building and programming, Design Thinking Creative Thinking, Construction and Building, Engineering, Working Collaboratively and much, much more...
Mackellar Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children are safe and protected from any form of child abuse. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities if we are concerned about a child’s safety, which we follow rigorously.

This year, the Victorian Government introduced the Child Safe Standards, which are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, we have developed:

- Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- A child safe policy and statement of commitment to child safety
- A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse, and
- Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

Policies related to the Child Safe Standards may be found on our school website in the near future. For further information, please refer to

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/
The SunSmart Policy for Mackellar Primary School states that all children should be wearing a hat during outdoor play for Term 1 and Term 4. If a child isn’t wearing a hat during these times, there is ‘no hat, no play’ and he/she is expected to stay safely under our shaded areas. Please ensure your child has a hat at all times so as he/she is not missing out on play time outdoors with their peers.

For further information, please refer to the following links:
http://www.sunsmart.com.au

2017 Breakfast Program at Mackellar Primary School

The School Breakfast Clubs program is an initiative of the Victorian Government in partnership with Foodbank Victoria. The program delivers healthy breakfast foods to many primary schools across Victoria and our school is one of them.

Breakfast Club enables children to:

- enjoy a nutritious breakfast
- engage and participate fully in all the educational and social opportunities throughout the day
- get a kick-start to the day by being refueled with energy and nutrients (the previous meal is typically 8 to 10 hours before waking)

If your children aren’t eating breakfast at home, they are very welcome to come along to Mackellar’s Breakfast Club, where they will be happily served with a smile.

**WHEN:** Monday to Friday (every morning)
**TIME:** 8.45am to 8.55am
**LOCATION:** At the Before & After School Program building.
Canteen Helpers Wanted

The school canteen needs your help. If you would like to volunteer in the canteen on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays, please see Sharyn Meaney in the canteen.

Thank you.