Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy start to Term 2. Year 6 leavers jackets have arrived in time for the cool weather and they look fabulous. Many programs and extra-curricular activities are occurring this term so it is looking like a very busy time ahead. 27 students in Stage 3 are involved in the Music Program with Moorebank High School every Tuesday. Our students love going and are getting a lot out of this middle schools initiative. This term we also have Public Speaking, Debating, Maths Olympiad, Choir, Dance and ICAS competitions, so please keep reading the fortnightly newsletters as they provide vital information about these extra-curricular activities. Most importantly, there is quality teaching and learning happening each and every day in our classrooms.

Below is an overview of the content being taught throughout the term. I hope that you find this information useful in helping your child at home. If you have any concerns, please arrange a time to meet with your child’s teacher.

**ENGLISH**

**Reading:** This term, we will be looking closely at the English concept - ‘Persuasion’. Through the close study of persuasive texts, students will interpret, analyse and evaluate the devices authors use to convince their audience. Students will be exposed to a variety of persuasive texts such as newspaper articles, editorials, advertisements and movie trailers. Students will also continue to develop their comprehension strategies using the ‘Super Six Skills’ and will participate in daily Guided Reading sessions.

**Novel Study:** Some classes are continuing reading the novel ‘Wonder’ by R.J Palaccio. This is a beautifully written text about a young boy who was born with a medical condition and the trials and tribulations he goes through as he enters middle school. I encourage all parents to read it and discuss some of the themes and issues addressed in the book with your child.

**Speaking and Listening:** Behind the News listening programs, Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition and impromptu speeches.

**Writing:** The focus this term will be on persuasive and imaginative texts. Students will write persuasive texts relating to topical themes and issues such as ‘shark finning’ and environmental sustainability. Writing will be taught through teacher modelling, joint construction and independent writing.

**Spelling/Vocabulary:** 4/5/6V will be exposed to a new bank of words fortnightly. 5/6A and 5/6C will have a new list each week. The aim of spelling is not to only learn to spell their words but also to use these words in their writing. Good spellers are provided with challenging words that will expand their vocabulary.

**Grammar:** The grammar focus is derived from our modelled reading and our writing. This term we will focus on high modality language, rhetorical questions, hyperboles, emotive language, time connectives, noun groups, adjectival phrases and adverbial phrases.

**MATHEMATICS**

The focus areas for this term are:

**Fractions and Decimals:** ordering fractions, proper and improper fractions, equivalent fractions.

**3D:** identifying the properties of prisms and pyramids.

**Whole Number** – introduction to integers

**Area** – introducing the hectare and the square kilometre. Finding the area of regular and irregular shapes.

**Patterns and Algebra:** missing terms, creating patterns, filling in a table of values.

**Time** – 24 hour time and calculating how much time has elapsed between events.

**Multiplication and Division:** factors, multiples and solving multiplication problems using the ‘area model’ and the formal written algorithm.

**Statistics and Probability:** Chance - looking at the likelihood of events occurring.

**Mass** – Calculating gross and net mass and converting between grams and kilograms using decimal notation.

**Working Mathematically:** Students will be given problems to solve using a ‘toolbox’ of strategies such as working backwards, simplifying a problem, drawing a table.
HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)

Rainforests: Students will explore the two different rainforests such as the Amazon and the Daintree and will compare and contrast the unique features of these diverse ecosystems.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Living World: Students will investigate rainforest plants and how they adapt to their unique environment. This unit of work will be taught by the RFF teacher, Miss Rebecca Sanders.

Technology: I-pads in the classroom will be used for research and creating presentations. In addition, I-pads are used in guided reading and maths groups where students consolidate skills taught in modelled sessions. Students will continue to learn how to use presentation tools such as ‘Prezi’.

CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS (CAPA)

Visual Arts: The students will look at environmental art this term.

Drama: Drama will be taught by the RFF teacher Mrs Kelly Shearer.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PE (PDHPE)

Healthy Living: Students have permission to eat fruit or vegetables during class time whilst they are working at their desks.

Fitness/Sport: Students will be involved in a fundamental movement skills PE program. The athletics workshop will be on Thursdays. Students who do not go to PSSA will participate in Newcomb ball, soccer and AFL on Friday afternoons.

Personal Development: A unit called ‘Playing my Part’, teaching students how to build positive relationships using effective communication skills. This unit will be taught by Mr Hannan and Mrs Armstrong. Mrs Kelly Shearer will teach the unit of work to 4/5/6V.

Other:

Library: Stage 3 will go to the Library on Tuesdays with Mrs Jensen. As well as return and borrow their books, students will complete research based tasks.

Homework: Homework will be given out on Thursday and handed in the following Thursday. This allows students extra time for students to complete set tasks.

Thanking you

Mrs N. Armstrong
Mr C. Hannan
Mrs V. Valensise