Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2015 school year. As there is a wide range of student abilities in each classroom, the teaching and learning programs will be structured so that all students are extended and experience a smooth transition into year 3. We have already established many of our quality processes and we will continue to use these and other strategies and tools in the classroom.

Curriculum

In term 1, all classes are involved in a Quality Beginning program that is designed to assist student transition into the new year level and to reaffirm the school values of TRUST, HONESTY, A FAIR GO FOR ALL, RESPECT, CARING, LEARNING, PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT, and TOLERANCE. Embedded in the Quality Beginning program is the You Can Do It Program – “Getting Started.” The YCDI Capabilities are: ORGANISATION, GETTING ALONG, PERSISTENCE and CONFIDENCE, with RESILIENCE underpinning everything.

The curriculum focus will also be on:

Interdisciplinary Learning, as well as Physical, Personal and Social Learning. Students will complete a unit called “Healthy Me”: This unit will cover:

- health (diet/exercise/environment)
- building social relationships
- working in teams
- managing personal learning
- safety
- environmental awareness
- anti-bullying/cyber safety
- communicating with others

ENGLISH

Reading: Reading sessions will involve a variety of activities related to selected fiction and factual texts. These activities will emphasise reading for meaning, information and enjoyment. Students will be required to read each night at home and to read a variety of literature, including fiction, non fiction, magazines and newspapers, as part of the home reading program. Students will also be encouraged to regularly borrow library books to support their reading.

*Please ensure a library bag is supplied.

Writing: The emphasis for writing this term is to investigate the different types and structure of persuasive texts. Grammar and punctuation will also be a focal point. Planning, composing, revising and editing skills will continue to be developed with the aim of publishing and presenting written work in a variety of ways.

Handwriting: Each student will continue to practise the ‘Victorian Modern Cursive’ style of handwriting. Correct formation of letters and numbers will be revised. Flicks and basic joining techniques will be modelled.

Word Study/Spelling: Spelling is part of the writing process. Spelling skills will be developed through the study of the topic words, letter patterns and blends. The 2015 spelling program will be a continuation of the program students began in 2014, ensuring a smooth transition. The program will commence in a few weeks.

Speaking and Listening: Skills will be developed through informal and directed tasks. Students will have many opportunities to speak in front of others to encourage increased confidence. They will speak to the class on a regular basis, which may require brief planning at home. Attributes of good speakers and listeners will be emphasised.

MATHEMATICS

The following dimensions will be covered:

- Number and Algebra: Place Value naming and ordering numbers to 1000, counting and numerical patterns, addition and subtraction strategies with a focus on place value for setting out.
- Measurement & Geometry: identifying and using units of measurement to describe time (days, weeks, seasons etc.), understanding how to use a calendar and mass.

SPECIALIST TEACHING PROGRAMS:

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (Media): In Media this term, the year 3 students will be focusing on file management, correct file saving procedures, computer animation and Cybersafety. In computer animation, students will use the software application, Kahootz, to create a 3D multimedia animation that will incorporate text, sound and movement. In Cybersafety, the students will learn how to create strong passwords and how to be a good digital citizen. We will take a look at online messaging, in particular who’s appropriate to message to, what to share, the difference between public and private information and what to do if they receive an inappropriate message. 

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/SPORT Mrs Kellie Goldspink and Mr Sebastian Scaru are enthusiastic about taking the year 3 students for P.E. in term 1! They are so excited to be giving the students the opportunity to learn and demonstrate the basic motor skills of throwing, jumping and running during our athletics unit. As an extension to Physical Education lessons, each home group teacher also takes their class out on a weekly basis for platoon sport where they reinforce concepts and skills taught in Physical Education lessons. Health Related Fitness is also incorporated into minor games and students will participate for the first time in the Beep Fitness Test, which is a test of endurance and stamina. 

THE ARTS

Performing Arts: Music is taken by Ms Anne McKay. In Year 3 Music this term there will be lots of rhythms, raps and rhymes happening as we stay safe, eat healthily and celebrate being Aussie. Get those hands clapping, feet tapping and voices rapping! mckay.anne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Drama will be taught by the year 3 classroom teachers with a focus on creativity and imagination. The techniques that will be covered this term are: role play, improvisation, mime and movement. Lessons will give students an opportunity to explore and develop their imaginations, aimed at improving their confidence and communication skills.

LANGUAGES (Indonesian) Bu Sarjit Ladd. This term, students will be revising basic phrases from the year 2 program. They will also be broadening their vocabulary and understanding of the Indonesian culture. They will be encouraged to speak in Indonesian and participate in a range of language activities and games. The main topics for this term are, Myself (family, home and school), Food and Objects. ladd.sarjit.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

ladd.sarjit.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
YOU CAN DO IT taken by Ms Jo Creed

In the YCDI Program this term, students will be revisiting their understanding of the general program and concepts of Getting Along. This will include discussion around Habits of the Mind referring to Being Tolerant of Others, Thinking First and Playing by the rules. Main lesson areas will be Friends, Buddies and Pals, No Worries and You Can’t Judge a Book. They will also be broadening their emotional vocabulary. They will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities to reflect their understanding. creed.jo-ann.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

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HOME LEARNING
As per our home learning policy, year 3 students should spend an average of 30 minutes a night on activities to support their learning. Assisting the transition from year 2, this will still consist of reading for at least 15 minutes five nights a week, as well as practising words for the weekly spelling test, learning math facts, multiplication facts (times tables) and completing research tasks. Home learning tasks will be sent home in a home learning book and reading will be recorded in a reading log. Occasionally unfinished classroom work may also be sent home. It is important to encourage your child to develop and take responsibility for their own study routine.

- Please ensure a reading satchel is supplied

IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY unless you are sick or there is a family crisis

Research has proven that a high number of absences from school have a negative impact on student learning. It is essential that students have regular attendance and are punctual. If your child is unable to attend school, it is a legal requirement that a note is sent the first day they return explaining their absence. If they have an extended period of absence, please inform the school of your child’s situation as soon as possible. These notes are filed for reference. Absences and lateness will be noted on your child's report.

UNIFORM
Wearing the correct school uniform is compulsory, including on excursions. Sunsmart hats are compulsory until April 30th.

NEWSLETTERS
The newsletter is available online at www.plentyparklands-ps.vic.edu.au and becomes available at 9.30 am each Thursday of the school term. When you register on line you will receive a reminder email each week. Some families have requested that a paper copy be sent home and this along with most notices is sent home on Thursdays with the youngest child. It is most important that you access the newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

STUDENT WELFARE
Our approach to student management reflects the things we value at Plenty Parklands Primary School. Students, as stakeholders, are expected to behave in a way that reflects their commitment to our school values. We use Quality tools to monitor student behaviour. Student Welfare is also supported by access to DET Student Support Officers, a Speech Pathologist, and an Educational Psychologist. We also offer support through access to counselling with a registered provider, Healthy Minds, provision of a school First Aid Officer and our own student welfare coordinators. Scott Jessup is the Welfare Coordinator for Year 3 with Ms Julie Nixon, one of our Assistant Principals, providing support when needed. If you have any concerns please contact your child’s home group teacher or welfare coordinator.

PARENT HELPERS
Very shortly you will receive a letter about parent helpers. Remember that you need to have participated in one of the Volunteer Helpers’ training sessions in order to help in ANY capacity at the school. Please check the newsletter for dates and times of training sessions.

YEAR 3 TEACHING TEAM
Mr Scott Jessup 3-18 (Curriculum Improvement Leader and Welfare Coordinator) jessup.scott.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ms Susan Skrlj 3-17 (Unit Manager) skrlj.susan.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Mr Drew Norgate 3-19 norgate.drew.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ms Cath Sloley (Monday and Tuesday) 3-20 sloley.catherine.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Mrs Kristy Harvey (Wednesday-Friday) 3-20 harvey.kristy.n@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ms Julie Nixon (Assistant Principal) nixon.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

A reminder to parents and guardians of Year Three students in Block E.
We ask that you do not wait on the decking between the classrooms in BLOCK E before or after school (unless in the case of extreme weather).
Arrange to meet your child in a familiar place in the school yard or wait under the covered walkways at either end of the Block E.
We hope that you understand that we do this to provide a safe environment for our students (your children) to enter and exit their classrooms. This area can become quite crowded and dangerous if parents and small children are also on the decking area. Also, your child and other students find it difficult to focus on their learning and become distracted when they see their parents and siblings.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Monday 16th February (7:00-9:00pm)- Parent Forum- Building Resilience in Children
Friday 13th February – Curriculum Day
Tuesday 24th February- School Photos
Friday 27th February- Clean Up Australia Day
Wednesday 4th March- Year 3 BBQ
Thursday 12th March- Family Fun Night
Thursday 26th March- 3 way conferences