Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Each year we begin the new school year with new challenges for both students and teachers. Students need to become accustomed to different ways of working, different expectations, different routines etc. etc. as well as revisiting the school rules which provide the framework in which we will all work.

Time spent establishing the learning environment for the year is crucial as the grade becomes a team and develops its sense of purpose. The staff at Belgrave South use the first two weeks to build the learning community environment throughout the whole school.

The School started for students with a one day week – Friday 1st February for this day and the following two weeks (1+2) the whole school has been focusing on the following areas:

- Establishing class rules
- Reviewing school rules
- Setting up classrooms with displays
- Developing personal profiles
- Learning how to work co-operatively in groups
- Beginning portfolios
- Developing criteria for classroom tasks
- Being a good sport / playing games
- You Can Do It – Steps to Success
- Establishing the Writer’s Workshop
- Establishing the Reader’s Workshop
- Sun Safety / Sunsmart
- Friendship skills
- Developing a team spirit
- The importance of healthy foods, water and rest.
- Developing personal profiles
- Learning how to work co-operatively in groups
- Developing a team spirit

Students have been learning about these special topics through the Integrated Learning model. They have been developing and using both their literacy and numeracy skills each day. By reading and writing about topics being covered, students have been increasing their understanding and awareness of the importance of how we learn. Grades have been creating charts, posters, graphs, measuring, estimating, gathering and interpreting statistics etc.- all important mathematical skills. From tasks undertaken by students, the teachers have been able to begin the assessment process.
During the first full week of our 1+2 program the Year 6 students were on camp at Wilson’s Promontory and their program also complement our school wide program as they learn the skills of getting along with each other.

*Parent / Teacher conferences* will be held on Wednesday February 27th and this will be your chance to set your child up for the year. We ask you to take this opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and share information with them which will help them design programs to best address their needs. As this is very early in the school year, the staff will not be able to report on academic progress.

*Home readers* will be sent home but there will be no other formal homework during this time. We would ask parents to continue to support students reading by sharing books with them and also encouraging students to undertake physical and outdoor activities after school.

*Specialists programs* have been running during this time and the staff of these areas have been undertaking specific activities to develop the learning environment in their area. Prep students have been taking part in the program also, with consideration given to their times.

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact the school, we would value your input.

*The Staff of Belgrave South Primary School.*