Welcome everyone to our second semester of learning at our wonderful school. Our Cave Hill Camp was a wonderful opportunity to learn, play and grow together. Both the students and staff had a wonderful, yet chilly time, and we each returned back to school with new skills, increased knowledge and an appreciation for our friends and family.

The Rio Summer Olympics will take place from the 5-21st August. We look forward to supporting our athletes and watching the progress of the 207 competing nations. Classes will develop a tally of medals awarded and all students will learn more about a competing nation and an Australian participant. Daily newspapers will be in classrooms and students will have access to up to date information on http://rio2016.olympics.com.au/ ‘Chat to a Champ’ will connect students with an Australian Olympian using web video conferencing. Each ‘Chat’ brings together a number of different schools who can chat with, and ask Olympians about their Games and sporting experience. We are looking forward to speaking with a track and field athlete, following on from our conversation with Louise Bawden last year, who was trying out for beach volleyball.

In Week Five, students will take part in our Family Life program, designed to teach them about their changing body and emotions as they grow. We encourage parents to come along to the information night to find out details and ask any questions.

As part of our You Can Do It! Program students have developed increasing confidence in their abilities and are encouraged to take risks with their learning. “Mistakes are valuable” is part of our maths talk and this carries across to all areas of learning. We encourage students to use initiative, try new strategies and ‘have a go’ as they become lifelong learners. This term students are learning to maximise their organisational ‘tool box’ by planning their time, setting goals and using their iPad to set their calendars and reminders.

If you have any queries about any of our programs, please contact myself or your child’s classroom teacher.

Tania Smith
Level 5 Teaching and Learning Leader

English

Reading:
Reading sessions at Year 5 are comprised of a mini lesson, guided/independent practise and independent reading time. During the mini lesson and guided/independent practise, students learn and trial a reading ‘strategy’. During Term 3 the students in Year 5 will be building their depth and knowledge of a range of reading strategies.
To support our poetry writing unit students will be analysing mentor texts and developing reading strategies around the genre of poetry. They will be reflecting on **figurative language**, identifying the meaning of different similes and metaphors and identifying how authors use them to create meaning. They will also be learning about **symbolism**, how to identify symbols and what they might represent. To consolidate their learning students will **analyse and critique** a few pieces of poetry, focusing on the strategies the author has used and developing their own interpretation of it.

Other reading strategies we will cover during Term 3 include:

**Questioning** - Students will ask questions and develop their own personal inquiries as they read historical fiction and non-fiction texts about aboriginals. They will work towards developing their capacity to identify key information, paraphrase texts and answer lingering questions through research.

**Making Connections** - Students will reflect on their use of thinking tracks and work towards improving the way they track their thinking on sticky notes as they identify text connections in a range of texts.

**Compare and Contrast** - Students will identify and analyse the similarities and differences in texts about the same topic to develop their comprehension.

During independent reading time, students will continue to work on their own reading goals. Teachers will confer with students during this time to set and review goals, ensuring all students have an individualised reading goal and the support to achieve it.

**Writing:**
This Term we will continue to focus on the Whole School Approach to writing utilising the VOICES approach. The VOICES board is in every classroom across the school and classes have been learning what makes up each component.

The students will focus their structured writing lessons around our Inquiry topic on “What events in the 19th Century shaped Australia”. They will develop a deeper understanding of the structure of information reports as they source information about explorers and the changing economy, as well as studying the impact on Indigenous Australians.

Students are also going to explore different types of poetry this term, and will write and present personal pieces to varied audiences. They have started developing ‘self-poems’ using inside and outside traits, comparing themselves to qualities in animals or inanimate objects. There is a focus on word choice and figurative language.

**Mathematics**

In Numeracy, Level 5 will continue to develop students’ mathematical thinking through processes of concrete, pictorial and abstract problem-solving. The seven Maths norms will be used to build depth passion throughout their practice at school. Throughout Term Three, the students will be focusing on financial planning and budgeting, probability and chance, number operations and algebraic thinking.

As the Olympic events draw near, students will develop skills in managing and planning their finances in hypothetical trips to Rio, Brazil. They will investigate, calculate and justify their plans based on research and personal decisions, and learn to negotiate time, travel and costs. Students will also use digital technologies as effective tools to better consolidate their financial planning.

Students will continue to extend their understandings of number operations and algebra. Students will solve multi-step, worded problems and use deductive reasoning to create problems of their own. They
will learn about the order of operations, meaning of algebraic symbols and the difference between number statements and expressions through learning tasks involving equilibriums and balances.

Students will also learn to identify, continue and create a wide variety of number patterns to further promote their problem solving skills and fluency in numbers.

The Advanced Mathematics Program will continue to provide 20 Level 5 students with the opportunity to participate in learning tasks aimed at extending those students that are particularly passionate about and gifted in mathematics. The Advanced Mathematics Program will be run by our mathematics specialist, Di Xue.

**Inquiry**

During Term Three, Level Five will be delving back into 19th Century Australian history. Continuing where we left off in Term One, students will be focusing on the development of Australian colonies and the formation of the Commonwealth of Australian through the process of Federation. We will subsequently explore economics, civics and citizenship and what it means to turn separate colonies into one state. Students will enrich their understanding of Indigenous Australians and the challenges their societies endured through the period from colonisation to Federation. Finally, students will be given the opportunity to drive their learning by inquiring into the individuals who influenced Australian society during the period of the formation of our nation.

We sincerely thank you for your interest in and passion for your child’s education and taking the time to read about our learning foci for Term Three. We look forward to working with you throughout the year as we continue to set up every student for success. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher.

**Level 5 Team**
Miss Tania Smith, Miss Simone Ryan, Mr. Paul Austin, Miss Penelope Kolovos, Mr. Jeff Chen, Mrs. Liz Steinke and Mrs. Samantha Pergadis