Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a relaxing holiday. It is good to see that the children are happy and enthusiastic about being back at school and have settled quickly into the term.

Below is a brief outline of our learning program for Term 3 and some important dates for your diary.

**Important Dates:**
Week 3: Tuesday 7th August; Tony Murphy Drawing Workshop – Bounce Back Program
Thursday 9th August; Mini Olympics Sports Day
Week 4: Book Week
   Wednesday 15th August; Room to Read Fundraiser
   Thursday 16th August; Fire Safety Program – ACT Fire Brigade
Week 5: Wednesday 22nd August; Garran Primary School Science Fair
   (K-6J photography exhibition – ‘Seasons’)
Week 6: Hola (Hello) Cuba Week
Week 7: Thursday 4th September; School Photographs
Week 8: Friday 14th September 2.00pm-3.00pm; K-6J Learning Journey

**THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM**
We will continue to address areas for development identified in your child’s Individual Learning Plan and will review this again later in the term.

In English we will utilise a variety of activities and materials to help your child develop their reading, writing and speaking skills.

**Reading:** We will focus on individual letter sounds, blends and digraphs (eg: ea, ow, ch) each week during individual tutoring and group reading sessions.
Home Readers will be sent out each Monday and need to be returned each Friday. I would encourage everyone to try a different activity each night to extend the home reader and add further interest to the storyline and concepts covered in each book.
For example, discussion for the reader titled: *The House*, may sound like this...

**Basic level of questioning:**
Where is the window? How many windows does the house have? What shape is the door?

**Higher level of questioning:**
Why do houses have doors? Why do houses have windows? How is this house the same/different to ours? How many things can you name inside/outside our house in 1 minute? What sorts of houses do animals live in? (compare/contrast)
If your child has sight word flash cards, please continue to review these on a regular basis.

**Writing:** We will continue to implement writing sessions and fine motor activities to develop handwriting skills on a daily basis. The children will be involved in the THRASS handwriting program, journal writing, letter writing, narrative writing and basic note taking in order to complete their Passion Projects this term.

**Speaking skills:** Each Monday morning the children will be involved in sharing news about their weekend.
**Could you please help your child to practise their news by using the guideline template in the blue communication book and returning it to school each Monday?**

In **Mathematics**, we will use a variety of hands-on materials to help your child develop their skills in mathematical understanding and computation. We will build on work covered last term in concepts of...
number (including place value and elements of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Money, time and measurement will be developed further and we will learn about fractions and 3D shapes.

**INTEGRATED STUDIES**
Our area of study this term will focus on building a healthy body and healthy lifestyle. Our unit is titled **Happy Healthy Me!** This study will encompass elements of Health and Science. We will look at the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise. Our cooking sessions will teach the children about preparing simple and nutritious food as well as food and kitchen hygiene, safety in the kitchen and the etiquette of eating. From time to time the children will purchase ingredients for our cooking sessions from the local shops. Please ensure that you have returned the permission slip for this activity so that your child can walk with us to the Garran Shops.

In Week 3 we will participate in a Mini Olympics Sports Day as part of promoting an active lifestyle and Tony Murphy will visit as part of our Bounce Back program to reinforce the importance of a positive and resilient self-image.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Communication Books** – The communication book continues to be an important link between home and school, and helps us to communicate with each other about your child when we are unable to do so face-to-face. Could you please continue to use this book to record events or behaviours that may have occurred at home that will impact upon your child’s learning at school. It is really important to let us know if something has happened at home as this may help us to understand the needs of your child on a daily basis. I will use the book to let you know about any important events at school.

**Library Day** - Our library day is **Thursday** and all children require a library bag to borrow books on this day.

**School Supplies** – Thank you to parents that have already sent in a box of wipes and tissues. This will assist cleaning your child’s hands and face after eating times and art activities.

**Things to keep in mind** –

- If your child is having a lunch order, please let us know through the communication book.
- If your child is sick, or going to be absent from school, please phone the Front Office on **6205 5844**.
- When your child returns to school, after being sick or absent, could you please provide a written note - this is a departmental requirement.
- A newsletter is sent home each Thursday with details of all school events.
- K-6J attends assemblies on Thursdays at 2.00 pm in the Hall and everyone is welcome to attend. Check your Garran School Calendar for Aussie/Effort Assemblies and important dates.
- Children can be delivered to the courtyard area each morning before school for supervision from 8.45am. Please use the door at the main entrance of the unit in the event of rain.
- Our classroom program starts promptly at 9.00am and children commence their literacy program at this time. Please ensure your child arrives by this time so they are aware of our morning routine and disruption to the students’ learning is minimal.
- All LSU staff attend staff meetings on Monday and Tuesday each week. Please ring through and let us know if you are running late with 3pm pick-up as our meetings start promptly at 3.15pm.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the term.**

Kind Regards,

Zelda James - K/6J Teacher

Jackie Greaves & Erica Hitchman - Learning Support Staff