We have made an excellent start to the year. Calm, steady and focused are the words I have heard mentioned by many parents and staff. It has been a pleasure to see our community come together again after the vacation. Our focus is on learning and establishing strong work habits both at home and at school.

Our Professional Learning Day was a further fine example of how well we put a program together. I have been re-reading the article by Wiggins: ‘Seven Keys to Effective Feedback’. I see it as a great challenge to think of feedback as a fundamental process equal to that of teaching. Two of the 7 Keys struck a chord for me:

**User-Friendly**

Even if feedback is specific and accurate in the eyes of experts or bystanders, it is not of much value if the user cannot understand it or is overwhelmed by it

**Actionable** - Effective feedback is concrete, specific, and useful; it provides actionable information. (the article is attached)

**Themes and quotes for the week,**

I am keen for us to have a focus for learning or relationships each week, and look forward to developing a plan for First Term. So far we have had: Thinking of others and Being ready to learn

Jasmine has also suggested that we have a thoughtful quote for each week and that we could connect the two. Let think which might be the next ones and how we can best promote these weekly themes.

**Swimming Sports** on Thursday. Let’s motivate all our students to be involved.

Andrew Kohane
Middle Years News

The Middle Years have had a very calm and productive start to the year. In our first NPDL (New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning) Unit we have been learning about ourselves as learners and developing a strong Middle Years Learning Community. The class have identified five values that they see as most important:

- Patience
- Honesty
- Respect
- Humour
- Trust

We will all be working to embody these values in our lives at school and in our communities.

We have already had to use our values in a number of challenging activities!
Primary News

Spider in the library!!

Oh no! The Primary classes were visited by a friendly huntsman this week.

Huntsman are not poisonous and are not dangerous to anybody, except the poor library teacher, Ms Drummond, trying to run a class.
House Swimming Carnival

Get your House colours out and start to cheer!

Thursday, 12th February, commencing at 10:30am in the pool.

The House swimming carnival has been returned to first term in 2015. This means that all students in Primary and Secondary will have the opportunity to join in the fun, swimming for their House.

Congratulations to the House Captains, elected by their teams:

**Blue House:**

Secondary – Brodie Dunkinson (C) & Dakota Milliken (VC)

Primary – Jack Cowley (C) & Jasper Newton (VC)

**Red House:**

Secondary - Dylan Clissold (C) & Chloe Hutchins-Read (VC)

Primary – Grace Martin (C) & Ryan Harriott (VC)

A much bigger program will mean that we will start earlier at 10:30am.

There will be lunch a break between 12:30pm and 1:10pm.

Students should come with suitable clothing (tracksuit pants, windcheater, hat) to enable them to eat outside the gymnasium.

Students should also bring a cut lunch as there will be no canteen in operation.

We hope that this will be a more successful House Swimming Sports. All students are encouraged to participate and we have continued to modify the points scoring system. Due to low numbers across certain age groups we will combine ages into competitive groups. There will be four Champions awarded.

**Championships & Runner up awarded to:**

- Primary Boys (21 competitors)
- Primary Girls (16 competitors)
- Secondary Boys (21 competitors)
- Secondary Girls (8 competitors)

Parents are most welcome to come along and cheer (Go Red!!)