Dear Level 4 Parents and Guardians,

First term was a short and busy one. The students adapted extremely well to the flexible learning space. We thought it would be a good opportunity to explain to you how we are developing a learning community in the Level 4 ‘Learning Centre’.

As educators, our goal is to assist students to achieve their full potential in a positive, stimulating environment. A learning community’s core purpose is to create an environment in which our students feel secure and free to learn. Our ‘Learning Centre’ encourages and directs the children to take responsibility for their learning and interaction within the classroom. We as class teachers, work with them to identify the rights and responsibilities of an effective learning community.

In the first couple of weeks we have encouraged the students to establish a classroom code which has been cooperatively agreed upon by all class members to ensure they share the ownership and take on the associated responsibilities.

We believe that the carefully planned structure and organisation of the curriculum within the ‘Learning Centre’ is providing the children with the opportunity to work independently, within small groupings, home groups and as whole year levels. We also draw on the expertise and strengths
of each teacher, to plan and instruct collaboratively which gives students the unique opportunity to interact and learn from all five teachers. This facilitates the development of the whole child as a life-long learner: socially, emotionally and academically.

The curriculum program has been planned to cater for the varying needs and interests of all our students. To do this successfully the students are being closely monitored, primarily by their home teacher. We then discuss the most appropriate learning strategy to support and extend their learning.

We are very aware of the physical structure of the large flexible classroom space and are using it to our advantage.

With our school moving towards more innovative learning spaces and as we endeavour to prepare our students to be 21st century learners, we are excited to be given the chance to think outside the square and plan for the future.

Please feel free to pop in and ask any questions. We will continue to keep you informed on the activities occurring in the ‘Learning Centre’.

Melissa Hayes, Jacki Hopkins, Clare Connor, Shelley Ware and Andrew Wood.