Parents and Carers,

Below is some information and the Senior School camp dates for 2014.

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**Camps**

**Year 6 Camp**
Tuesday 11\(^{th}\) – Friday 14\(^{th}\) November 2014 – Portsea Camp

**Year 5 Camp**
Monday 1\(^{st}\) – Wednesday 3\(^{rd}\) December 2014 – Camp Manyung, Mount Eliza

**Homework**

Homework provides an opportunity for parents to share their children’s learning and fosters effective lifelong study habits. Students have the opportunity to extend classwork as well as practise skills at home. In Year 5 and 6 we aim to develop organisational skills, independence and responsibility, encouraging students to reflect on their learning and seek help when needed.

You can assist by:
- Encouraging independence and self-discipline
- Showing interest in and revising completed homework tasks
- Allowing children to retain ownership of their work

Homework will range from 30-45 minutes per day and includes a range of tasks such as theme-based projects, revision, reading and class work to be completed. It is expected that all students at minimum will:
- Read for 20-30 minutes at least 5 times
- Complete targeted revision maths tasks on Mathletics (set by teachers)
- Revise number facts (i.e. times tables, competing in Live Mathletics), 4x10 mins/week.

**Inquiry Learning**

In Years 5 and 6 students will be studying the domains of Personal Learning, Civics and Citizenship, History, Geography and Science through an Inquiry approach.

Inquiry learning encourages students to be actively involved in and take responsibility for their learning. Inquiry learning allows each student’s understanding of the world to develop in a manner and at a rate unique to each student.

Inquiry learning involves:
- Exploring, wondering and questioning
- Experimenting and playing with possibilities
- Making connections between previous learning and current learning
- Making predictions and acting purposefully to see what happens
- Clarifying existing ideas
- Making and testing theories
- Researching and seeking information
- Taking and defending a position
- Solving problems in a variety of ways

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Digital Portfolios 2014

What and Why
Digital Portfolios are an engaging and effective way for students to showcase their digital work and reflect on the learning process. They will allow your child to curate, archive and expand on the work they are producing in class. As an added bonus, student digital portfolios will help your child to authentically learn important digital citizenship lessons and skills. Some of these skills include problem solving, critical thinking, digital communication, and ICT literacy. These skills are widely recognised as being essential in the digital age.

Helpful Tips For Parents.
• Ensure your child has the **Evernote** App Downloaded onto their iPad and created a free account.
• Ensure your child has their own email address.
• iPad user agreement has been signed and returned
• Actively supervise your child when they are online at home.
• A great starting point to learn more about Evernote.
  [http://evernote.com/getting_started/]