Dear parents,

Welcome back to school for 2016! A special welcome to our new Foundation students and their families and hello again to Year One and Two students who have grown a little bit taller and wiser over the holidays! All classes have had a great start to the school year and are enjoying getting to know one another.

This week we are continuing our ‘Way to Go at Wantirna’ program by establishing class expectations, setting goals, reinforcing school values and getting to know one another. Our ‘Foundies’ have settled in beautifully, showing some excellent bravery and enthusiasm for learning. School entry assessments for Foundation will begin on Wednesday, meaning unless your child is scheduled for assessment, Foundation students are not required to come to school.

On Thursday February 18th from 5.30pm we will be holding a parent information evening in the Junior Learning Unit which will be full of valuable information in regards to curriculum, important dates, iPads and more. We would love to see as many families as possible in attendance. Our Twilight Sports will commence on the oval after the Senior information session.

Specialist sessions will begin this week, so please make sure your child has an art smock and library bag ready to go!

Classroom Cuisine is back again this year and will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. New parents can head to www.classroomcuisine.com.au to register and get started!

If you don’t already have the TiqBiz app on your smart phone, tablet or computer, make sure you download it to receive important news and reminders throughout the school year.

Thank you to all parents, students and staff for such a smooth start back to school. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable year of learning ahead.

Have a wonderful week!

Brogan Badrock, Adriana Grisold and Jennifer Ross.

This week the Foundies will continue to learn about school routines and expectations. The morning sessions will include Developmental Play followed by early writing skills such as pencil grip and tracing as well as modelled writing to demonstrate important writing elements. They will begin to learn the sounds /s/, /a/ and /t/, exploring things that begin with these sounds and learning how to form the letters. They will be introduced to the THRASS chart through songs and games. We will begin fostering a love of reading by building our classroom library and reading big books together with a focus on pointing to each word and looking at the pictures.

Year Ones and Twos are getting ready for reading by setting up their classroom libraries and focusing on the CAFÉ comprehension strategy ‘Checking for Understanding’. They will launch their Writer’s Workshop by creating anchor charts for writing expectations and strategies and setting up their writing environment.

Foundies are beginning to explore numbers and the counting sequence by engaging in games and songs and using hands on materials. They are learning the days of the week during our morning calendar routine and song. Ask them to sing it for you at home!

Year One and Two classes are problem solving using the numbers they know and are reviewing their knowledge of place value using hands on materials.

This term’s inquiry unit is ‘Me and my Community’. Students will explore what it means to be part of a community and the roles of different members of a community. They will discover what makes communities work well together and identify special helpers in our community. If you are an ‘important person’ in your community (e.g. firefighter, policeman, nurse, council member etc.) please let us know if you would like to be a part of our unit by coming in to share what your role involves.

Please make sure you have this very important app downloaded onto your computer, smart phone or tablet to keep updated with all that is happening at WPS!