Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week the 5/6 Unit will introduce our **F.A.B. (Friends And Books)** program for 2013. F.A.B aims to get students reading and talking about books and was run with great success in 2012!

We think it is important that students have the opportunity to:

- choose a reading partner
- select their own reading material
- read for enjoyment
- share feelings and opinions about their book
- question and challenge each other

How does F.A.B. work?

- Each Wednesday, students will select a book (with teacher guidance) and a partner (from a pre-determined list of like readers)
- Students set weekly reading goals together and record these at school.
- Students read, read, read – at home, at school, on the bus – anywhere, anytime! – They **MUST BRING THEIR FAB BOOK TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY**!
- Students jot their ideas on Post It (sticky) Notes
- Each Wednesday, students talk, share jottings, challenge and learn together
- Most importantly .......... students enjoy themselves!

_We know that the more your child reads, the better reader he/she will become._

You can assist by:

- encouraging him/her to develop good reading habits – 20 mins each night (Mon-Thurs) & a minimum of one 20min block over the weekend.
- turning off the TV/computer/phone
- buying a reading light
- chatting with him/her about the book he/she is reading
- asking questions such as:
  - What did you like about the book?
  - What was the best part?
  - What didn’t you like?
  - Do you think I would like it? Why? Why not?
  - What was the ‘big idea’ in the book?
  - Who were the characters and describe them.

**Homework** will be coming home with your child every Monday. They have until **Thursday 9am** to hand it in. Each week your child will have 5-10 spelling words to learn and Maths tasks to complete.

If homework is not handed in, children will be completing it in their own time on Friday. Please do not hesitate to call or pop in and see us if you have any queries or questions regarding reading or homework.

P.T.O.
We ask that ALL students please bring to school, by this Friday, a:

- drink bottle,
- box of tissues,
- art smock,
- USB stick (computer memory stick)
- set of headphones to be used with school netbooks and to be left at school.

**Netbooks**

All children in the senior unit will have a netbook issued to them for use at school. We will use netbooks for typing, researching, creating, displaying work and many other things on most days throughout the year. Children will also be offered the opportunity to lease their school netbook for use at home as well. Lease contracts will be sent home later this week.

Our **Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, February 12th** and this would be a great opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues. More details about this evening will be in Wednesday’s school newsletter.

Please feel welcome to come and listen to reading, etc if you have some spare time!

**Major Excursion**

Our camp this year will be held from **Monday December 2nd until Friday December 6th**. We will be holding a number of fundraising activities throughout this year to help reduce the overall cost of this excursion. A **Sausage Sizzle** will be held every Wednesday from the beginning of term 2 onwards. A parent cooking roster will be sent home later this term! A **chocolate fundraiser** will be held later in term 2. Parent’s Club also kindly donate some of their pie drive profits to the camping program in term 2 as well. If all families can assist in some way with these fundraisers we expect the camp cost will be reduced to around $250. Less if possible!

We will be asking for a **deposit** next term, further details will be also sent home. We also encourage all families to think about paying some of their expected camp cost earlier, so if you have a few spare dollars during the year you may wish to send it to our office and lessen the amount payable just before December!

Thank you for your co-operation,
Brooke Shepherd, Tracy Craig, Amber Morgan & John Warburton.
(5/6 Unit Teachers)