Welcome to 2014
by Ms Mandel

Welcome to the new school year. It is wonderful to see everyone looking so healthy, relaxed and excited to start the new school year. Yesterday all students were placed into 22 temporary classes. The classes will remain temporary until all students are accounted for. Students have been carefully placed into classes considering factors such as friendships, academic ability, cultural background and social skills. We are currently a few students short of forming 23 classes.

Staff News
The staff are rested and full of wonderful plans for this year. Whilst staffing is not finalized and we are waiting for vacant positions, we welcome new staff Miss Harpas on 3/4 Silver, Miss Ross on 6 Ruby, Mrs Suster and Mrs Byrne on 1 Coral and Miss Kavouras on 3 Gold. We also congratulate Mrs Stephens (Miss Frost) on her wedding at the end of last year and Miss Pullar on her wedding this week.

Notes
Today you will be receiving a number of notes. Please fill them in and return the notes immediately. The notes include:

- School Contributions
- School Learning Pack
- Authority to Publish
- Emergency Contact Form
- Parent Survey
- Canteen List
- Swimming Carnival (8 year olds and Years 3-6)

The School Learning Pack is compulsory. It comes as a complete back and items cannot be added or taken out.

School Contributions are different to the School Learning Packs and help to provide a wide range of services, programs and resources such as wi-fi, tissues, art materials, science equipment and student rewards.

The Swimming Carnival is compulsory for all Year 3-6 students. There are events for non-swimmers, weak swimmers and strong swimmers.

The Parent Survey is NEW. Its purpose is to help increase parental involvement in our school community. Please consider how you can help.

Lessons
All students have started participating in learning. Lessons include exploring aspects of safety, learning about Australia and establishing class rules.

School Uniform
Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform including shorts or skorts with the school logo, black school shoes and a school hat with the school logo.

School uniforms can be ordered from the Uniform Shop or the front office.
Community School Garden
At the end of last year we were notified that we won a grant to start a school community vegetable garden. This is a very exciting opportunity but we need your support. We would like community members help build the garden, advise and help plant a variety of produce and help grow and maintain the garden over many years to come. We would also love donation of copper logs, gardening soil, possibly seedlings and plants and gardening tools.

Please indicate on the Parent Volunteer Survey if you would like to be part of establishing our vegetable garden.

Rhino
Watch out .... There are rhinos on the loose at Bankstown xx. As of this Saturday our school rhino will be on display in the shopping centre. Can you find it? What does it look like??

Ayman K.
It is with a very heavy heart that I need to let you know that on the 23 December last year, Ayman, one of our delightful 2013 Kindergarten students died at Doll’s Point. Ayman was swept away by a rip, too strong even for proficient swimmers, let alone five year old boys. Ayman will be remembered as a very popular, caring boy who loved to sing. Ayman received his class citizenship award last year – a testimony to the great little boy he was.

Our thoughts are with Ayman’s immediate and extended family. Ayman’s mother asks that his death not be in vein and the family is trying to do a number of things. These include to petition Rockdale council to make the area safer. If you want to help please go to Facebook or www.change.org and search for Ayman’s petition. Ayman’s family would also like to see children of all cultures including Middle Eastern cultures participate in nipper (life saving) clubs.

The school will hold a remembrance day for Ayman in the very near future.

IMPORTANT DATES
Monday 10 February – 9am
P&C Meeting

Thursday 13 February
Permanent Classes Formed

Tuesday 18 February
Swimming Carnival

Friday 21 February
Last day to pay for School Learning Pack

Playgroup Resumes
20th February

Between
Thursday 9am – 10:45am.

In the library
Bring your own morning tea
$2 per child

For more information please call
Catherine 0413 247 432

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:
Please note that effective from Monday 3rd February, all school perimeter gates will be locked from 9:30am – 2:55pm. The only entrance will be from Augusta Street, via intercom.