Welcome to the start of a new school year, with many exciting events planned we are already looking forward to a rewarding and eventful time at Nulkaba PS.

This note is to give some information as to the organisation of Stage 3 in 2012, some important dates and what we will be studying throughout the year. If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Stage 3 team.

**Literacy:** All classes will be working with the Accelerated Literacy (AL) framework as their main focus in literacy groups. This is essentially a book study, using age appropriate texts to develop reading, writing, grammar and spelling. Students have already displayed an increased enthusiasm for reading after using the AL model last year. Text types for writing are taught throughout the different texts each term.

**Mathematics:** During the year all Stage 3 classes are using the same scope and sequence for teaching Mathematics. Each week will see a different focus being taught, with these concepts being retaught, and expanded upon, throughout the year.

All students have undergone diagnostic testing at the start of the year, with this to be repeated at the end of the year so we can clearly record students progress, as well as ongoing assessments after topics have been taught. Mathletics will again be utilised throughout the Stage 3 classes and students will be encouraged to access this at home as well. All activities on Mathletics will reflect what has been taught the previous week.

**HSIE:** Term 1: Democracy  
Term 2: Global Connections  
Term 3: Gold  
Term 4: Rainforests  
Our major excursions this year are designed to compliment our studies in HSIE and will provide valuable insight and knowledge for the students.

**Science:** Term 1: Bridging the Gap  
Term 2: Global Connections  
Term 3: Can we Make it Better?  
Term 4: Will it Rain Today?  
Questacon travelling exhibitions will be presenting their science discovery show on the 21st of March. Further information and costs will come soon.

**PD/H/PE:** PE will be run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Sport will be held as a Stage group on Fridays. Within the classroom we will be teaching Values, Child Protection, Drug Education and Water Safety throughout the year. Peer Support will operate in Term 2, with training for Year 6 to occur later this term.

**Excursions:** The major excursions this year will be run in the last week of Term 1 for both Year 5 and Year 6. Year 5 will be venturing to Bathurst and Dubbo to explore for gold, while Year 6 will be going to Canberra to develop their knowledge of the nation’s capital. You should have received information about these excursions already. Other events will be planned throughout the year that are linked with our curriculum and designed to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of our students. Year 6 will also undergo transition to high school programs throughout the year, starting this week with MVHS teachers arriving to work on Science units with them.
Homework: Homework will be assigned by the classroom teacher and handed out to the student on Monday and should be returned on Friday. It is your child’s responsibility to ensure they collect the work and return it on time. Homework is an important part of your child’s learning, creating good study habits for future years. Mathletics and research projects will be incorporated into the homework throughout the year. Access to computers can be provided to students at school during their break times with negotiation with the teacher. Any concerns about the homework provided should be referred to the classroom teacher.

Library: All Stage 3 classes will have library lessons on a Wednesday this year. All students are entered into the Premier’s Reading Challenge—where they are expected to read 20 designated books before September. This is something that the students will be expected to follow through at home in order to complete.

Student Requirements: Students will regularly need coloured pencils and textas, rulers, pens (red and blue), books for silent reading, a water bottle and fruit for morning fruit break. Most stationary requirements will be provided at school but it is important that students have, and regularly update, their own supplies.

Important Events

- Saturday 17th March—Nulkaba School Fair
  Stage 3 are responsible for running the Hair Spray and Dunking Machine Stalls. Each class requires volunteers to assist in the running of these stalls. If you are available please sign up on sheets outside each classroom with the appropriate time.

- 2nd~ 5th April—Year 6 Canberra Excursion
  Cost of this excursion is $370, which needs to be paid before Week 11. Please ensure all notes are signed and returned to the class teacher.

- 2nd~ 5th April—Year 5 Bathurst/Dubbo Excursion
  Cost of this excursion is $375, which needs to be paid before Week 11. Please ensure all notes are signed and returned to the class teacher.

- 15th ~17th May—NAPLAN testing for Year 5
  More information to come closer to the date.

- Term 2 and 3—UNSW exams
  Keep an eye out in the newsletter for further information if you wish your child to participate in these exams.

  **More dates will follow throughout the year**

We are all looking forward to a successful 2012, with great achievements in the classroom, sporting fields and social events. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year and sharing in your child’s progress and achievements.

Mr Luke Somerville, Mr Daniel Payne,
Mrs Megan Anderson and Mrs Jennylee Petrysen