Dear families,

Thank you to all those families who attended the Year 7 BBQ on Friday night. It was a lovely opportunity to socialise as group and for me to get to know some of you a bit better. Thank you to Peta and Anne for organising this and thank you to the Spranz family for donating the delicious sausages!

The Year 7’s are settling in really well. They are a great bunch of students and the room is always filled with an amazing buzz.

We are continuing to grow in our understanding of the tablets. We have been using Edmodo most days for a variety of different purposes. Students have been involved in polls to present their opinion on a simple question. They have submitted a journal entry through the assignment function on the site and received a marked version back from me through their page. They have also had the opportunity to present their perspective privately on topics by sending messages via my inbox. Don’t forget that students can access Edmodo from home on your computer ([www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com)) or by downloading the app on your iphone or ipad.

As a part of our reward system, students will be awarded badges on Edmodo. The badges relate to the IB Learner Profile. Students may be awarded a principled badge for following classroom agreements or a communicator badge for a well written piece of writing, for example. This week we will also be starting a class reward system. Students will negotiate the reward once the class has reached 100 points. Stay tuned for their decision. 😊

We have also been using a site this week as a part of our mental maths programme which can also be access at home ([www.studyladder.com.au](http://www.studyladder.com.au)). This free website allows students to log in on their own account and practise a variety of skills through games and quizzes at different levels. It is a great way for students to practise their basic maths skills.

On Friday, I attended a half day course focusing on persuasive writing. I will be attending 3 more of these sessions over the term. Some of the practical ideas learnt at the course will be used in the classroom this term as a part of our genre study on persuasive texts. Again this year students will be required to write a persuasive text as a part of the NAPLAN testing next term.

You should have received a letter last week about Allick Collins Cup (lawn bowls competition). The Year 7’s will be training on Tuesday 6th March. Sports uniform will need to be worn on this day.

Last week we started to discuss some end of year matters (yes already!). I was interested to hear what the students were expecting in relation to graduation dinner, closing service etc. We spoke about having a balance between preparation for these events and learning time in what will be a busy time of the year. We discussed what is important to them and what would be an added bonus. We also discussed making this year our own, as the class of 2012!

This week will end our unit of inquiry on choices. Students will be completing a hyperlinked PowerPoint and a reflection after being presented with a scenario for their summative assessment task. The assessment task will
require the students to show differing choices for the given scenario and the possible consequences. The reflection will allow students to think about the choice they would make and the factors affecting their choice.

Next week we will be starting our unit of inquiry on **urban development**. This unit will run until the end of term.

**Central idea:** Urban development has an impact on communities.

**Lines of inquiry:**
- what constitutes urbanization;
- consequences of urbanization;
- interdependence of urban and rural communities.

That's about all for now.

Emily 😊

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**A note about Creative arts**

During Creative Arts this term we will start the year off with some drama activities to encourage the students to share their holiday experiences and to build classroom friendships. This is a great way to break the ice and create a supportive and fun classroom environment where students become confident risk takers.

Through a series of role plays and improvisation activities the students will re-familiarise themselves with IB Learner Profile and attitudes.

At the end of term 2 the Upper Primary’s will be staging our school concert. A very exciting and rewarding time that requires a high level of commitment from all students involved. During term 1 we will begin our rehearsals and refine the necessary dramatic skills needed to stage a concert.

A very exciting term ahead! 😊

Miss Sugars

**A note about PE**

In week 1 we got straight into softball with the unit running till the end of week 3. The central idea for this unit was: **Hand-eye coordination, technical ability and a good game sense are essential elements in becoming an efficient softball player.**

Weeks 4-8 will see the students practising for sports day in the different events they will be participating in on the day. The central idea for this unit is: **The ability to manipulate the body through balance and locomotion provide us with the motor skills required to participate in athletic activities.**

In week 9 and 10 students will be given the opportunity to participate in attack and defend games that promote team play, strategic understanding and athletic ability.

So buckle up and enjoy the ride because term 1 is going to be a ripper!!

Mr Phillips