We are well under way with 2013 now and everyone is becoming familiar with our new routines. So far we have spent a lot of time getting organised by ensuring everyone has all necessary equipment and by practising our routines. Thank you for your understanding when I was away sick earlier in the term. I had pharyngitis and tonsillitis and then bronchitis so needless to say, I was pretty much under the weather. I certainly did not want to be away from my class so early in the year, but everyone worked well for our relief teachers.

Inquiry...
We have all learnt so much about different styles of art and how we all view art in different ways, or from different perspectives. We were very fortunate to have visited the Cedars Gallery a couple of weeks ago and I am sure you heard all about it from your child. I have included a couple of photos for you below. We also had the privilege of having John Hamilton come and speak to us about his career as an artist and students were very impressed with his work. Feel free to visit his website www.johnhamilton.com.au for a look. We are just beginning our summative task, which is to create a ‘masterpiece’ using what we have learnt and so far they are taking shape beautifully! If you or your child discover any interesting information that could help our inquiry, please encourage them to bring it in so we can display it in the classroom.

...And we’re off!!
In **Maths** we have been working on mental computation, and in particular speed and accuracy in addition, and skip counting. These are skills that all students could improve in so if you get a minute at home, drilling your child on these skills would be of great worth. We have been learning some games to help develop our mental computation skills, too. We have also learnt how to name and identify properties of shapes, as well as how they can be transformed. You can also help this year by familiarising your children with everyday mathematics – things like reading the time and calendars, working out how much money a few items will cost (even just using estimates) and problem solving are things you can do regularly around home and at the shops and will reinforce many of the things we learn at school. Your extra support makes a huge difference to your child’s ability to retain and build on the concepts they learn at school.

In **Literacy** we have been working out how to improve our recounts by using better sentences and by using paragraphs to help organise our thoughts. We are also beginning to learn how to argue, much to students’ delight! Actually, we are learning how to write persuasively, to convince someone of our point of view. This genre of writing always proves to be very popular! I have organised **take home texts** so your children can borrow them whenever they like. We will change books several times each week or more often if your child needs to do so. If you think your child’s level is not quite right, please come and see me – I am currently in the process of testing all students to ensure they are reading books from the correct level. Students are enjoying spelling activities and we are working on completing them in the time available.

Thank you for assisting your children with their first **home work grids** for 2013. Overall, I was very pleased with the effort applied to the tasks and the thoroughness with which they were completed. I have encouraged all students to ask you to sign their grid once it has been completed. I will collect diaries next week to see what sort of books your child has been reading.

In **Christian Studies** we have been learning about the person and work of Jesus Christ and his centrality to Christianity. Christians believe that Jesus has made it possible for us to be ‘friends’ with God through his death and resurrection and we can be so thankful for that! We have been looking into the miracles that Jesus performed and soon we will investigate the parables Jesus used in his teaching. We have looked up passages to see the various names Jesus was called in the Bible and students are enjoying using their new Bibles in the classroom. We have looked at what his disciples or followers were like and discovered that we can also be disciples of Jesus. Easter will give us the opportunity to really reflect on what Jesus has done for us and the hope we have when we place our trust in him.

---

**Reminders…**

- **An ENORMOUS** thank you to everyone for arriving on time in the morning!! It is a huge help to us to begin our day promptly and for everyone to be settled.

- Please remind your children to check the “Morning Routine” poster when they arrive in the morning to make sure they are ready to begin when the bell rings. Many students have been finding their way to the playground before organising themselves properly for the day and I would like for morning routines to be completed thoroughly before students leave the room.

- Please feel free to come in for a chat anytime! I hope you have all felt very welcome in our classroom. Once again, please know that Anne (Mrs E. ☺) and I pray for your children regularly. We realise the impact a teacher can have on their students and so we pray that I can model Christ’s love to them each day. I look forward to eventually knowing all of you by name, not just by who you belong to!

Kind regards and many thanks,

Daniel