Welcome to Year 6 at Bimbadeen Heights Primary School. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year together. The students have settled back into school life in a positive manner and are working towards completing a successful final year at Primary School. Year 6 is a very busy year with special programs such as Inter-School Sport, Puberty and Adolescence and a specialised welfare program.

CURRICULUM
This year we will be implementing the Victorian Curriculum.

ENGLISH
The Victorian Curriculum organises English into three dimensions; Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Students will complete a variety of stimulating and challenging activities to develop skills and understandings in these dimensions.

MATHEMATICS
The Victorian Curriculum organises Mathematics into three dimensions; Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Our major focuses for this term will be on Cartesian planes, graphing, drawing and measuring angles, statistics and probability and the four main operations.

INTEGRATED STUDIES
In Term 1 our Integrated Studies topics are ‘A Valued Beginning’ and ‘Australia As A Nation’. ‘A Valued Beginning’ is a whole school wellbeing program that establishes class routines, expectations and relationships. Students have been discussing school values, along with the You Can Do It foundations and have formulated a class agreement for the year.

The Student Wellbeing Program covers Physical, Personal and Social Learning and this is taught through our Year 6 Boys & Girls Programs, our whole school You Can Do It Program as well as a variety of Student Wellbeing resources. We will also be focusing on the five school wide values of Respect, Fairness, Compassion, Understanding and Honesty.

The ‘Australia As A Nation’ unit is where students will learn about Australia’s history, in particular the lead up to Federation, Democracy and some notable individuals that have made an impact on our history.

SPECIALIST PROGRAM
Students will continue to participate in five specialist areas: Phys Ed, Art, Music, Library and Chinese (LOTE). This year, all classes have the same specialists on the same days at different times. On Monday or Wednesday students will have Library, Tuesdays they will have Art and Music with PE, LOTE and Year 6 Sport on Thursdays. A reminder that sports tops are only to be worn on a Thursday.
**Transition**

This year, Mrs Gray is the Primary to Secondary School Transition Co-ordinator. Information regarding secondary schools will be distributed during the term and we encourage you to attend the Information Nights at the local secondary schools, so you will be well informed before making the important decision later in Term 2. We will possibly visit some of our local secondary schools that will allow the students to experience a variety of programs in a secondary setting.

**Homework**

Students will receive homework on a Friday that must be completed and returned by the following Thursday. Students are expected to take responsibility for completing this task, but encouragement and support from parents would be appreciated. Homework tasks will include Reading and Curriculum activities. We also expect all students to read regularly and to complete their home reading diary. The students should be reading on at least two occasions, for a total weekly reading time of at least one hour. Students are encouraged to read a variety of texts including newspapers, magazines, fiction books and non-fiction books, however a chapter book is encouraged. Your child will ask you to sign their diary to verify that they have read. Diaries will be checked by the teachers. Occasionally long term projects or alternative tasks will be given instead of regular homework. In your child’s homework book this week is the homework agreement in further detail. Please take the time to read and discuss this with your child before signing it.

**Reminders**

**Brain food** – Students may bring in fresh fruit or vegetables to eat while they are working around 10am each day. We also encourage them to have a drink bottle with water in it on their desks.

**Rubbish** – We encourage no rubbish in the schoolyard at recess and lunchtime, except fruit scraps for the compost bin. Please discuss with your child, ways of cutting down the rubbish they bring to school, e.g., containers or reusable bags instead of glad wrap.

**Class Supplies** – We would also like to remind all students to bring to school a labelled calculator and dictionary if they haven’t already, as they will need to use these in class.

**Graduation Day** - will be Thurs Dec 21st starting at 1pm. Please put it in your calendar now! We also ask you to start collecting photos etc for the student’s ‘Memories of Bimbadeen’ books that will be their homework during Term 4.

**Payments** – There is a lot happening in Year 6 so please be aware there may be additional costs for extra activities. We will do our best to keep these to a minimum.

**IPADS**

We are looking forward to using iPads to support our learning in our classrooms this year. We ask that each child provides a set of small headphones that they are able to leave at school in their tub for their personal use. If your child is bringing their own device from home they should have signed and returned the ‘Bring Your Own Devices’ form. You will find the guidelines expected attached.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please contact us at any time of the year if you have concerns. We hope to meet all the parents at our Information Night.

Kind Regards,

Year 6 Teachers: Melinda Ruscitti, Matt Laws, Michaela Gray and Tania Maniscalchi