Welcome back to all parents and students in P4 for Semester 2. I hope that everyone has had a fantastic holiday and it has been great to hear that many class members were able catch up with family members and spend time away! Some students also began brainstorming ideas and working on their Student Initiated Projects for this term, which is very impressive. We have made a positive start to the semester and I thank all parents for returning their Parent/Teacher Interview forms. I look forward to seeing all of you next week to reflect on your child’s learning achievements in our class so far.

**General Routines**

Students will continue to complete a range of learning tasks as part of their home work requirements this semester. Newspaper Articles are due each Friday and it is my hope that the completion of these weekly tasks will assist students to continue to develop their individual time management and organisational skills, while also focussing on the use of key reading strategies. Students are required to select an article to read, which can be from a range of different sources. These sources can include newspapers, magazines, websites, brochures etc. Students underline the key points within the text, write a 5 dot point summary and include a creative border. Basic spelling activities will also need to be completed and list words studied each afternoon as this will assist all students to develop their knowledge of spelling patterns and sounds. You can also assist your child by re-reading their sentences aloud to check for clarity and minor errors. All students should be reading their independent novels for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. They are able to record their reading within their Reading Logs and can borrow books each Thursday during our Library lesson. Parents can assist by listening to their children read and through asking questions about main events and characters in the novel. Each of our school newsletters will include a Family Maths Challenge problem. Although these are not compulsory for students to complete, it would be beneficial for them to attempt to complete the problems and demonstrate their thinking. These problems are to be handed up to the Maths Box at the Front Office on Fridays. The use of diaries is essential in preparing students in P4 as they progress through the Middle Years of their schooling. I will continue to encourage them to fill in their diaries and I would appreciate it if these, along with the reading logs, are signed by parents each weekend.

**Curriculum Areas**

There will be a range of highly valuable learning opportunities and experiences for students in P4 this semester.

**Numeracy**

This term we will begin working more explicitly on fractions, decimals and percentages. Students will consider basic fractions, equivalent fractions, operations with fractions, and make conversions between fractions, decimals and percentages. Along with this, students will be supported to consider ‘Best Buys’ and analyse a range of sources to consider percentage off and value for money. We will continue with our Numeracy ‘Scaffolding’ Groups, with each group continuing their focus on specific mathematical concepts, topics and misconceptions. A significant focus of the semester will continue to be on the development of problem solving strategies and thinking skills for all students.
Literacy

In English we will continue to focus on our use of reading strategies which will assist students to make meaning from a range of different genres. Students will develop their understanding of strategies which will assist with fluency, summarising, predicting, self-correcting and questioning. Students will develop their knowledge of text structure, as well as techniques used within persuasive texts, recounts and narratives. We will focus on the effective use of paragraphs and students will be supported to write using compound and complex sentences. Spelling will continue throughout the semester with new activities and opportunities for extension included in each groups contract. Spelling will now run over a 2 week period as our groups will also begin to focus on grammar and punctuation conventions.

Integrated Study & Student Initiated Project

The 2016 Rio Olympics will provide us with an opportunity for students to engage in an Integrated Study. Each student will be working on learning tasks related to the Olympics which utilise skills within a range of key curriculum areas, such as History, Geography, Art, Music, PE. Students will also present Student Initiated Projects toward the end of this semester. This will provide all class members with the ability to direct their own learning, develop greater confidence in their individual skills and focus on the 21st Century Learning Skills.

Specialist Areas

In Japanese this term we have an exciting programme planned incorporating both language and culture. Please read on to see what your children will be learning in the Japanese Room. And please remember to contact me via email on Belinda.Brenen164@schools.sa.edu.au or pop in to the Japanese Room if you’d like to chat about your child’s learning. I’d love to meet you!

Middle Years students will focus on the Summer Olympics in Rio, with an emphasis on Australia and Japan’s involvement in the games and the two country’s athletes. The students will interact with their peers and the teachers to ask and answer questions about athlete backgrounds, sports and likes/dislikes. After gathering information about their chosen athlete from a range of sources students will collaborate with their peers to present a mock interview. Students will be required to recognise some katakana words whilst developing the ability to use both hiragana and kanji in a single text. We will continue to expand the use of Edmodo to assist students with their Japanese learning both at school and at home – I hope your child has been using it during the holidays! Culturally we will learn about Japanese Summer Festivals with Noriko Sensei. We will learn about Japanese summer foods and activities as well as create some beautiful summer artwork.

In term 3, Middle Years students will be inquiring into the different areas of personal and community safety and awareness. Students will focus on current relevant issues surrounding topics such as peer pressure, fostering respectful and caring relationships and developing a strong sense of self-worth. This unit will promote informed, responsible and ethical decision making by the students in a variety of situations as well as promoting the development of skills in recognising standards of behaviour, responding to unsafe and unfair situations and seeking assistance effectively. Students will be analysing risk-taking scenarios and determining times when risk is healthy and unhealthy. In doing this, students will be developing recognition of their own early warning signs, when presented with danger, feelings and strategies for dealing with conflict.

I look forward to a productive and fun filled semester in P4! If you have any questions or would like to come into the class, don’t hesitate to contact me at the school or via email: paul.koch248@schools.sa.edu.au.

Regards,
Paul Koch