Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your child’s teacher for 2011, I would like to welcome you and your family to the new year at Cartwright Public School. I would like to fill you in on some of the things 3/4C will be involved in during Term 1, 2011.

It is important to ensure your child brings to school with them the following items each day:

- 2 x Lead pencils
- Glue stick
- Hat
- Lunch and Recess
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler (wooden or plastic only)
- Library bag or a plastic bag
- Paint shirt (eg. an old t-shirt)

Overview of the Classroom Program

**Spelling**

Students are given new spelling words including theme words on the Monday of odd weeks. The students will complete a number of activities to assist them in learning and being able to use the spelling words in everyday situations. Students are tested on their spelling words and theme words on the Friday of even weeks.

**Reading**

Reading Groups are held throughout the week. Students are grouped according to their Reading Level. During Reading Group session students read with the teacher or complete a number of activities based on their book.

**Talking and Listening**

In Term One the students will participate in Talking and Listening activities on a daily basis in the form of short speeches about a number of different topics. Students are encouraged to prepare and practise their speech at home and can use palm cards or paper to assist them.

**Writing**

Each week students participate in modelled and independent writing activities during the morning literacy session. This term the text types focus will be “Persuasive Texts”. Grammar features are taught explicitly within the text type units.

**Accelerated Literacy**

During Accelerated Literacy lessons, students will engage with a text and discuss how the author created the intended meaning through structure, word choices and word order. Students will examine images and precise language that describe what happened, where, when, how and why. The students will use this information to enhance their own reading and writing.

**Mathematics**

In Term 1 the students in 3/4C will participate in a number of Mathematical learning experiences daily. During these sessions we focus on Number activities (such as counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and activities based on the other Mathematical strands such as Patterns and Algebra, Data, Measurement, and Space and Geometry. Students will participate in “The Language of Mathematics” program, which looks at strategies to assist students with solving word problems.

**Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)**

This term 3/4C will participate in an integrated HSIE and Science Storypath unit “Marine World: The Great Barrier Reef.” Students will learn about underwater sea life on the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia. Students immerse themselves in the marine world by creating the Great Barrier Reef environment and the scientists that live and work in an underwater sea lab. Students tackle the problems of living and working together as a community. They study and create life-size models of sea life. When students are confronted with an oil spill that threatens the reef, they conduct experiments to determine how best to clean up the spill. The Storypath is concluded with an international conference on the world’s oceans.

**Science and Technology**

The students in 3/4C will participate in a Technology unit focusing on using digital media including: digital cameras, video cameras and sound recording devices with Mr Leech on a Thursday.
**Creative Arts**
Creative Arts includes areas such as Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music. This term we are focusing on Visual Art and will create a number of artworks relating to "The Sea" to support our learning about the Great Barrier Reef.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Development**
As part of our Health program students will participate in the unit "Building My Network" once a week. Students will explore and learn about and describe how relationships with a range of people enhance wellbeing. The students will have the opportunity to make decisions as an individual and as a group member while working on effective communication strategies within groups. The students in 3/4C will participate in the welfare program You Can Do It! once a week. On Friday afternoons the students will participate in a sports program focusing on developing the fundamental movement skills.

**Home Learning**
Home Learning has begun for this term. The school policy on Home Learning has changed recently and Home Learning is now optional for students. Due to this, there will no longer be fortnightly Home Learning Awards. Home Learning will go home on Mondays and is to be returned by Friday of each week. 3/4C students will also participate in Home Reading which has already begun.

**Special Times in 3/4C’s Weekly Routine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6 Assembly</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Parents/Caregivers welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 Scripture</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:05-1:35</td>
<td>Students should wear running shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:55 – 2:55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>Students need a library or plastic bag to borrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Behaviour - Classroom Rules**
At the beginning of the year the students in 3/4C collaboratively agreed upon the classroom rules which they will abide by both inside and outside of the classroom. The rules are as follows:

1. Put your hand up if you need to speak
2. Walk in the classroom
3. Listen to the teacher and others when they are talking
4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself
5. Respect others and their property
6. Stay in your seat during bookwork
7. Speak with manners and respect
8. Always try your best

**Behaviour Monitoring**
3/4C has a behaviour monitoring system where the students move their names along a progressive chart. Throughout the day students move along the chart when they are observed following the classroom and school rules, along with being recognised for positive behaviour, outstanding work and showing initiative in their work. All students begin the day with their name on the “Good” card. They then have the opportunity to move to the “Great” and “Excellent” cards, then the “WOW” card. Once the students move to the “WOW” card they are rewarded with a “WOW” award. When a student misbehaves the Cartwright Public School four-step plan is implemented:

1. Warning – issued by the teacher
2. Time out – the students works independently at the Time Out table
3. Time out with another teacher – in another classroom for a short period of time
4. Sent to the Assistant Principal/Principal

*If students are violent, they will be sent directly to the Assistant Principal/Principal. Students are aware of the acceptable classroom behaviour and of the consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

I look forward to working with you in achieving the best outcomes for your child this term and for the remainder of the year. If you wish to speak to me about your child’s education please contact me via the school phone number 9607 7979 to make an appointment.

**Miss Fiona Curtis**