



Minister for Education

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone: +61 3 9637 2000
DX 210083
GPO Box 4367
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

February 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to the start of what promises to be another exciting school year. In Victoria, we are fortunate to have a world-class education system with a strong and vibrant government school system at its core. One of the greatest gifts we can all give our children is the solid foundation of a high-quality education. We are always working hard to improve so that every child can thrive, learn and grow.

Government schools are an important part of their local community. The people who make our schools great places for your child – principals, teachers, staff and school councillors – are dedicated to providing the best education possible for our children.

One of the most effective ways we can do this is by being actively engaged in the education of our children. We can all help our children develop the knowledge, skills and learning strategies they need to engage in lifelong learning. Reading with your child, talking with them about the world around us, and encouraging creative play are all crucial elements of your child's development.

I also encourage you to become actively involved in your child's school community. It helps children achieve the best possible learning outcomes. You can participate in school life, both formally and informally, through volunteering and staying up to date with your children's learning progress through regular contact with their teachers.

More information on Victorian government schools can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au or Education Line **ph 1800 809 834** can provide further advice and assistance.

I wish you and your children all the very best for the year ahead.

Hon Bronwyn Pike MP
Minister for Education

