Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to tell you about an exciting project Stage 3 are about to do in their class.

This year Stage 3 will be implementing the teaching method of Project Based Learning, or PBL, to help students learn better. A project motivates students to gain knowledge, and they remember it longer. Projects give students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your child also learns skills in PBL such as how to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and make presentations. These skills will help students succeed in the future, both in school and in today’s work world.

Our project is called “Help I’m Vanishing” and it will be taught during Semester One. Students will learn about the rainforest and what we can do to preserve our rainforests. The project’s Driving Question, which focuses our work, is “What can we do to avoid permanent damage and how can we raise greater awareness of the importance of saving local and international rainforests.” Students will be involved in tasks such as researching on the Internet, interviewing community members, preparing an oral presentation, creating a video etc. Your child will work in a team, guided by the Stage 3 teachers. We will be working with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, other teachers, schools, local community organizations and experts.

At the end of the project students will make presentations to the school community. The presentations will take place in the school library and is scheduled for Tuesday 20th May 2014. There will be two sessions to cater for parents and students who cannot make the evening presentation – day session 11.30 - 1.00pm, evening session 5.00pm - 7.00pm. We hope you will be able to attend.

Students will be assessed individually on their content knowledge, their collaboration skills, and their presentation skills. I have attached the rubrics we will use to guide their presentation and assess students’ work. You may find these helpful in understanding what we are asking students to do, and supporting your child during the project. As parents or guardians, you can discuss the project at home, encouraging your child to think hard and ask questions about the topic. You can also support the project by helping in the classroom, providing expertise and resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Stage 3 teachers if you have any questions about the project!

Sincerely,

Mrs Smith on behalf of the Stage 3 Teachers