Welcome to 2016! It has been wonderful to see such smiling faces from all the boys and girls over the past couple of weeks. We have many new families starting this year and it has been lovely to see and hear our students looking after them. We have a busy year ahead and the children have already begun to focus on establishing routines and setting up the classroom for learning.

This term our Inquiry focus is ‘Getting a Fair Go’. Students will explore rules and laws, in the school, home, sport and society. They will investigate why it is important to have rules and laws for a functioning society. Students look at ways in which rules or local laws change and the process and reasons for these changes. They will participate in cooperative tasks and learn about ‘voting’ as one way to make decisions and as a class will use voting to make class/school based decisions.

In **Reading**, we are developing the students’ ability to read and understand a text by:

- Starting up our Home Reading program.
- Establishing classroom library routines and reading routines. These include ‘Just Right’ books, Independent reading, Turn and Talk routines and using a Reading Journal.
- Setting up the class library, this includes choosing interesting fiction and non-fiction books, creating category boxes for books etc.
- Understanding the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Predicting unfamiliar words by utilizing a range of strategies.
- Asking questions before, during and after reading and identifying the different types of answers we find to questions.
- Conducting regular conferences with all students individually in order to set goals based on their needs.
- Articulating thinking about what smart thinking readers during share time.

In **Writing**, we are providing students with opportunities to develop their ability to write by:

- Becoming familiar with the spelling study routine. Students will receive spelling words based on their individual needs and the current inquiry focus. Please support your child in learning their spelling words each night using the strategy look, say, cover, write, check.
- Regular one-on-one conferences where goals will be set in order to target specific areas for improvement.
- Understanding and applying the process of writing. This includes planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing.
- Learning the structure and features of the persuasive genre. Students will be constructing persuasive texts based around issues they feel strongly about.
- Learning how to write effective questionnaires.
**NUMERACY**

In **Numeracy**, we are building all students’ capacity as mathematicians by providing real life experiences and by taking a ‘hands on’ approach. Students have been learning about what great mathematicians do, including using concrete materials and making mistakes. They will be participating in individual, small group and whole class activities.

**During the term a Numeracy focus will be on:**

- **Place value** – understanding the value of each digit within a number through hands on experiences. Students will be reading, writing, modeling and ordering small and larger numbers.

- **Counting** – developing confidence to count forwards and backwards with small and larger numbers in sequences starting at any number by applying efficient strategies. Students explore patterns in numbers in association with addition and subtraction.

- **Chance and data** - describing and ordering possible events. Students organise data into categories and create displays using lists, tables, picture graphs and simple column graphs.

Students will continue to reflect after each numeracy lesson and will be recording this thinking. During reflections students are challenged to articulate their thinking in a concise manner.

**ICT**

This term students will access Mathletics to complete purposeful tasks that consolidate what they are learning in Numeracy. Students are encouraged to spend a short time on Mathletics at home in order to complete the set tasks which are directly related to their learning.

**LIBRARY**

Library borrowing is every week! Please check your child’s library day in this newsletter and encourage them to bring their library bag each week. There are spare library bags at school if you need one.

**HOME READING**

Students will borrow between three and five books every Wednesday. Please support your child to read their books many times to help with their fluency and vocabulary development. Students need to bring their reader bag to school every Wednesday to return their books and borrow new ones for the week. Students can bring any of these books to school if they wish to continue reading them during their Independent Reading time.

Darryl Leech & Leah Kotynski
Year 3/4 Teaching Team

**SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

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*Friday Assembly at 3:15pm – All Welcome*
**SPECIALIST PROGRAMS**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) - RAY MCREDDEN**

During Term One, students in years three and four will be involved in a physical education program that has an emphasis on providing a range of activities to enable students to develop competency in a range of basic and complex motor skills such as running, skipping, jumping, leaping and dodging. They will be actively encouraged to apply these skills in sport-specific settings through participation in modified games and a specific sports hour each week. Another important aspect of the program will involve students making judgements about their own performance and setting goals to improve this performance specifically with reference to long distance running. Students will be involved in some activities that have an emphasis on team work and co-operation.

**VISUAL ARTS - JULIE VELLA**

The Year Three and Four students will be looking at the elements of Art this term. The two elements we will be focussing on are line and colour. The students have begun producing some fantastic line inspired art. Once these are complete, we look forward to displaying them around the school for all to enjoy.

Art can be very messy! Please ensure that your child has a labelled art smock at school to use during art lessons. We are always looking for donations in the art room. Items needed include wool, fabric, newspaper, magazines, ribbons, beads, egg cartons. If there is a remote possibility we can do something with it, then send it in...we are VERY creative!

**MUSIC - JOYCE AZZOPARDI**

During Term One in Music, students in Years Three and Four will focus on the musical element of Pitch and Melody. They will use tuned percussion instruments to play rhythm patterns and also create their own two-note and three-note compositions to share with their peers. Students will gain an understanding that when we use notes to play rhythm patterns, we are playing a ‘tune’ or ‘melody’.

Year Three and Four students will also be introduced to the recorder this year. They will have their own recorder instrument distributed to them early this term and all students are expected to bring it to every Music lesson. In Term One, the major focus will be on correct finger posture and breath control as well as learning to play the notes B and A.

**AUSLAN - KATRINA MYNARD**

This year we will be learning AUSLAN. Katrina will teach students once a week where they will learn the alphabet, common phrases used in everyday life and phrases related to our Inquiry unit each term.