Welcome to 2016! The students have arrived at Sunshine Primary with smiles on their faces and are ready to learn. We have a busy year ahead and the students are already focusing on establishing routines and setting up the classroom for learning.

This term our Inquiry focus is ‘Be Your Best’. Students will be exploring strategies that help them achieve their goals and assist them in working efficiently in team scenarios.

**LITERACY**

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

- Starting up our Hi 5 Home Reading program.
- Establishing classroom library and reading routines. These include choosing a ‘Just Right’ book, independent reading, setting up the classroom library and Turn and Talk routines.
- Understanding the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Predicting unfamiliar words by utilising a range of strategies including stretching out the word, looking at the initial letter and using illustrations.
- Conducting regular conferences with all students individually in order to set goals based on their needs.

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

- Becoming familiar with the individual word study routine. Students will receive spelling words based on their individual needs. 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, editing, revising and publishing.
- Learning the structure and features of the recount and persuasive genres. Students will be constructing recount texts based around familiar experiences, and will write texts persuading students to be safe at school.

**NUMERACY**

Students’ **Numeracy** skills will be enhanced by providing real life experiences. They will have the opportunity to take part in individual, small group and whole class activities.

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

- **Counting** – applying strategies when counting, developing confidence to count small and large numbers in sequences starting at any numbers, counting forwards and backwards starting at any number and discovering patterns in numbers.
- **Place Value** – understanding the value of each digit within a number through hands on experiences. Students will be reading, writing, saying and ordering small and larger numbers.
Students’ Numeracy skills will be enhanced by daily counting forwards and backwards from various starting points, and calendar investigations which include days of the week and months of the year. Students will also be exploring number lines and 100s charts to help them develop their counting skills and to prepare them for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

**HOME SCHOOL TASKS**
We ask that you read with your child each and every night and help your child to practise their ‘Learning Words’. Other tasks will have an inquiry focus and will be sent home throughout the term. We invite you to work with your child to complete personal inquiry tasks and then bring them to school to share with our classes.

**PARENT HELPERS**
We value the role of parents and carers in the education of each student and welcome you into our classrooms by appointment. Parent helpers can be involved in many ways and are especially valuable as part of our two hour Literacy block each day. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to help every now and then, or on a regular basis.

To support our programs please ensure your child has the following items at school:
- Art smock
- Sunshine Primary School home reading bag

Emma Muiznieks and Lauren Peeler  
Year 1/2 Teaching Team

**SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

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Friday Assembly at 3:15pm – All Welcome
During Term One, students in Years One and Two will be involved in a physical education program that has a focus on further developing and refining basic motor skills, (running, hopping, jumping, skipping, rolling, balancing, twisting and turning) and are introduced to more complex skills such as leaping and dodging. There will be an emphasis on combining skills (hopping → running → skipping) to produce movement sequences that are coordinated and fluent. Students will revise procedures for; the safe movement through areas, the correct use of equipment, the intra personal skills required for sharing and be introduced to simplified games with basic rules.

The Year One and Two students will be looking at the elements of art this term. The two elements we will be focusing on are pattern and colour. We have discussed that patterns must repeat. The students will be working as a whole group to create colour art on a collaborative piece.

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!

During Term One in Music, students in Years One and Two will practice and revise maintaining a steady beat to music through movement and playing percussion instruments. They will improvise and echo rhythm, movement and melodic phrases. Students will focus on the musical elements of Pitch and Dynamics. They will explore possible sound effects for both a story and a song using instruments or sounds they can make. Students will explore high and low vocal sounds and will be encouraged to accompany a verse from a chant using one note of a tuned percussion instrument such as a xylophone.

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.