Welcome back to the 2015 school year. It has been a wonderful start to the year with the children being bright and enthusiastic to learn. We have 19 class members. There are eleven grade twos and eight grade threes. I have included a copy of the specialist timetable on page 4.

Developing a school routine is crucial for your child this year. The attitude that your child has towards their own learning: being punctual, taking responsibility for their own actions, home reading and homework are just some of the learning behaviours that are set in concrete during the first few years of school. By grade 2, your child should already know that they will miss out on important learning if they are away from school and they should already be developing an awareness that learning is more difficult when they are in ‘catch-up mode’.

Similarly, their attitude towards homework and home reading is already well on the way to being developed now. We often find that parents become worried about their children’s homework habits as they head off to secondary school, whereas in reality it is in the prep/one/two years when good habits are established. Encourage your child to read to an adult every night and practice spelling high frequency words. In addition, let your child be responsible for tasks such as writing out lunch orders, handing in notes and make sure they pack and unpack their own bags.
It pays to be here on time!

Did you know that if your child is fifteen minutes late per day, that will mean they have missed an equivalent of ten school days PER YEAR! That is a lot of missed learning opportunities considering that some children may only miss ten days over their 13 years of education!

To help promote punctuality, we are awarding extra play time on a Friday for those children who have been successful in arriving to school on time. This happens on Fridays at recess.

Science and Technology

We are working on a “Light” theme. The children have been experimenting with crystals, and conducted experiments with glycerine to make test tubes disappear (learning about reflection and refraction). They have planted potatoes to investigate how they grow to the light and have designed potato mazes to make the potato’s journey to the light more challenging!
Our specialist timetable is as follows:

Monday: Music 10:30-11:00
Tuesday: Art 10:00-11:00
Wednesday:
Thursday: P.E. 9:00-10:00
    Japanese 12:10-12:50

Every second Thursday the grade goes to the Mobile Library after recess and on Fridays we do sport sometime in the day depending on the heat. Children need running shoes on Thursdays and Fridays.

Our day starts with a literacy focus most days and generally Maths is the session after recess.

In addition the kids have been participating in Science activities, Technology activities and craft sessions.
Pencil cases

The grade 2s have moved from the 'infant' area whereby they shared classroom textas and pencils, to our room where they have been given their own pencil case and writing implements. Similarly each child now has their own locker tub for storing their books and pencil cases.

It is quite common for children to go into "competition mode" and to lug all sorts of pens and pencils from home as the year goes on, however our rules are: only one pencil case per locker tub and nothing is to be stored on top of tables at the end of the day, (if it’s too big to fit into their tub, it’s too big for school). Your school fees have paid for all writing implements, books, paper, photocopying and arts and crafts materials. We ask each year for families to supplement classroom glue supplies by providing glue sticks at the start of the year. These are trickling in all the time. Thank you to those who are in the process of doing this!

Can I please request that the children don’t bring in permanent markers or white out as these won’t be used by the children this year.

Mathletics is up and running for 2015. All children have been moved up into their new Mathletics classes so all children have access to a full Maths curriculum online from home. Your child has a login username and password. Please see me if you need a copy of this.