Welcome back for 2017! We hope you and your children have had a restful break and look forward to the year ahead.

**Religion**

This year the OLN community is focusing on the theme of *I Thank You Lord*. We will be exploring the theme of gratitude and giving thanks for everything around us. Through our inquiry unit ‘Who We Are’ we will be investigating different Saints in the Church and how they can be positive role models in our lives.

We will be setting up our prayer routine in our classroom. We will conclude the term with the unit of ‘Lent and Holy Week’ where we will explore the events of Jesus’ life that are celebrated during Holy Week.

### Units of Inquiry

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**Literacy**

**Good fit books:**
Children will discuss what a ‘good-fit book’ is. We will discuss the ‘I PICK’ criteria for choosing a ‘good fit’ book (Purpose, Interest, Comprehension, Know all the words). Children will practise following the ‘I PICK’ criteria in order to successfully choose a ‘good-fit-book’ for them.

**Spelling:**
In class, we will be completing spelling investigations to explore common spelling patterns, word endings and spelling strategies such as syllabification, listening to sounds and “having-a-go” then checking.

**Reading:**
We will be focusing on reading comprehension to develop deeper understandings about what students have read. We will also look at strategies we can use to assist with reading a tricky or new word. These include blending, chunking, reading forwards or backwards and using pictures. During reading groups students will discuss literal meaning of texts.

**Writing:**
During term one we will be focusing on recounts and using description in our writing.

**Listening and speaking:**
This area will be addressed throughout all areas of learning. Speaking and listening conventions will be looked at as well as building up the confidence of students to share in front of a small audience. We will also introduce share time giving students the opportunity to bring in something of importance to them from home to share with their peers.

**Maths**

We will be investigating:

- **Counting and Number Patterns**
  - Identifying patterns on a hundreds chart
  - Creating number patterns
  - Counting forwards and backwards by starting at random numbers

- **Place Value**
  - Reading, writing, ordering and representing numbers
  - Representing numbers in different ways
  - Understanding the place value of each digit in a number

- **Number Facts**
  - Addition- building to ten, doubles, ten facts and adding ten
  - Developing speed and accuracy with quick facts
**Other important information...**

**Sports uniform**
During Term 1 sports uniform will be required on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Grade 2.

**Homework**
Your child has a yellow reading diary to record home reading activity. Student’s are expected to read for 10-20 minutes at least 5 nights per week (as stated in OLN’s Homework Policy). This time includes discussion of the book. We recommend that there is a combination of independent reading and reading aloud to a parent. Reading diaries will be checked every Friday by the classroom teacher and we ask that parents sign and comment.

Homework will commence week 4. Children will be given their homework on a Wednesday and will have 10 days to complete it, being due the next Friday.

**Book Borrowing**
Students will be given the opportunity to borrow ‘good fit’ books from the library each week. During this session students will be asked to select a current and future read. They will also have the opportunity to select picture story books, factual texts etc. Borrowing will be weekly each Friday.
Parent Helpers
Throughout the year there will be various opportunities for parent helpers to assist in the Grade 2 classrooms. Beginning week 4, a parent helper timetable will be placed outside the Grade 2 rooms near the top of stairs.

Please note all parent helpers are required to have attended a ‘Parent Helper Training’ session as well as hold a current Working with Children Check.

Some important dates for Term 1:
• 13th February- Parent information exchanges 3.30-6.30
• 16th February- Parent information exchanges 3.30-6.30
• 13th March- Labour Day
• 20th March- 2B Assembly 2.30

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your children as well as a productive and fun term ahead!

Mr Milograd and Miss Manos