Welcome to Term 1, 2014. We hope you had a happy and safe holiday. We are extremely excited to be back at Surrey Hills Primary School and are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year ahead. Welcome to our new Zone 2 teachers, Penny Camiot and Diane Kassiotis, who join Simone Boyd-Clark, Bec Candy, Christabelle Toohey, Jo Streader(student Support) and Alan Beale (Team Leader). We would also like to welcome Sheryl Boey (L.O.T.E: Mandarin/Gifted), Katie Burke (Visual Arts), Liza Hanna (Physical Education) and Anne Strasser (Performing Arts) as our Specialist teachers.

**Term 1 Inquiry:**
The Term 1 inquiry topic is called ‘Community - Connected Communities’. Students explore what are the elements of a community, examine the services and systems of the community and explore community values.

**Rationale:**
By having a good understanding of the elements of my community and how they work together, I can get the most out of living in it.

**Investigations into:**
Services within our community.
Systems within our community.
Maintaining order within our community.

**Essential Questions:**
- How could I use the services and systems in my community?
- How can I contribute to order in my community?

**Future Actions:**
Through exposure to the various aspects of the community in which they live, it is expected that students will take pride in being a member of a community that provides for them and supports their needs. It is hoped that they will understand and respect the rules of their community and that they will contribute towards others in their community in meaningful and rewarding ways. It is expected that they will be thoughtful and caring members of whatever community in which they live.

**Glossary Words:**

Predict, outcome, certain, likely, unlikely, impossible, street, town, city, map, observe, investigate, describe, natural, built, environment, local, groups, family, class, roles, rights, responsibility, community, members, rules, unfair, fair, questions, listening, products, processes, systems, text, images, data, files, persisting, precise, clarity.
Numeracy
We will be focusing on general number knowledge including counting to 100/1,000 and beyond, skip counting, number lines, use of concrete materials including Mathematical Attribute blocks (M.A.B), place value, graphing, chance and data, 2 and 3 dimensional shapes, addition and subtraction. Students will work in differentiated, individual, small activity groups. At home, you can assist your child’s learning through regular practise of times tables and using online maths programs, such as Mathletics.

Literacy:
This term, Zone 2 will be exploring writing based around the recount genre. Students punctuation marks, nouns and verbs as well as to begin integrating paragraphs and more complex language (such as adverbs and adjectives) to develop voice and sophistication. Regular journal and creative writing sessions and comprehension activities will develop these skills as will differentiated literacy sessions.

We will also be developing students’ speaking and listening skills in both formal and conversational situations. Use of show and tell and other oral presentations will provide opportunities to develop these skills.

Differentiated Literacy and Numeracy Groups:
Our daily differentiated groups will incorporate mathematics (number) and literacy sessions which will enable support and extension activities for all students in years 1 and 2. These groups will commence and involve all students in Zone 2 once testing in these curriculum areas has concluded.

Homework:
Homework for Zone 2 students will commence with take-home readers. These should come home in a reading pouch and should contain a reading log and we ask parents to read nightly with their child, as well as sign and comment in the reading log. Encourage and support your child as they attempt unfamiliar words, so that they are confident to ‘have a go’ at more challenging text.

Important Dates for Zone 2, 2014:
All upcoming dates and notices for Zone 2 students and parents will be uploaded to the school calendar accessible via the school website. Included in these dates will be the Parent Information Evening, Parent/Teacher Interviews, excursions and incursions.

Property:
The start of a new year is a great opportunity to ensure that all of your child’s items are clearly labelled. This includes lunch boxes, water bottles, clothing, hats, sports equipment, books, stationary and any other belongings. We would appreciate it if parents could send in a box of tissues to help deal with colds and snuffles throughout the year.

Information Night and Parent Meetings
Further more detailed information will be presented at the Information Night will be on 19th February at 7:45pm in the Zone 2 area followed by Parent Teacher meetings on 4th and 4th March.

Looking forward to a fantastic teaching and learning experience in Zone 2 in 2014.