Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Term 1, 2015!

The 1-2 team would like to welcome new staff to our team: Rachel Gurr to 1-2G and returning teachers, Kate Fedele and Rachel Combridge to 1-2K.

This term we will begin by setting up expectations for classroom processes and procedures. These activities will be strongly linked to the Bounce Back program with its emphasis on the Kensington Primary School Values and the resulting expectations for developing a set of classroom rules. These discussions will support students in maintaining a safe, friendly and supportive learning environment. Keep an eye out for the ‘Learning and Playing Together’ booklet, which will come home this term and will need to be read, signed and returned to school.

Our Term 1 Inquiry unit of work, entitled ‘Communities’, will explore the idea that we all belong to a community and each of our communities has similarities and differences. The main concepts covered will be: the roles, rights and responsibilities of community members and common values, purpose and benefits of each community. We will explore key questions such as: What communities do we belong to? Who is a part of our communities? What are the roles, rights and responsibilities of us and people in our communities? What are the values, purposes and benefits of our communities?

**Literacy: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening**

**Reading** - The focus will be on students:
- Investigating how to choose ‘just-right’ books for independent reading and building up a class library.
- Learning to use what they already know (their prior knowledge) to form reasonable predictions about what might happen next in a text.
- Understanding what they read as well as using a range of strategies for working out unknown words.
- Critical thinking, e.g. exploring the purpose of the text.

The Home Reading and Spelling programs start in week 3. Children will bring home a ‘take home book’ to read each night and 5 spelling words to learn each week.

**Writing** - The focus will initially be on writing about the students’ personal experience, through recounts. There will be an emphasis on correct sentence structure and the use of prompting questions such as who, when, where, why and what. Then descriptive language will be introduced through poetry, as students are supported to describe experiences and ideas in interesting ways.

Students will also
- Develop automatic recall for spelling commonly used words and a range of spelling patterns.
- Explore a range of skills and methods for planning, editing and publishing written work.
- Refine handwriting skills, including the formation of letters, sizing and use of the baseline on dotted thirds paper.

**Mathematics:**
The first emphasis will be on number sense through pattern and counting to lay the foundations for all our number work throughout the year.
- Maths lessons will begin with number games and ‘warm-ups’ to excite the children about maths and develop fluency in essential number skills and strategies.
- Students will make patterns, continue them and find the ‘rule’ of the pattern, for example skip counting patterns with rules such as counting by twos or fives, or counting backwards.
- They will learn to apply counting with problem solving strategies in real-life situations.

Students will also explore the value of coins and perform calculations with money. Measurement of time will also be covered as students learn to tell the time, explore seasons and calendars and describe duration using months, weeks, days and hours.

All students will continue to attend Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Physical Education (PE) classes. Students also continue to have a weekly Bounce Back session, as well as a weekly Library session.

Please feel welcome to approach the 1-2 class teachers if you are interested in working with your child’s class or wish to discuss any matters regarding your child.

Kind Regards,
Rhyl, Andrea, Rachel Ryan, Fleur, Hayley, Rachel Gurr, Rachel Combridge and Kate (1-2 teachers).