Welcome to Room 13.8 in 2015 as we begin an exciting year together. Students will be undertaking a broad range of learning activities and increasing responsibility for their own learning in a positive environment. The following information provides a brief summary of our classroom program. We both work cooperatively to provide the best learning outcomes for students and keep in touch weekly regarding children and their learning and our classroom organization.

Class starts promptly at 8.50 am. The beginning of the day is a busy time for organizational matters involving:

- Communication books
- Lunch orders
- Library books (Tuesday)
- Spending money collection
- Reader changes
- Bank (Tuesday)
- Important notices
- Monitors/Roll Call
- Birthdays.

Celebrating Birthdays
- Birthdays are a special event for students. If your child would like to celebrate their birthday at school, feel free to send in cupcakes, or other more healthy alternatives so long as it DOES NOT INVOLVE CUTTING OR CANDLES. Birthday cakes cannot be cut up and distributed to students as this is a time consuming and messy exercise.

- We would like to encourage the children to gain independence by saying goodbye to parents and siblings prior to the bell at 8:50 am. At home time we would appreciate parents and siblings waiting outside the classroom door for the students to be dismissed.

English/Language studies
English involves using speaking, listening, reading and writing. It enables students to learn about texts and develop strategies to use their knowledge and understanding in different contexts and for different purposes and audiences. There are many components to teaching English and a description of each is below.

Speaking and Listening
Each student will prepare and present a two-minute speech each fortnight. More information about this is available in the sheets in the front of student’s oral language book. They will bring this book home each week. An assessment sheet is filled out for each student looking at their speaking, preparation and listening skills.

Reading
Reading will take place on a regular basis via:

- Fiction/non fiction books
- Poems
- Work Sheets
- Big Books
- Class signs
- Resource Based Learning
- Children’s own stories
- Guided Reading.

Students will be given the opportunity to:
- Read quietly on a daily basis for ten to fifteen minutes by themselves or with a buddy
- Select their own books from Reading Boxes appropriate for their reading level.
- Partake in Guided Reading sessions held in small ability groups with the teacher. Class members are explicitly taught reading and comprehension skills and strategies prior to group work activities. Running Reading Records will be conducted with the children to provide information about the way each child approaches the reading task.
Spelling/ Word Study and Grammar
Spelling lists are selected from the Jolly Phonics spelling program with some words taken from their own writing. The program also covers grammar including nouns, verbs, adjectives and alphabetical order. A Spelling/Dictation Bee will be given each Friday. The children are provided with two Homework books:
- Spelling in the Even Week Homework Book
- Spelling and Maths in the Odd Week Homework Book
Please encourage your child to aim for neatness, correct letter formation, and accurate use of lower and upper case letters in words.

Writing
Modeled writing will focus on letter formation, setting out, punctuation, word attack skills, language patterns and genres including Report writing, Recount Narrative, Procedure, Persuasive and Explanation.
We will begin the term by teaching recount, narrative and persuasive genre in writing and reading.

Handwriting
In the explicit teaching of handwriting, each lesson has a clear and simple focus such as correct letter formation, size, spacing, and writing on lines.

Library Lessons
Library borrowing time is on Tuesday. Book returns must be placed promptly in the classroom. Library Box for library monitors to collect them before our library session. Library books can be returned to the library daily. To protect our library books, we ask that children bring along a named library bag. A note will be sent home this term regarding the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Japanese
Melissa Nielsen provides a specialist language program in Japanese. Students are involved in many Arts activities and develop understandings and knowledge in valuing other cultures while studying Japanese. Japanese lessons are on Wednesday 8.45 and Thursday after lunch.

Mathematics
Mathematics is the area of learning where students develop knowledge and understandings about number and algebra, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability. Skills such as sorting, estimating, ordering, predicting, comparing and interpreting are used to apply mathematical thinking and problem-solving to everyday tasks.
Students are encouraged to:
- Take risks and have a go at new tasks and challenges
- Use mathematical skills and processes across the curriculum
- Develop a range of ways to solve problems
- Develop an interest and confidence in Mathematics
  - Represent data with objects and drawings.

History (with Jane)
History content in Year 2 focuses on ‘The Past in the Present’. This involves two key areas.
- Exploring the history and significance of people, landmarks or buildings within the local community.
- Looking at the impact of changing technology on people’s lives over time.
During this study children will be devolving a range of historical skills such as
- Sequencing objects and events
- Using the terminology of past, present, future
- Posing questions
- Identifying and comparing objects from past and present
- Exploring appoint of view
- Communicating using a variety of means such as oral language, role playing, written texts and digital technologies.
**Geography (with Jane)**
Geography content in Year 2 focuses on our connections to places in Australia and the world. During this study children will be developing a range of geographical skills such as:

- Posing questions about familiar and unfamiliar places
- Collecting, recording, representing and presenting data and information through tables, maps, plans, digital technologies and written texts
- Relying on different sources of information such as photographs, plans, stories, books and films
- Describing the direction and location of places using terms north, south, and opposite, far and near.

**Physical Education**
Physical Education includes:

- Fitness activities, relays, health hustles and relaxation, the effects and benefits of activity and relaxation on our bodies
- Ball skills (catching, throwing, rolling, catching, fielding, batting and kicking)
- Dance
- Swimming
- Sport’s Day/practice

Anthony Worden provides a specialist Health/PE program with lessons on Monday and Wednesday.

**Health (with Jane)**
In Health students build a foundation that helps them to develop:

- An active, healthy and safe lifestyle
- A positive personal identity
- Ways of managing their interaction with others by investigating how their health influences their feelings and actions.

Various topics to be covered include:

- School Values
- Healthy living, food, relaxation, sun safety
- Protective Behaviors.
- Road Safety/Way2Go

**Science (with Tina)**
In Science students develop the ability to make inquiries about their world through observation and experimentation. Learning takes place through direct experiences involving looking, touching, discussing, sharing, association, problem solving, play, and stories. In Science students have opportunities to develop the skills of scientific enquiry and express their own ideas to:

- Explore and observe
- Question
- Predict – hypothesize
- Investigate
- Test
- Explain and evaluate
- Critique and apply.

During the year we will be covering an area from each of the following strands.

- **Biological Sciences** Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves
- **Chemical Sciences** Different materials can be combined and mixed for a particular purpose
- **Earth and Space Sciences** The Earth’s resources, including water, are used in a variety of ways
- **Physical Sciences** A push or pull affects how an object moves.
We will begin term one with Push and Pull. Students will learn to:
- Ask questions and make predictions
- Collect and use diagrams and provided table to record information
- Represent and communicate observations and ideas using oral and written language and drawing
- Appreciate how science is in their everyday lives.

The Arts
The Arts incorporate dance, music, drama, visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture) and media (TV, video, newspaper). Through the Arts students develop creative ways of expressing themselves. They are encouraged to:
- Develop a critical appreciation of their own works and those of others
- Use their knowledge, skills and experiences (senses, perceptions, feelings and values) to communicate

A specialist music lesson with Jordan Puckridge is on Friday at 1:45pm

Tina Bridgland will present a weekly Art lesson. Children will experiment with different art media such as painting, drawing and craft projects. As they make their own creations they will make discoveries about the elements of art: line, shape, colour and texture.

Design and Technology (with Tina)
Students have opportunities in this learning area to plan, design, make, evaluate and share items as they experiment at working with a range of materials.

Computer
The children will have time in the Computer Room at least twice a week. One lesson will provide explicit teaching of computer skills and presenting work. Another lesson will be for Study Ladder. This program is free and can be accessed from home. Each child will receive a password in his/hers Communication Book next week.
We will also be using the mini i-pads in class to assist children with their learning.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,
Tina and Jane