Welcome back to a new school year. A special welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined Aitkenvale State School. The first couple of weeks are very important as everyone settles into the new school year. Our aim is to make our students feel comfortable and successful in their classroom. Your child’s teacher will be working closely with the class to establish classroom rules and routines. They will discuss behaviour and work expectations and set the tone for the year. Teachers are also currently working on developing a picture of the capabilities of each student through individual student data collection. Teachers can then use this information to develop programs that provide support and challenges for every student. Our curriculum is designed around building upon what a child already knows and using this to learn and discover more.

New arrivals – Please welcome to our new and returning staff joining our school this year. They are:

* Mrs Narelle Shields – Support Teacher PREP - 2
* Mrs Karen Firth – Year 1
* Mrs Jeannie Peachey – Head of Curriculum / Learning and Teaching Coach

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS – Over the break our school had the following improvements completed or begun:

* New gardens between C and D block
* New garden near the CPA and the end of H block
* New ‘block’ signage throughout the school
* New 3D ‘Aitkenvale State School’ sign at the end of D block
* Cold water bubblers at the rear of PREP JH, the swimming pool and a bank of bubblers at the junior toilets
* Extension to grounds shed
* 150 XO infinity laptops ordered for delivery early in term 1

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS – Throughout last year our school experienced a pleasing decline in poor behaviour choices from some students. I would like to start the year with a clear and consistent message that the bar was raised high last year and this year will be no different. Please understand that our school operates under a zero tolerance philosophy against physical aggression, swearing or continued refusal to follow instructions. It is important clear, consistent boundaries and high expectations regarding behaviour and learning are continually reminded at school and at home. Doing so ensures all students understand their responsibilities and their role being a student in our school community. We come together at school however we stay at school as learners.

STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR - You can read all types of research that will tell you how to identify a successful school; however I believe the best ‘litmus test’ is the response of the children, teachers and parents. We have had an extremely smooth start to the school year. Credit must go to our dedicated staff who have spent many hours ensuring that we have a ‘hassle-free’ start and credit must also go to the children who have settled quickly and industriously into ‘school mode’. I have been delighted by the many positive comments we have received about the school and how the children have settled in.
Schools are dynamic ‘people organisations’ and as a school community we all have a vested interest in the well-being of the school. The working relationship between the home and the school is a vital link, ensuring a positive and productive education for every child.

As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every child. Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. If you have concerns about your child, please contact us, as ‘problems’ are far more easily attended to if dealt with immediately rather than left.

We are only too aware that at times parents tend to think their concerns are trivial and you debate with yourself whether you should contact the school. Our response is that NOTHING is too trivial when it comes to the education of YOUR child. If you have concerns or want clarification, please contact us. I will ask you, however, to consider the following points:

* Teaching staff’s number one priority is teaching the children and therefore if you arrive unannounced, it may not be convenient or possible to release them from teaching duties to speak to you. It is always best to arrange a meeting time.
* If you want to meet with me, it is generally best to make an appointment as I can have a number of commitments throughout the day and am not always readily available.

Please remember your child’s happiness and wellbeing is important and when we work together any challenge can be resolved.

This week’s proverb: “A good beginning makes for a good end”

Thanks for reading and welcome to what will be a fantastic 2017 - Mr B - Principal
Student library borrowing will start next week. All students are reminded that they require a bag when they borrow from the library. Books will be borrowed out for one week. If the book is not returned the following week, a new book cannot be borrowed. If the book is not returned after 3 weeks, an invoice for the replacement cost of the book will be posted home. The library is open every Big Lunch, 10:40-11:10 for students to play assorted board games, read, colour in and on some occasions watch a movie.

Book Club has been sent home this week. All orders must be in by Wednesday 8 Feb. Please bring the orders to the library (with correct money) or leave it at the office. Books normally turn up one week after we have placed the order. Once the books arrive at school, the student is called to the library to collect them. If you don’t want your child collecting the order (might be a surprise present), please attach a note to the order.

Happy reading

Lisa Pridmore
Library Teacher Aide.

Please notify the office with any change of contact details

Dental van forms have been issued to prep students. Please return by Friday February 3rd.

If you wish to make an appointment for your child’s check up please phone: 0418155562.