Welcome back!

Setting the Climate
The 2015 school year commenced with two weeks of ‘Setting the Climate’. During this time, the students participated in various activities to ‘set the tone’ of their classroom. Students play an active role in developing the classroom agreements and determining their classroom vision and mission statements. We focused on the three key values of Chelsea Heights Primary School; Respect, Responsibility and Cooperation, and used activities, discussion, role play and Wilson McCaskill games to demonstrate these core values.

Numeracy
This term the Junior School will be focusing primarily on building number sense, through the units ‘Exploring Numbers’ and ‘Place Value’.

Exploring Numbers: Students will be focusing on building number sense through one-to-one counting (both forwards and backwards), ordering numbers by value, determining the number before and after any given two-digit (level one) and three-digit (level two) number, and understanding odd and even numbers.

Place Value: Students will be focusing on understanding the place value of any given two-digit (level one) and three-digit (level two) number. This is an extension of number sense beyond merely counting in that the students must understand that 78, for example, is made up of 7 tens and 8 ones, rather than simply the number that comes after 77. The students will utilise manipulatives, such as tens frames and base-10 blocks to assist in building this understanding.
Inquiry Topic
This term’s inquiry unit is focused on ‘Rules, Rights and Responsibility’. During this unit, the students will build an understanding of the difference between rules, rights and responsibilities. They will explore the need for rules in our community, the fundamental rights of children and why we must all be responsible for our own actions.

Literacy
We have just commenced our writing unit on narrative text. Students have had fun reading various narratives, such as traditional fairy tales and more modern picture books. They will now start to deconstruct the parts of a narrative (i.e. beginning, problem and resolution) and then begin to create their own.

Big Write and VCOP
Our Big Write and VCOP sessions have commenced. VCOP stands for Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation.

On Wednesday, the students will receive a writing stimulus which is based on the Big Write Topic. Please simply discuss the stimulus with the students, relating back to their own personal experiences (if possible), so that they have an idea of what they will write about the following day.

The Big Write sessions take place on Thursday. During these sessions, it is not uncommon for classrooms to play relaxing music and have lights dimmed to ensure a relaxed and positive mindset.

The VCOP edit occurs on Friday. The children are developing in their self-editing skills, and reflecting on their performance and setting writing goals for the following week (i.e. ensuring that they focus on punctuation and begin a sentence with a capital letter and end in a full stop).

Red Reader Bags
Homework tasks and library sessions will commence this week; therefore it is essential that students bring their red reader bags to school each day. Students borrow five take-home readers each week, and receive reading and spelling homework based on the High Frequency Words.