Greetings Parents,

I would like to welcome you all back and wish you a Happy New Year. Children arrived eagerly, although a little tired, anxious to see their teachers and friends. As the children get back into the school routine it is important that they get a good night’s sleep that will ensure that they arrive fresh and alert for the new day.

On January 15 there will be an information session for new parents at 2:15 in the Lower School Auditorium. During this gathering I will talk to parents about Early Childhood Education at ACS and will take parents for a tour of the facility. If you know of people planning to register for the 2016-2017 school year please let them know about this opportunity to discuss education in early years. New children interviews will take place on January 29th.

As I observe in classrooms I see children reading books to their friends, their teachers and to themselves. During their reading they are confident, fluent and expressive as they delight in telling the story of books that they have often heard repeatedly and with joy. Often they will ignore the print or drag their finger quickly along it. This reading is a first step that adults often dismiss as memorizing or not really reading. However, there is much to celebrate as children show comprehension and make personal connections, sequence events, connect pictures to ideas and retell a story in sequence and with details. All of the basic elements of reading are there except for the phonics clues which are a work in progress. By observing children reading we can see what their theories are about print. Children need to construct understanding about literacy and how it works just as they do with all other areas of the world around them. They continually integrate new findings into their framework of knowledge about print replacing what no longer works with new theories. They are making meaning. By observing this we can plan literacy experiences that build on children’s theories. So, as your children read to you celebrate their reading as it is the beginning stages of the process.

To learn more about literacy in Early Years, you are invited to attend the parent coffee session on January 22nd. Mark your calendar for this presentation to know more about Reading and Writing learning in Early Years. The presentation will be given by 2 teachers, a KG1 and KG2 teachers in addition to myself at 8:15 in the LS auditorium.

Respectfully,
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Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

| Jan. 15 | Information Session for New Parents |
| Jan. 21 | PD ½ day, 1:00 Dismissal |
| Jan. 22 | Parent Coffee Session on Literacy in EY at 8:15 in the LS Auditorium |
| Jan. 25 | Teachers’ Reflections on Children’s Learning Out |
| Jan. 29 | New Student Interviews—No Classes |