Welcome to our term 2 newsletter.

The prep children have now completed their first term of school and have become familiar with the routines of their class and the school as a whole. They have been involved in many literacy and numeracy activities and specialists programs.

Inquiry
“Living things”

The major topic understanding is: Living things depend on other living things and the environment to survive.

- What is a living thing?
- What do living things need to survive?
- What do living things have in common?
- Why is the environment important for their survival?
- How do living things survive?

We will be having an excursion to the Collingwood childrens farm where the children will learn about animals and their environment.

Literacy

Independent Reading:
As of last term children are continuing with their independent reading and the time that they can sit quietly and read has increased. We have been focusing on different comprehension strategies such as prediction, text structures and feature, what is a letter, what is a word and what is a sentence.

Writers Notebook:
Students will continue to use the Writers Notebook. Each Monday the students will write an entry into this special book. We encourage you to assist your child with bringing things along to school (tickets, photos, mementos) for students to include in their book to encourage them to write. Classroom teachers also have a writers notebook in which they write about something of interest or something they have done.

Take Home Books:
Last Term your child will have brought home the Oxford Word List in their reader bag. Please continue to practice reading these words with your child. These common words will assist your child in their reading and writing. Your child will again bring home five take home books once a week on a Monday. Your child can read through these books as many times as they wish. Please encourage your child to read through the week and return the book packs on Mondays.

Numeracy

The preps have continued to count down the days to day 100. At the end of term 1 we had been at school for 32 days. Counting to 100 provides a variety of opportunities to explore number in a real life situation.

Your child will be involved in a variety of hands on and open ended tasks throughout their numeracy sessions.

What you can do at home:
Please involve your child in everyday situations that involve mathematics e.g.

- Counting one to twenty and beyond.
- Finding basic geometric shapes e.g. square, circle, rectangle and triangle
- Noticing numbers in the their home and local environment
- Noticing patterns around them
- Using mathematical language e.g. behind, beside, in front of, under, over, next to etc.
- Simple measuring - long short; longer shorter; longest shortest
- Provide drawing and writing opportunities for your child at home and please encourage and demonstrate correct pencil grip at all times

Reminders:

- Arriving at school on time is vital to your child's learning. Learning time begins once your child steps into the classroom. Being on time develops good life habits.
- Please check that your child's clothing is labelled with their name so it can be returned if lost.
- Hats will be sent home at the end of April so that they can be washed in readiness for when the sun smart policy starts again.
- Please check your child's bag for work samples, school notes or newsletters. Newsletters go out on Thursday’s with the oldest or only child from your family at the school.
- To foster your child’s independence and for the safety of all, could you please be on time and wait outside at the end of the day to pick up your child.

Grade Prep Team,
Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson Room 1
Mrs. Sarah Kam Room 2

Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collingwood Childrens farm</td>
<td>April 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>May 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queens Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>June 10</td>
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Grade Prep Newsletter

MUSIC
During term two in Music and Performing Arts, the focus will be primarily on DANCE and DRAMA. During the first five weeks, we will learn a variety of ways to dance and move, in order to express ourselves, to respond to different kinds of music, and to keep our bodies active & healthy. Later in the term, our focus will move on to drama – with a close look at miming, acting and puppetry. We will be learning all about how puppets can help to tell a dramatic story, and will be working toward creating our very own puppet show! The children will have opportunities to perform in small groups for the class, as part of both the dance and drama units.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Term two will be a busy term for the prep students, as they will continue to be involved in the Perceptual Motor Program. Every student will be encouraged to develop the ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information through challenging and controlled activities. The Perceptual Motor Program will run in conjunction within their weekly Physical Education lesson time. During lesson time the students will be introduced to the game of Soccer. Students will be taught the correct techniques for kicking and trapping a soccer ball, passing accurately, controlling the ball while running and kicking for goal. Students will be involved in playing modified games of Soccer during their class lesson time and will be given the opportunity to work as a team.

ART
The children will continue to explore techniques, skills and different mediums to create art work relating to the inquiry unit ‘Culture and Celebrations’. Personal Experiences will be drawn upon and the children will view art works and images of celebrations and cultural activities as inspiration. They will view the artworks of Vincent Van Gogh and create a painting and collage of his famous ‘Sunflowers.’ Puppet making will also become a focus for the term with children using skills in cutting, pasting, textiles and construction. Please encourage your child to draw, cut and paste. As well as being enjoyable, these activities will help increase your child’s fine motor skills.

COMPUTERS
Throughout term two the grade prep students will continue to familiarise themselves with the components of the computer. The students will be encouraged to become independent users of the computer as they develop their confidence in turning on and logging onto the computer using the new Windows 7 format. During the weekly ICT lessons the students will be undertaking tasks that support their classroom Inquiry topic of ‘Living Things’. Programs such as KidsPix and Kidspiration will be used to classify living and non living objects. The students will also be given the opportunity to draw objects using manipulation techniques with shapes and lines. Finally the students will continue to experiment with and use the new interactive Whiteboard in the Computer Lab.

SUSTAINABILITY
During term 2 the students at all year levels take a more practical, active and leading role in the organisation and management of the recycling program. In the all classrooms students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. They are also responsible for the collection of water from buckets that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

With parent support we ask that students are reminded to care for and maintain our environment during all school outdoor activities by ensuring that we reduce waste i.e. packaging / plastic wrapping etc. and placing any of their waste in the appropriate bins.

Developing a healthy school environment is an important part of student learning. All students are encouraged to care for our school flora and fauna in the hope that students develop positive links and appreciation of our natural environment.