

TERM 1, 2017

GRADE PREP NEWSLETTER

Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
1,2, 8/2, 15,2, 22/2	No school for Preps
22/2	Parent teacher Interviews



Unit Information /

Introduction

A warm welcome to Altona North to all our new Prep families. Students are settling in well and readily becoming familiar with school routines and expectations.

Thank you to all parents for clearly labelling the children's bags, clothing and lunch boxes. As many students have similar bags and lunch boxes, this makes it easier for staff to return lost items and for students to identify their own belongings.

The school promotes healthy eating through class programs and our fruit program, where fruit is available for students to eat each Tuesday. Eating time is extended for all Prep children during Term 1.

Thank-you to all parents for bringing your child to the Wednesday Testing Sessions. This has enabled us to meet most of our families and allow us to gain valuable insight into each child's abilities.

The main Habits of Mind that we will be introducing this term are LISTEN and PERSIST .

Both classrooms have set up their Literacy and Numeracy Walls for children to refer to during their learning time.

HOME READING

Our Home Reading system will start Monday 20th February. Your child will bring home a Clear Book Pack with 5 books inside. We request that you write the titles of the books in the 'READ IT BOOK' (yellow log book). Please return your child's Book Pack every Monday for them to receive 5 new books. Please read through the 'READ IT BOOK' for ideas about how to make reading time a happy and positive experience for you and your child. We encourage you to share the book with your child as often as you can. Any questions please speak to your classroom teacher.

Looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

The Grade Prep Team,

Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson
Rm 2

Mrs. Deb Morgan Literacy
support.

Mrs. Fay Kapp ESS



Curriculum Overview

ENGLISH

INDEPENDENT READING

Students in Prep will be involved in the development of their classroom library. The classroom library will be a continually evolving part of the classroom. It plays an important part in the curriculum and fosters positive habits and attitudes towards reading. Students are being encouraged to read independently at this time.

WRITING

Prep students will be introduced to the Writers Notebook. This is a very special book. Students will be encouraged to bring items from home such as; photos, tickets, memorabilia, etc. to include in their Writers Notebook to encourage them to write about things of interest to them.

ENGLISH ONLINE INTERVIEW

All students in prep are currently being assessed throughout the month of February. This is an assessment that all prep students in Victorian Government schools will undertake. The English Online Interview involves a one on one interview between the teacher and the student, with responses being recorded by the teacher on an online system. The English Online Interview assesses students against all dimensions of English Victorian Curriculum (reading & viewing, writing and speaking and listening) and provides comprehensive information about student achievement and capabilities.

MATHEMATICS

The Maths curriculum that the students will be involved in this Term will include; Number (counting, place value, number recognition), positional language (up down, above, below etc.), measurement (length). We will also be counting the first 100 days of school and be involved in activities around this, and we will have a party on day 100!

NUMERACY INTERVIEW

The Numeracy interview is an assessment that all Prep students undertake. It assesses students on number, space and measurement. The Numeracy Interview will also take place on the Wednesdays in February. Your child's teacher will remind you about appointments.

INQUIRY

Our term one Inquiry Topic is "Relationships". This topic involves the students in developing the Major Understanding of 'Working together makes our school world a better place'.

Questions to help guide our thinking and learning:

What does it mean to work together?

Why does working co operatively together make us a happy classroom community?

MATHEMATICS AT HOME

Please involve your child in everyday situations that involve mathematics for example:

Counting one to ten and beyond.

Finding basic geometric shapes e.g square, circle, rectangle and triangle

Noticing numbers in their home and local environment

Using mathematical language e.g: behind, beside, in front of, under, over, next to etc

Simple measuring - long-short; longer-shorter; longest-shortest

REMINDERS

* When your child writes their name at school they will be encouraged to use a capital at the start and lower case for the other letters e.g. Jenny

*Practise with your child the easiest way to pack their school bags. Many of the bags are so full children have problems finding items and keeping them safe.

*Please make sure that snacks and food are in packaging that children can open easily.

*Soon your child will bring home a red Prep starter bag with activities and information for you to keep. This bag will make an ideal swim bag for the swimming program later in the year.

*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 .

*Home reading bags returned every Monday.

Specialists Units



Computers

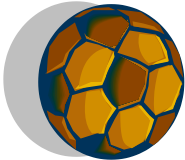
During this term, the children will familiarise themselves with the various components of a computer. They will become independent users of the computer, by learning to turn on and shut down the computer correctly.

The children will develop skills in using the keyboard and mouse when logging into their room number and using the interactive program, 'Kid Pix4'. They will be using this program to produce pictures of their learning, for their Inquiry Unit, 'All About Me! Who am I?'. The children will manipulate different functions in the program as they produce their work.

Jo Jackson

Physical Education

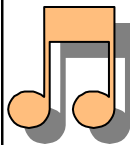
During Term One the Prep students will be introduced to Physical Education through play and experimentation.



The students will begin developing the fundamental motor skills of bounce, roll and underarm throw through game and skills based lessons. The students will learn the response to whistle cues and the use of space and boundaries in the gymnasium. The students will also be taught how to care for sports equipment and safe play during Physical Education.

The students will be introduced to the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP), which aims at developing the student's ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information. The PMP program is proven to assist with students' learning within the classroom environment and can support the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Lynette Soto



Music / Performing Arts

During term one Prep students will be introduced to Music and explore singing, responding to music and playing instruments.

Students will begin to understand the concepts of high and low sounds, pitch, rhythm, beat and moving to music. They will begin to understand different music terminology and recognise a variety of musical instruments.

Students will learn and discuss songs that link to their inquiry topic of 'All About Me!' and 'Who Am I?'

All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class.

There will be opportunities for students to audition for the ANPS Junior choir.

Cassie McCawley



Visual Arts

Children will become accustomed to the routine of attending the art room. They will experience the use of visual arts as a means of expression relating to personal experiences, observations and their own identity. The children will be given time to explore and experiment with a variety of mediums both freely and with structured and guided activities. Discoveries will be made in the elements of art such as line, shape, pattern, texture and colour. Children will view the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky to discover how these elements can be used.

In the lead up to Harmony Day, the children will briefly learn about different cultures and complete activities relating to the theme, 'Everyone Belongs'.

The children will contribute to the Art in Public Places display at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. This year's theme is 'The Age of the Dinosaur.'

Deb Morgan

Sustainability:

In grade P-2 the students will be introduced to the recycling programs at ANPS through the practical use of the paper, can/plastics, worm bins and waste bin.

The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment in which we live in, through every day actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products

Throughout the year the students will participate in an environmental education session in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the school's worm farms/ paper and cans/plastic recycling programs.

In grade 3/4 the student are responsible for the management of the recycling bins in the eating areas of the schoolyard. Students are encouraged to show leadership with monitors from each grade being responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

In grade 5/6 the students take an active and leading role in the organisation and management of the schools recycling program. Students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. Students are also responsible for the collection of water from the bucket that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

This year we look forward to 2 major projects, the construction of our second "Garden wall" which will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape, and the building of the "Vegetable Garden". Both projects are exciting initiatives in the development of the school's environmental and sustainability program. We look forward to the student participation components in these projects throughout the 2014 school year.

Wal Raghdou



