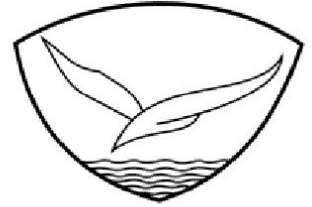


Term Two 2017

Grade Prep Newsletter



"Consider Others"

Term 2

Important Dates

Prep Swimming every Tuesday this Term
Community Walk date to be notified.

Mad About Science Incursion 17/5/2017

Chirpy Chicks Incursion 26/5/17

Welcome to our term 2 newsletter.

The Prep children have now completed their first, very busy, 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. Whole school activities such as Harmony Day and the Easter hat parade were also highlights of the term. An enjoyable time was also had at the Prep picnic.

Inquiry

"Our Family, Our School, Our Community"

The Major Topic Understanding

Our connections with our family, school and community shapes our identity and gives us a sense of belonging.

FOCUS QUESTIONS: (Lines of Inquiry)

- Where do we live?
- What is a Community? (family, school, neighborhood)
- What are the important places in our community?
- How do we belong and participate in our family, school and community?
- How do we care for our community?

"How The World Works" (Chemical Science)

There are differences between the natural and material world.

Our Focus Questions are:

- What is part of our natural world and material world?
- How are materials made?
- How are the natural and material worlds connected?
- Why do we reuse, recycle, renew and reduce?

ENGLISH

Independent Reading:

Children are continuing to be involved in Independent Reading sessions that focus on developing their ability to use a variety of strategies to help them to become good readers. As part of this learning we have been focusing on different comprehension strategies such as Prediction and Text Structures & Features. We also have been focussing on developing the understandings centred on: What is a letter? What is a word? What is a sentence? Children are also improving their ability to sit quietly for a longer period of time while they practise the introduced reading strategies. Small guided reading focus groups have been introduced as part of the Independent Reading session. During this time children have the opportunity to discuss unknown words, be introduced to strategies to help improve their reading and be involved in discussions about the books they read.

Writers Notebook:

Children will continue to use the Writer's Notebook. Each Monday all children will write an entry into this special book. We encourage you to assist your child to bring things along to school (tickets, photos, mementos) to include in their book to encourage them to write. Classroom teachers also have a Writer's Notebook in which they model writing, with the inclusion of mementos such as a photo, picture, ticket stub, feather or other special things. This provides the children with good examples that they are able to learn from and use in their own Writer's Notebook.

Take Home Books:

Last Term your child will have brought home the Oxford Word List in their reader bag. Please continue to practise 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 should read through these books many times as it develops confidence and word recognition. Please encourage your child to read throughout 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 33 days. Counting to 100 provides a variety of opportunities to explore number in a real life situation, recognise patterns and learn about place value.

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 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:

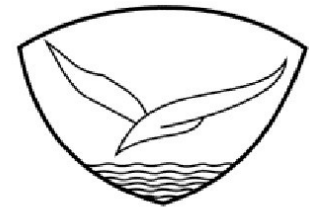
- Arriving at school on time is vital to your child's learning. Learning time begins at 8:45 am. Being on time develops good life habits.
- Please check that your child's clothing is labelled with their name so it can be returned if lost.
- Hats will be sent home at the end of April so that they can 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.
- Your child's teacher is always happy to speak with you at an appropriate time that can be arranged.
- Remember that photos, tickets, drawings and other special things are needed for your child's Writers Notebook to encourage and develop their writing.



The Prep Team thanks you for your ongoing support.

Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson
Mrs. Deb Morgan Literacy Support

Grade Prep Newsletter



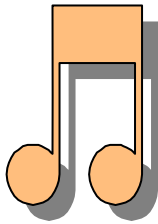
"Consider Others"

Specialists

MUSIC

During term two Prep children will continue to explore singing and responding to music. Children will have a strong focus on dance and creating actions to music. They will work together as a whole class and in small groups to practice and develop performances. This will help to develop children's rhythm, timing and confidence.

Cassie McCawley



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Term Two will be a busy term for the Prep children, as they will continue to develop their fundamental motor skills of bounce, roll and underarm throw through individual activities and co-operative group games, using a variety of equipment. The children will be provided with many opportunities to participate in movement and physical activities. During these activities every child will be encouraged to listen to and follow rules, and share equipment and space safely. During lesson time the children will be introduced to the game of Soccer. This will provide them with the opportunity to learn and develop the fundamental skill of kick. Children will be taught the correct techniques for kicking and trapping a soccer ball, passing accurately, controlling the ball while running and kicking for goal. Children 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.

Lynette Soto



ART

The children will continue to explore techniques, skills and different mediums to create art work relating to the theme of 'Living Things'. Personal Experiences will be drawn upon and the children will view art works and images of 'living things', such as insects, animals, birds, flora and fauna as inspiration. They will begin to become familiar with famous artists and their works and will discuss these artworks as a group. They will also broaden their knowledge by using a variety of lines, shapes, textures and colours in their art. The children will engage in the Art Forms of Drawing, Painting, Collage and Construction.



Deb Morgan

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.

Jo Jackson