

**Prep Newsletter Term 4 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 3 was something we should all be extremely proud of. Our Prep Stars put in a stellar performance at the school concert, we learnt lots about biological science through exploring dinosaurs and had a wonderful experience at the Melbourne Museum. We made leaps and bounds with our reading and maths, and learnt about being mindful and ready to learn in SEL (social and Emotional Learning). Term 4 is another busy term, with swimming on Wednesdays set to be a highlight.

**Processes and Procedures:**

Developing independence is extremely important for all students. On arrival at school, students should still be placing their backpack in their locker and changing their reader *on their own* (please let them do this by themselves to help develop independence).

Morning work this term will look a little different. Students are asked to continue placing their bag away, changing their reader and doing their sign-in sheet. Once completed, students will read silently to themselves until circle time, calendar and show and tell. This will be followed by a writing or reading session.

The **school canteen** is available for lunch orders every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students should place their lunch order in the tub upon entry in the morning. Orders can also be made and paid for using the QKR app – this needs to be downloaded onto your device.

\*The canteen will NOT be open at recess and lunch to students on Mondays, however lunch orders will still be available. It will remain open to students at recess and lunch on Wednesday and Fridays.

Upon pick up at 3:30, please remain outside of the classroom and wait for your child to come to you. We always try our best to release children on the bell, however, sometimes things come up at the last minute and we may need to keep your child for a couple of extra minutes. We thank you for your patience!

Whole school **assembly** will still occur each Monday morning. Parents are always welcome to attend. Each assembly, one grade is responsible for leading the assembly and also talking about what they have been learning about. Prep A will lead assembly on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Prep B will lead assembly on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Most students have had an opportunity to take part in assembly already – if not, they will be first selected to lead assembly this term.

**Communication Processes:**

Please remember to check your child's communication folders DAILY for important notices and newsletters. Please remove these from your child's folder so that we know you have read them.

Ms Sarah and Ms Lou are available most mornings and afternoons for brief discussions. Should you wish to discuss any matter in detail, we are happy to make a mutually convenient time to meet.

**Specialist Teachers and Timetable – Term 4**

Italian – Signorina Candice  
 PE/Sport – Mrs. Plastow  
 Art/Music – Ms. Lisa

	Prep A (Ms Lou)	Prep B (Ms Sarah)
<b>Physical Education</b> 	Tuesday 11:30	Tuesday 10:00
<b>Visual Art</b> 	Thursday 12:30	Thursday 11:30
<b>Italian</b> 	Thursday 11:30	Thursday 12:30

### **Physical Education:**

During Phys. Ed classes in term four throwing and catching skills will be revised. Target throwing and bowling will be introduced and experiences with cricket bats and tennis racquets will be given.

### **Art**

In Term 4, activities will concentrate on *Collage and Mixed Media*. The children will continue exploring design elements such as – line, shape, colour and texture. *Eric Carle* is the focus artist for term 4. Carle's collages will provide inspiration for the students 'Animal' and 'Environmental Characters' collages. We will explore ancient and contemporary ceramics and look at images of fossils for inspiration to complete plant 'fossil' tiles. The tiles will be made by all year levels and displayed for all to see at the end of the year.

Towards the end of term 4, the students will create mixed media 'Handprint Christmas Trees'.

### **Italian:**

Students will use recycled language to respond to familiar routines and games. They will extend their language knowledge around the topic of family and begin to express themselves in Italian. During the term, children will participate in songs and games around the story "Il Piccolo Bruco Maisazio", demonstrating their learning by using labels and captions for created images. Preps will be later learning about Italian culture through the celebration of 'Natale' (Christmas). They will compare the festival with their own beliefs and cultures.

**If you would like to know more about the Specialist programs, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to speak with Mrs Val Plastow, Signorina Candice and Ms Lisa Gardiner.**

### **Library & The Buddy Program**

Library will continue this term each Thursday afternoon in the last session of the day. This will be a Prep only session.

We will use our buddies time to focus on ICT, learning how to log in to a computer, how to use the computer functions and navigate through programs such as Reading Eggs, Mathletics and coding programs.

### **Key Learning Areas:**

In **Mathematics**, number will continue to be a focus, with continuing our understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond, recognising, modelling, reading, writing and ordering numbers to 100. We are using number lines to count forwards and backwards, and developing strategies to work out addition and subtraction problems.

We will be collecting data to make and interpret data displays. We will also be looking at time – in particular duration using months, weeks, days and hours and connecting days of the week to familiar events.

**Reading** will look a little different this term. We will continue with small group guided reading sessions and individual reading tasks, differentiated for their varying needs. We have been discussing how to find a 'just right' book, and will be choosing a selection of these books from the guided reading tubs to use throughout the week for reading tasks. Students have also been working on their independent reading skills, and increasing their reading stamina.

**Writing** will be a big focus in Term 4. Students will work in groups, focussing on handwriting, word work and guided writing. Student will conference with their teacher to discuss their writing, setting goals to work on each week. We will also continue to link writing into our Inquiry and SEL program.

### **Inquiry**

Students will have the opportunity to complete 2 Inquiry units this term. The first will be 'Soundscapes'. We will briefly explore sounds, and use the text "Tiddalik the Thirsty Frog" to create a soundscape.

From week 6, we will be introducing our Preps to some Coding, an exciting new element of the Digital Technologies Curriculum.

### **SEL**

Our **SEL Program – Social & Emotional Learning** is this term focussing on strategies for de-escalating. We will be using the question 'how is your engine running?' to work out how we are feeling, and working on strategies to help us de-escalate if our engine is running too high. We will also continue to work on being mindful – being aware of our body, our emotions, and focussing on the present moment.

### Assessment

Assessment continues to be ongoing in each key learning area. The next lot of formal reports will go home on December 15.

### Home Learning Expectations

**Reading** - Home reading diaries will continue to be checked weekly by your child's teacher. Students should continue to read at home every night or as often as possible. Remember to record the title and keep track of how many days they are reading at home – there are prizes for when students reach 50, 75 and 100 + nights! ☺ Students should remember to change their reader every morning, choosing a book from the levelled tubs that matches their reading level.

**Magic 100 Words.** Please continue to regularly practise the Magic 100 and More Magic Words with your child. If your child has completed the 200 words and received their certificate, they will receive their "Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check" forms to practise spelling their words.

**Show and Tell** – There was a new 'show and tell' roster sent home at the beginning of the term and it is also up in our window to refer to at your convenience. Please make sure you are aware of your child's day and what the topic is each week so that you can help them to prepare for this important weekly routine. Show and tell is a great way to develop your child's confidence and develop their oral language skills.

### Uniform Expectations

In Term 4, school hats are compulsory. If your child requires a new hat, they can be purchased from the office for \$10 each. Our best advice to you is to please label the hat with your child's name. This will make it easier to return to them should it become lost. If your child requires sunscreen, we recommend providing a small roll-on bottle that they can keep in their bag and apply by themselves as required.

A reminder that our school uniform is navy blue pants/shorts/skorts and a light blue top. Black shorts or black tracksuit/leggings are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school. It would be helpful if you packed a spare change of clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents.

### Volunteering

Thank you to those parents who have already been helping consistently in the classroom. We really appreciate it and the preps have loved having you! Parental assistance is highly valued in many ways in our classroom. Parents can assist with reading, recording Magic Words progress, writing and laminating. Your time and support would be greatly appreciated. A current 'Working with Children' card is required. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help.

We look forward to another great term with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Sarah Anderson and Lou Morrow

### What you can do at home to support child's learning:

- Making sure your child gets a **good night sleep**. Children this age get very tired at school and need over 8 hours of sleep every night.
- Read every day with your child and ask questions about the book. A daily reading routine is important and this makes it fun and enjoyable for both parents and child. Reading should be fun and not stressful.)
- Encourage children to read books, magazines (child centred), and occasionally visit the local library. Children enjoy this experience and love to share their borrowed books from a **big library**.
- Encourage your child to write shopping lists and messages.
- Support your child's interests particularly when we cover our integrated units of work. For example, children enjoy researching dinosaurs, family history and experimenting with science activities at home.
- Revise the 100 mostly used words by playing card games or oral spelling games. For example, making snap card games.
- Practise sounds and letters, specifically the ones sent home in their 'take home' books.
- Play educational maths games. For example, counting, snakes and ladders, snap and Uno card game.
- Together attempt some of the Maths and English computer games. Children in the junior school area enjoy playing toy theater.com.au, starfall.com.au, Reading Eggs and Mathletics. Login details will be sent home with your children.
- Encourage and assist your child with any 'special projects' or 'homework' activities.
- Attend school events, assemblies or productions in which your child is involved in.
- Regularly contacting the teacher to discuss any problems they may be having at school.
- Helping them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities.
- Discussing homework in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home and linking it to their previous experiences.

#### Apps to support learning:



Alphabet Sounds Word Study



Short Vowel Word Study



Long Vowel Word Study



Trace It, Try It - handwriting exercises for kids



Teach Your Monster to Read

Out and About (sight words)



Zap Zap Math - K6 Maths Games



#### Websites to visit

Reading Eggs:

[www.readingeggs.com.au](http://www.readingeggs.com.au)

Starfall:

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Mathletics:

<https://au.mathletics.com/>

Go Noodle:

<https://www.gonoodle.com/>



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