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 Date: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

### Prep Newsletter Term 4 2018

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 about physical science as we explored forces at work throughout our Inquiry unit and also during our excursion to Scienceworks. We made leaps and bounds with our reading and maths, and explored many different sounds and how they can be represented with different letter combinations. Term 4 is another busy term, with swimming on Fridays for the first six weeks set to be a highlight, as well as 'Walk to School Month' (Walktober) and the school's Fun Run happening in the first couple of weeks (more details to come!).

#### Processes and Procedures:

It is extremely important that your child is in class, seated and ready to learn at 9am. If your child is not at school at this time, they will be marked as absent by their teacher. You will then receive a text from the school requesting a reason for the absence. Classroom teachers are unable to alter this absence mark once entered, making it vital that you sign your child in through the office if they are arriving any time after 9am.

This term we will continue the 'sign in' sheets each morning - write their name, write/trace the day of the week and write the word to go with the picture. Then, students are to read to themselves or complete their 'morning work' task which is inside their book boxes on their table. 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 develop independence). Reader books can be found at both ends of the Prep learning area.

Parents are reminded that they are welcome to come in to the classroom with their child if they wish, but we would ask if all parents, family and carers could leave by the 9am bell in order for us to maximise our morning learning time. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

The **school canteen** will still be available for lunch orders every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students should place their lunch order in the tub upon entry in the morning, or alternatively you can download the QKR app.

\*Reminder that 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.

Whole school **assembly** will still occur each Monday morning. Parents are always welcome to attend. Each week, one grade is responsible for leading the assembly and also talking about their learning.

\*Prep A will lead assembly together on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of October. Prep B will lead on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

\*Don't forget to celebrate with your child if they are chosen to be the 'Student of the Week'! 😊

#### Communication Processes:

Please remember to check your child's communication folders DAILY for important notices and newsletters. Please remember to 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.

Formal reports will be sent home at the end of this semester. Inside this envelope will also be a letter letting you know which home group your child will be in next year when they return to school in grade 1.

### Specialist Teachers and Timetable – Term 4

Italian – Signorina Candice  
 PE/Sport – Mr. Drew  
 Art/Music – Ms. Lisa

Prep Specialist Timetable - Term 3		
	Prep A: Ms. Lou	Prep B: Ms. Sarah
Physical Education	Tuesday 10:00	Tuesday 11:20
Art	Monday 2:30	Tuesday 10:00
Italian	Tuesday 11:20	Monday 2:30
*Library will be every Friday.		

### **Physical Education:**

During term 4, 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. There will be coaches from Cricket Australia coming to the school to assist students during the cricket unit.

### **Art**

In Term 4, Visual Art activities will focus on the sculptural works of glass artist, Dale Chihuly. The students will use recycled plastic bottles and mixed media to create plant sculptures inspired by Chihuly's 'Ikebana' installations. They will explore organic forms in nature and develop construction skills. The children will also explore collage techniques to create colourful 'stained glass window' artworks at the end of term 4.

We are looking for donations of plastic water or soft drink bottles for Term 4 Art activities. If you have any, please bring them to the Art room or leave them at the office for Lisa to collect. Thanks!

### **Italian:**

In Italian students will use recycled language to respond to familiar routines and games. They will extend their language knowledge around various topics and begin to express themselves in Italian. During the term children will participate in songs and games around the story "Mangia Mangia", demonstrating their learning by using labels, captions and 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 Mr. Drew, Signorina Candice or Ms Lisa.**

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

Library will continue this term each Friday afternoon in the last session of the day. Library books can be returned inside their bag to the tub at the front of your child's homeroom area.

Our buddy program will continue to occur on a semi-regular basis this term. We will be exploring some different ICT (computer) programs with the help of our 5/6 buddies and we will also be having a Teddy Bear Picnic (more details to follow!).

### **Key Learning Areas:**

In **Mathematics**, we will continue to develop our number sense as we consolidate our understanding of 'teen numbers' as 'ten and some more'. We will also be laying the basis of the understanding of place value. We will revisit addition and also be introduced to subtraction, learning some useful tools and strategies to help us to solve these types of 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.

In **Reading** this term we will continue our Reading Groups. Students will be focusing on solving word activities, as well as developing new comprehension skills and behaviours, such as 'making inferences'. Students will continue to move reading groups based on their level of development.

**Phonological and phonemic awareness**, or 'Letters and Sounds' as we call it, continues to be a key focus in our literacy program. We will continue with the ability-based groupings this term so that your child is able to practise and manipulate sounds that are targeted to their needs. We will continue to introduce and work on different phonemes (sounds) and the graphemes (letter/s that make these sounds). We will also be revising a lot of the sounds we have already introduced so that students have a chance to really learn the sounds and recognise the spelling patterns when attempting to solve words. Skill such as rhyming, hearing syllables in words, identifying alliteration patterns, and blending and segmenting sounds in words will also continue to be developed.

**Writing** will be a big focus in Term 4. Students will work in ability 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 touch on some different genres of writing such as letter writing, recounts and procedures. We will also continue to link writing into our Inquiry and SEL program.

### **Inquiry**

This term, students will explore sounds they can make with their body and different instruments. They will use these sounds to create a soundscape to accompany the text "Tiddalik the Thirsty Frog".

We will also be introducing our Preps to some programs on the computer, mostly with the help of our 5/6 buddies. These projects touch on the Media Arts and Digital Technologies part of the Victorian Curriculum.

## **SEL**

Our **SEL Program – Social & Emotional Learning** will continue to focus on strategies for de-escalating when our engine is running 'too high'. We will also be doing some group work and looking at how to co-operate together to complete different tasks (eg. build one structure).

## **Assessment**

Assessment continues to be ongoing in each key learning area.

The next lot of formal reports will be sent home at the end of this term on December 15.

## **Home Learning Expectations**

**Reading** - Home reading diaries will continue to be checked regularly by your child's teacher. Students should continue to read at home every night or as often as possible. Reading out loud will really help to improve your child's ability and confidence to read texts with increasing fluency and stamina. Remember to record the title and keep track of how many days they are reading at home. Students should remember to change their reader every morning, choosing a book from the levelled tubs that matches their reading level.

**Magic 100 Words** – Students have a great sense of pride with each Magic Word certificate they achieve. Remember that each child learns at their own pace. Focus should be given to practising the word level your child is currently on (try learning them out of order by pointing to different words each time) and celebrating their own personal growth. We will continue to check your child's progress each week. When they learn all of the words in that group, they will get a certificate and move onto the next group of words. Once they have learned to identify (read) *all* of the Magic 200 words, they can start practising how to write (spell) these words.

**Show and Tell** – There was a new 'show and tell' roster sent home this week and it is up in our window to refer to at your convenience. Please make sure you are aware of your child's day and the topic 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. There is a bottle of sunscreen at the front of the classroom on top of the bag lockers if you wish to apply sunscreen to your child in the morning at drop-off time.

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. Please remember to pack a spare change of clothes in your child's bag – we still have accidents sometimes! 😊

## **Volunteering**

Thank you to those parents who have already been helping consistently in the classroom and when we went on our excursion last term. 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' certificate is required. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help.

\*Ms. Lou is looking for a new regular volunteer to help with the Magic Words each week – please let her know if you are available!

\*We will also be looking for as many volunteers as possible to help with swimming this term – please let us know if you are free on Friday mornings to assist with this.

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/>

