WELCOME

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This Term in English the Prep students will be learning the letters and sounds of the alphabet. The students have been learning the letters ‘S’, ‘A’ and ‘T’. They have been busy thinking of words that begin with these letters, while focusing on the sounds they make at the beginning of words.

The Prep students have been practising writing their name with one capital letter and using lower case for the other letters. Many opportunities are given to practise their writing focusing on capital and lower case letters. We use ‘The Complete Alphabet Workbook’ to develop the correct formation of cursive letters and words. Writing journals will be used to enable students to reflect on what they have learned, what they would like to learn, and the things they have enjoyed at school during the week. Writing is also linked to the Inquiry topic of ‘What About Me?’, where students will begin to write about being part of a family and a community, their roles and responsibilities including how they fit in at school.

Individual spelling words will be given to students to practise each week. Sight words such as, to and that, will be introduced and students will be encouraged to use these new words in their writing.
Take Home Readers

Please read with your child and listen to your child read as they begin their journey of discovering amazing words, and how they can relate to the texts being shared with you.

Encourage your child to have a go at unfamiliar words and look at the pictures to assist them. Ask questions about the text to check for comprehension. You may remind your child of the letters we are focusing on in class and the sounds they make. Search for more words beginning with these letters to expand vocabulary.

Listen to them read when you are ready and they are relaxed and away from other distractions. Always remember to praise your child’s efforts.

Take home readers should be brought to school and changed every day. Please sign the appropriate day in the diaries under the title of the book they have read. Reader bags and diaries are checked regularly by the teacher to keep track of students home reading.
Mathematics

The Prep children have already been developing their skills and knowledge in a range of Mathematical areas within their first few weeks of school. They have had the opportunity to develop a sense of number, order, sequence and pattern by looking at the first 10 digits. The Prep students have enjoyed hands on learning tasks to enrich their learning and understanding of objects around them, becoming detectives and going on a ‘Shape Hunt’ around the school. As the focus was on squares we looked at the different square shapes found within and outside the classroom environment to help broaden their knowledge and improve their awareness of the shapes around them. The students are encouraged to make connections to the Mathematical content of their lessons and their real lives.

In the next few weeks, they will continue to discover different attributes of objects, including size, shape and colour, to help them sort, and classify objects and present their discoveries to the class. We focus on the days of the week and months of the year by utilizing books and interactive whiteboards to promote and extend their learning. Throughout all the topics, they will create stories and undertake learning tasks to show how everyday situations connect to Mathematical concepts learnt in class.
At Glen Waverley Primary School, we are committed to actively leading curriculum development in Australia. Our inquiry units are planned in response to National Curriculum guidelines. This term, in our unit called ‘What About Me?’. We are focusing on Civics and Citizenship as the students begin to develop a sense of belonging to the school community. Students are exploring their sense of identity within the classroom community and school community. They are learning about what makes them who they are and are learning to value and respect other people’s differences. They begin to compare classroom and family rules and other rules that they know about, such as those for games and sport. Last week, students learnt guidelines about how to be Sun Smart. Students will explore their responsibilities and rights and those of others in order to gain an understanding of how they fit into the classroom, school, and community.
"YOU CAN DO IT!"

The whole school social emotional learning program at Glen Waverley Primary School is **YOU CAN DO IT!**

This term we will explore the following areas: **RESILIENCE**

This unit of work focuses on emotional resilience skills with these main objectives for children:

To learn that there are different feelings.

To examine different words that describe feelings (happy, sad, angry and worried).

To learn to recognise the feelings of others.

‘Ricky the Resilience Puppet’ will be used in lessons, as well as the ‘Resilience Song’ to give students strategies to assist them with understanding and managing their emotions. For example, when I am upset I can calm myself down so I can start to work and play again.

**GETTING ALONG**

In this unit the focus is on teaching children these important elements:

Working and playing together nicely.

Sharing and taking turns.

Behaving well towards others.

Following school rules.

Keeping their classroom clean and safe.

‘Gabby the Get Along Puppet’ will be introduced as well as the ‘Getting Along Song’ to assist their learning of these elements. For example, to get along well with others, I follow rules in the classroom and in the playground, like lining up nicely and not pushing to be at the front of the line.
Things you can do to support your child with their learning:

- Listen to your child read every night and praise their efforts.

- Every day check the blue reader bag for notices, take home books and their diary. Record the name of the book read in their diary and add a comment. If your child is absent from school, please fill out the absent form at the front of the diary. When absent for a long period of time, for example more than two days, please write a note and give to their class teacher.

- Encourage your child when arriving at school to place all relevant items in the labelled tubs independently.

- Look at notice boards for details about upcoming events.

- Discuss your child’s day at school regularly and celebrate their achievements.

- If you need to speak to the teacher at any time, please make an appointment before or after school to discuss any concerns.

- Ensure your child has healthy food to eat throughout the day. We encourage healthy eating with little packaging. They will require three separate snacks/meals: Brain Food, Recess and Lunch.

  - **Brain Food** at 10:00am. This should consist of pieces of fruit or vegetables cut up into small pieces and placed in a small container.

  - **Recess** pack snacks such as, fruit, yoghurt, biscuits, cheese and crackers etc.

  - **Lunch** your choice of healthy food with little packaging, where possible (from March 2nd).

- All items **must** be labelled clearly. Check on a regular basis. (bags, clothing, shoes, socks, drinking bottles, hats, library bags, lunch boxes and anything else they bring to school).

- Ensure your child gets to bed at a reasonable time so that she/he is fully focused at school, ready to begin their learning.

We allow plenty of time for children to eat their snack/lunch in the classroom. If they have not finished their snack in class, they may eat some of it outside. Please try not to give them too much food as they need time to play with their friends in the playground. If your child tends to be a slow eater, encourage him/ or her by cutting food into smaller pieces.

- At Glen Waverley Primary School we value and appreciate community involvement. Look out for parent helpers’ board on the Noticeboard outside the ELC. There are many ways to volunteer, feel free to discuss how you can contribute with your classroom teacher.
FOOD, FOOD, FOOD!

Nude Food
At Glen Waverley Primary School we encourage students to care for their environment. Students are asked to bring their food in reusable containers which is called ‘Nude Food’. By doing this we can reduce the amount of rubbish that gets into the yard thus keeping our school looking its best. When making food selections for your child, we recommend healthy options, avoiding highly processed and sugary foods.

Lunch orders
Once the Preps start school full time in March you may choose to order a lunch order for them. This can be done through Balanced Living Catering available at http://www.balancedlivingcatering.com.au. All lunches are delivered to the classes at lunch time so you will need to provide Brain Food and Recess snacks for earlier in the day.

Prep Family Barbeque
26th February outside the ELC.
By now you should have received an invitation to the annual Prep BBQ. This is a fantastic free community event and a wonderful opportunity for you to meet other Prep families and staff members in a friendly and enjoyable way. Please ensure you have returned your RSVP slip indicating how many people are attending so we can cater appropriately. We look forward to seeing you there!

Prep Staff 2015
Ms Clare Baizanos
Mrs Olga Anagnostou
Miss Emily Laughlin
Miss Harrys Tsigas
Miss Samantha Matsoukas

IMPORTANT DATES:
20th February: Curriculum Day
26th February: Prep BBQ
9th March: Labour Day
Public Holiday
23-27th March Cultural Diversity Week
24th March: Harmony Day
25th March: Twilight Sports
27th March: Last day term 1. 2:30pm dismissal