PREP NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2016

WELCOME
In Reading this term, the Prep students will be focusing on the letters of the alphabet as well as learning reading behaviours and strategies to assist them as they begin to read. They will learn about the features of a book, use the illustrations to assist them to read the story, and begin to make text to self connections.

In Writing, the Preps will learn how to form all of the letters of the alphabet correctly, with a specific letter focus each week. The students will concentrate on executing good writing posture including correct pencil grip and will strengthen their fingers through tasks that improve their fine motor skills in order to support the growth of their writing.

In Speaking and Listening, the students will be discussing their roles in their families and will share information about themselves. We will be learning how to show active listening and how to ask interesting questions to learn more about our friends. The Home Learning tasks completed by the students will prepare them for speaking to their peers about their families.

Take home readers
Our aim in Prep is to foster a lifelong love of reading. Home reading is an opportunity to practice skills learnt at school and should build fluency and be enjoyable. Encourage your child to relate to the text though discussion about the book and its topic. Depending on your child’s skills, you may start by looking at the pictures and reading the text to them. Ask your child to have a go at reading the text to you and identify words starting with letters they are familiar with. Always remember to praise your child’s efforts.

Children need to change their reader every day and record the title of the book in their diary. All readers and diaries should be kept in reader bags to avoid damage or loss.
**Mathematics**
The Prep children have had a fantastic start to Prep. Teachers have been working hard to ensure that all Prep Mathematics assessments are complete whilst tailoring mathematics sessions to your child’s needs. Our first topic this Term has been shapes and looking at numbers using a ten frame, whilst doing a variety of tasks to attain a greater understanding of your child’s prior knowledge. So far, we are all very impressed. The Prep students have enjoyed hands on learning tasks to enrich their learning and understanding of objects around them, such as becoming detectives by going on a ‘Shape Hunt’ around the school. 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 hands on materials 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.

**REMEMBERS**

**Prep Assemblies**
On the last Friday of every month we will have a level assembly to celebrate our students’ learning achievements. Parents and carers are welcome to join us at 2.40pm. The first level assembly will be on Friday 18th March.

**Icypole Day**
When students commence full days on the 29th of February, they will have the opportunity to purchase icy poles at lunchtime for 50 cents. Teachers will collect the money in the mornings and give it to your child at lunchtime.

**Hats**
As we are a SunSmart school, students have been reminded to bring their hats this term to protect them from the sun when outside.

**Labelled Clothing**
Please make sure that your child’s belongings are labelled with their name and class so that if misplaced, their belonging will be returned to them.
Inquiry
During this term, the Preps will explore the question ‘What About Me?’ as our Inquiry topic. They have already begun discussing who is in their family and sharing this information, looking for how we are similar as well as different. Students will begin to understand how we are all special, with similar attributes, likes and dislikes. They explore how they can become more independent; taking responsibility and initiative, both at school and at home.

Preps will build awareness of different cultures, including celebrations and festivals that occur throughout the year. We celebrated Chinese New Year by making monkey faces and watching a video on the 12 different zodiac animals. The students will share their knowledge of being a good friend and explore school expectations. Later in the term the students will recognise how they have changed and how they will continue to change as they grow up. They will compare physical attributes, such as their hands and height as well as look into the future and think about what they would like to be when they grow up.

You Can Do It!
This term in the student wellbeing program, “You Can Do It!” we will be focusing on building “resilience” and “getting along”. Throughout the term we will have designated sessions designed to assist students in understanding and managing their emotions as well as strategies to help them make friends and work together effectively at school.

Prep Family BBQ
All families are cordially invited to join us at the Prep Family BBQ. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet staff and other families in a friendly and enjoyable way. Please return the RSVP promptly to help us cater appropriately. We look forward to seeing you there!
Get To Know Your Teacher

Clare Baizanos
- Has three sons living at home
- Worked in Africa, England, Switzerland, Greece, China and Australia
- Moved to Australia in 2002
- Loves gardening and cooking
- Has been teaching for 29 years
- Enjoys visiting markets

Emily Laughlin
- Favourite colour is orange
- Loves to dance
- Favourite book is Matilda
- Rode on an elephant during an African safari
- Loves going to the movies
- Has an older sister

Samantha Matsoukas
- Likes to cook
- Can speak Greek
- Loves all the colours of the rainbow
- Enjoys singing
- Found Nemo when she went snorkelling
- Has two older sisters

Charlotte Sowerby
- Taught in Indonesia, Northern Territory and Melbourne
- Doing Masters in TESOL
- Loves the beach and ocean
- Reality TV show junkie
- Has two dogs named Juka and Issa
- Attended her first rodeo last year

Lee-ean Teoh
- Has been a teacher for 9 years
- Is a mum of an 11-month-old boy named Oliver
- Lived and taught in London for 3 years
- Enjoys baking and cooking
- Favourite colour is blue
- Born in Australia but parents are from Malaysia