

Prep Newsletter

Term 2 2017

Congratulations to all our wonderful Preps and Prep families on the fantastic way they have adjusted to school life. We have all been so impressed how quickly everyone settled in during Term 1 and are equally impressed with the smooth start we have had in Term 2. This term will be long and busy with plenty of fun and learning to be had.

Important dates

Tuesday 25th April – ANZAC Day Holiday

Wednesday 3rd May – House Cross Country- **Please come to school dressed in colours.**

Thursday 11th May – Mothers Day Stall

Friday 12th May - Mother's Day afternoon Tea – Prep Courtyard

Monday 12th June – Queen's Birthday Holiday

Friday 30th June – Last day of term

Term 2 Inquiry

This term we will be looking at different emotions through our inquiry unit 'Hooked On A Feeling'. Students will understand and communicate the physical signs of different emotions and will have a better understanding of a variety of calming and other strategies that can help them act in an appropriate manner.

Numeracy

This term we are focussing on counting by 1s 2s, 5s and 10s, number names and numerals to 20, ordinal number, location, rainbow facts, smallest to largest and 2D shapes.

Literacy/Writing

Some concepts we will be exploring this term include comprehension strategies such as predicting, visualising, text to text, text to self and inferring. This term the focus for writing will be using letter/sound knowledge to attempt to spell unknown words, correct spelling of known words from individual word lists and punctuation such as capital letters and full stops. All students will be encouraged to include spaces between their words and be able to re read what has been written.

Handwriting will focus on correct formation and use of lower and upper case letters.

Take Home Books and Magic Words

It is wonderful to see the Prep students reading their take home readers and Magic Words every night. The children have the opportunity to change their readers daily. Reading take home books should be a positive experience that fosters a life long love of reading. The children are tested regularly on their automatic recall of Magic Words.

PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)

PMP is a sequential development program that aims to develop children's perceptions and understandings of themselves and the world around them.

The key areas are:



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- Gross motor skills - the acquisition of large scale movements e.g: walking, running, jumping, skipping, climbing, moving in and out of positions.
- Fine motor skills - the acquisition of small scale movements e.g: performing building tasks, isolating various fingers, using tools, copying precise actions without overflow (accompanying large scale movements).
- Crossing the midline of the body (laterality) eyes must also learn to track across the body midline to avoid potential difficulties with reading.
- Establishment of a preferred hand - examples include ball games, building activities, pushing and pulling tasks.
- Balance - closely associated with the development of gross motor skills.
- Body and space awareness this usually develops from head to toe and from the centre outwards. Development is encouraged by movement through space such as swinging, moving the body/parts of the body in relation to pieces of equipment, e.g: tyres, hoops, boxes and tunnels. Spatial concepts such as behind, between, backwards, forward and up/down are also practiced.
- Visual and spatial skills students are helped to track objects in all directions, match shapes and copy patterns.
- Rhythm sequence, memory and listening activities such as clapping to rhythms, fast vs slow movements, counting claps, steps, jumps, etc. These skills are relevant to the development of mathematical abilities.

We will be running our PMP session on a Thursday morning at 9.00 am and if you are able to help out could you please let your classroom teacher know so that a roster can be drawn up. PMP starts on Thursday 27th April.

Communication:

Don't forget to check your child's bag and diary every day for any important information. Feel free to pop in or email Linda, Emily or Meagan anytime with queries or concerns.

Emails:

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Thank you

We just want to say a BIG thank you to all parents who are helping out in our classrooms. Your assistance plays an important role and the children love it dearly. If you would like to help out, please see your child's teacher.

