



Grade Prep Newsletter Term One 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates Term One

Wednesday 27th Feb

Curriculum Day- no students at school

Wednesday 13th March

Final Wednesday off- students commence full weeks next week.

Friday 5th April

End of Term One

Thank you to those that could come along to the Prep picnic on Wednesday night. It was heart-warming to see so many of you there introducing yourselves to others and connecting with your new friends! We hope it will be the first of many gatherings together!

Tania and Alesha x

What a great start!

We have had a fabulous start to our school year. All the children seem to be settling well into the school routines and enjoying their new experiences in Prep. As we mentioned at the information night, it is totally normal to expect the children to be exhausted and a bit cranky! They have a huge day at school holding it all together, listening and following directions and then when they get to the sanctuary of their home they let go! Sorry about that!

You have now received our Information Book via email. PLEASE READ IT. It has all the information about Prep and is really helpful in answering questions you have or just letting you know about things you may not have heard of. We really encourage (in fact beg) that you make sure you have your email registered and you check it regularly. Please make sure you are signed up to Flexibuzz and that that you have QKR. We send out information using these systems and we assume that everyone receives it. If you need help setting anything up please see Maddie at the office.

We understand it can sometimes be info overload (we both have 3 kids each so really get it) but it's important to set up your own system to make sure you don't miss out on information and dates etc...

WEDNESDAY- HOME VISITS

We are having a lovely time visiting everybody at their homes each Wednesday. Thank you all so much for welcoming us into your homes and for being ready with your child's special things. I think this is the first year we haven't run ridiculously over time (except when we go to the wrong house) and that is thanks to you helping us stay on track! It really is a fabulous fast track to getting to know your beautiful children and make that strong bond and connection that is so important between teacher and student. It is also lovely to get to chat to each of you and also make that connection. Please check your time for next week if we are coming to you next

What we are learning...

Numeracy

- * Number 1-10 and beyond, counting, number recognition and formation
- * Pattern- children are learning what a pattern is and how to make more complex patterns. This a very important skill as pattern transfers to number patterns eventually.
- * One-one correspondence. Ensuring when children count they are counting in a methodical way.

Writing

- * Writing their names using correct formation and remembering the names of the letters in their names.
- * Magic writing – children are ‘writing’ about their weekend or a response to a text. At this stage it may be squiggles on a line, initial sounds or words. Believing they ‘can’ is the most important thing.
- * Children need to tell the teacher the sentence they have ‘written’ and draw a picture that matches.
We have talked about full stops to end the sentence also.
- * Organisation- writing from left to right, having letters sit on the base line, using the correct page.
- * Pencil grip

THRASS

- * We are beginning to familiarize ourselves with the THRASS chart through games.
- * We are learning that each letter has a name and that it only makes a sound when it is in a word .
- * In the next few weeks we will be looking at the letters S A T I P . We learn letter formation, the sound it makes, its name, words beginning with this letter, other sounds the letter can make etc...
- * We learn our letters through the THRASS chart, for example we say ‘s’ as in sun or l as in tin (please read the parents info guide on THRASS for more information).
- * We link a fine motor craft activity to each letter as well as kinesthetic experiences, such as playdough, painting, flour, bending pipe cleaners, sorting words etc...
- * It is really helpful to us if you can go over these letters with the children and use their overwrite chart at home to help them write the letters using the correct formation.

Reading

- * Eagle Eye- we have learnt the reading strategy of Eagle Eye. When reading the readers with your child ask them to use their ‘eagle eye’ to look at the pictures to give them clues about the words. PLEASE DON’T cover the pictures to ‘test’ them. They need to find success with reading even if that means retelling the story in their own way and turning the pages.
- * Starting in the right spot, pointing to the words.
- * We are learning the letters through our THRASS chart and also our names. We look and talk about letters in everything we do with the children Please do the same when you read.

STEM

- To introduce the concept of weather and prediction of weather
- To investigate the role of meteorologists
- To observe the changes that occur with the weather.
- To record the observable changes that occur in the sky.
- To explore terminology associated with weather such as over cast, sunny, rain (precipitation), clearing, meteorology

P.E/Health/Respectful Relationships

In Respectful Relationships in Term 1, we will be looking at Emotional Literacy and Personal Strengths. Emotional literacy skills will be built through activities that encourage the children to recognise and identify emotions in themselves and others through facial expressions and body language. The personal strengths topic will encourage children to recognise strengths in themselves and others (such as being brave or kind) and consider how these strengths are helpful at home and school.

This term's PE/Health focus is Athletics. We will be learning fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping and throwing. The children will be learning these skills through games and activities that also help them learn personal and social skills such as how to follow rules and share equipment. We will be re-visiting these skills in Term 4 when the children will participate in a junior athletics day.

Berry Street Educational Model

Children are involved in brain breaks in their learning and are being taught that the best learning happens when they are present, grounded and centred. A big part of learning is developing persistence and resilience to have a go and try again if they don't get it the first time. This is often difficult for young children but an essential skill in learning and life. Children also have been introduced to the Behaviour Management procedure. You can find a copy of this in your information books.

Japanese

This term students are being introduced to Japan and the Japanese language. We began looking at postcards and photos of Japan, and describing what we can see in the photo. Students are asking one another in Japanese and responding to the question 'What is your name?' onamaewa おなまえは？

Students are also learning a song all about greetings. If you would like to practise at home, here is the YouTube link. <https://youtu.be/op-RYV1lp3QMusic>

Music

We have been having a wonderful time heading down to our lovely new music space in the garden. Prep B have had several music sessions and Prep A will have their first session today, (Friday 22nd) as their usual music time will be Wednesdays. We have been moving with a big elastic stretchy band, learning to follow the leader and take turns to create movements. Wombats, wallabies, snakes and other Australian animals have been moving and stopping to the music in our room. We have echoed and created rhythms on chopsticks and all chosen our own percussion instruments to play – exploring ways to play them and the sounds that they can make. Playing the 'elf and fairy game' – a singing game where someone is covered with a 'fairy blanket' and we have to guess who is missing is always lots of fun. Here is a little summer song that we have been singing.

Happy sun high, happy sun low,

Happy sun make my garden grow.

Happy sun shine all of the time,

*Shine, shine, shine. *we substitute 'garden' with different flowers*



Parent Helpers

Many people have asked about helping in the classroom. We love parent helpers! As we mentioned at the Information night, we start having parents help in the classroom in Term 2. The reason for this is we find that first Term students are learning to come to school independently and detaching from having a parent with them. When students have a parent come in to the classroom they tend to cling on to them and want to leave etc... when their parent goes. By Term 2, most Preps are settled in the routine and find having their parent in the room no issue. Next term we will be asking for helpers to do reading and maths games on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 2.45-3.15pm.

Just check that your child has a drink bottle, blue folder, art smock, library bag and hat.

Any jumpers found in the yard or lost end up at our lost property box outside the sick bay.

If you are missing something that is where you can look for it! Most things come back to youeventually!

Readers and Library Book

Just to clarify, we have library on a Friday, children need to return their library book IN THERE LIBRARY BAG (not blue folder) and then they can choose another book. Children cannot borrow another book until their book is returned but it's no big deal they can still browse and enjoy the library!

Each Monday children will change their 5 readers. Please fill in the diary to show they have read something during the week. We check diaries on a Monday too. Having said that please don't feel pressure at this stage if they are too tired. If they finish their readers they can read them again, work on their golden words, or alphabet and practice writing their name. Remember everyone is at a different level, we have a huge range of abilities from children still learning the alphabet to children reading complex texts. Any stage your child is at, is the right place for them and we will build on their skills from there!

ABSENCE NOTICES

We ask that you use tiqbiz/flexibuzz/email to notify us when your child is absent from school on the day/s that they are absent. Please advise us too if you will be away for any period of time for a family holiday prior to going away.

Thank-YOU!

Writing Names

Can your child write their name correctly? If not it would be a great thing to practise. We use Sassoon font NOT Victorian cursive (we sent home a practise sheet).

Pick Up Procedure

Now that the Preps have the hang of walking up to drop off, we don't leave our classroom until 3.25pm to be at the drop off at about 3.30pm. The whole school is dismissed at 3.30pm, sometimes things happen in the classroom just as we are about to leave (someone hurts themselves, need a tissue, shoes fall off, wrong bags etc..) and it might mean we are a few minutes late. Please be understanding, you might get asked to do 'another lap' if you are in your car so we can continue to pop students in their cars that are at drop off. If people don't move their cars then we can't get kids in their cars and the queue becomes jammed. We also ask that you don't get out of your car at the drop off, if you need to secure your child's seat belt please pull over into our loading zone at the top of the stairs. We can mostly get all our students in their car in about 15mins. If you find the process daunting, please feel free to park and meet us at the greeting tree.

Many thanks for your help and understanding.



miStAkEs
are proof
that you are
TRYING

OSHC

If your child attends before and after school care please send your teacher an email letting them know the days this is happening so we can make sure we keep an eye on where kids need to be.

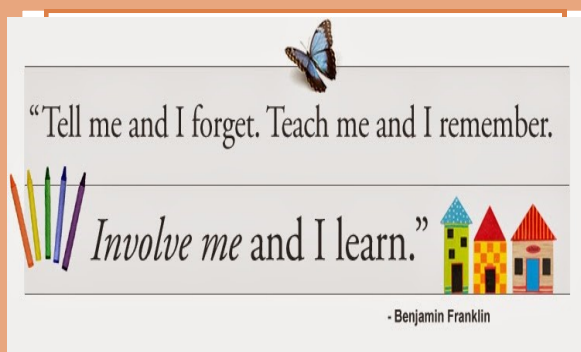
Do you have a health care card?

If you have a health care card please see our office to apply for CSEF it is \$125 that can be used for Camps, Sports and Excursions. You are also eligible for State Schools Relief assistance that provides uniforms in Prep and again in Year 7. Please see Karen or Maddie at the office.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Ari who has started with us in Prep B this week.

Ari has had a wonderful start and all the children have made her feel very welcome.



Reading Eggs & Mathletics passwords

On Monday you will find your child's Mathletics and Reading Eggs Passwords stuck in the front cover of their diary.

Please explore these sites with your child, they are a FABULOUS way to help with reading and maths. You can load them on their ipad (if they have one) or they can use a PC. We understand some of you won't allow your child to use technology yet, and that is also fine. We provide each child from Prep-2 a subscription to these sites. The kids love them and it certainly helps with their learning.

If you have any issues/concerns or just want to meet with any of us for a chat about your child, please feel free to contact us via email.

We are always happy to make a time to meet with you.

The Prep Team

Tania Blandthorn: blandthorn.tania.t@edumail.vic.gov.au

Alesha Sangster: sangster.alesha.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Emily Scarbro: Scarbro.emily.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

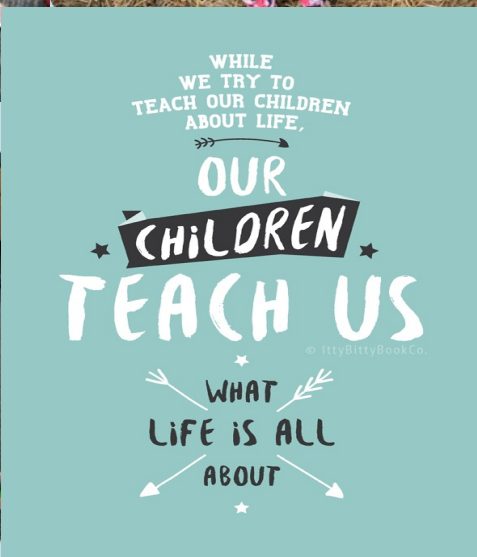
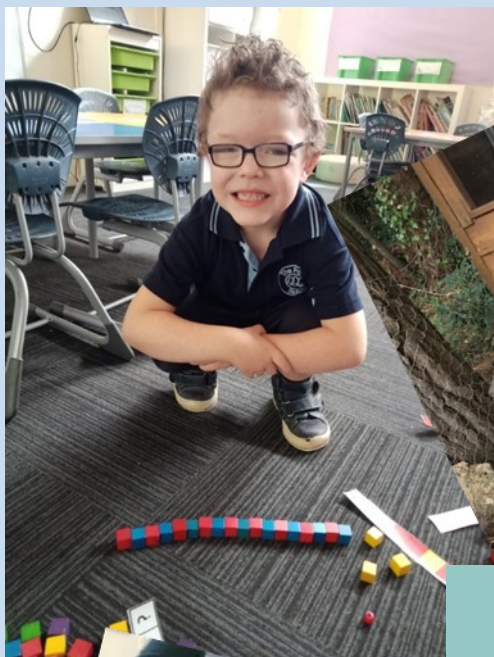
(Prep B Thursdays)

Principal/Vice Principal

Deb Herrmann : herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Michelle Rayner: Rayner.michelle.t@edumail.vic.gov.au

A few snap shots...



Please note, if you have selected 'do not publish photo to media' on your child's enrolment form we will not use their images in our newsletters as our newsletters go on our website. If you are unsure, you can check with Maddie at the office.