

Prep Teaching and Learning Newsletter – Term 3

Welcome back to Term 3

We are now half way through Prep and it has been amazing to see the students' learning and independence increase in only 6 months. The prep teachers are looking forward to another semester of fantastic learning.

In Prep, we love to have parent helpers in the classrooms to listen to students read or help with other activities/jobs. There have been some changes to the timetable, so you might need to double check with your child's teacher whether your current time to volunteer is still suitable.

We had a great time at our 'Being Brave' incursion in the last week of Term. It was an entertaining way to help students to 'bounce back' in challenging situations. Classes talked about resilience after the incursion and completed some follow-up activities. To maintain this great learning opportunity, our goal is, 'To be resilient.' The Preps have defined resilience as, 'not getting upset over little problems'. The students have had many opportunities to differentiate between big problems and small problems and are working on identifying what sort of problem requires an adult's assistance and what sort of problems require them to practise being resilient and sort out themselves.

Resilience is such an important life skill. The more opportunities a child has to exercise resilience at a young age, the better equipped they will be to handle greater obstacles in later life. Teachers, parents and carers can help to foster this essential skill by supporting children to solve 'little problems' for themselves.

Just a reminder that school starts at 9:00am. Students need to be at school, ready to come inside and unpack their bags at 9:00am. Getting to school early, no earlier than 8:45am, gives the students time to go to the toilet and have a run around, play with their friends or play on the monkey bars. The prep teachers encourage students to run around in the morning before school to burn off some of that 'morning energy' and excitement before coming inside to start their learning.

Prep Teaching Team,
 Ellie, Kenji, Stacey and Tara

Important dates /Upcoming events

11 July	Term 3 starts at 9:00am
20 July	Lego Education Centre visit for Prep Kenji and Prep Ellie
26 July	Grandparents Day
27 July	Lego Education Centre visit for Prep Stacey and Prep Tara
1 August	100 Days of School
3 August	Parent/Teacher Interviews – Students dismissed at 12:15pm – Parent/Teacher Interviews running from 1:00pm until 7:30pm
11 August	First Aid in Schools (free incursion)
16 September	Last Day of Term 3 – students finish at 2:30pm

Student expectations

During Term 3 we expect all students to:

- Be at school on time – school starts at 9:00am
- Change their take-home books each day
- Read every night
- Practise reading and writing the Little Learners Love Literacy 'Heart Words'
- Be responsible for their belongings

How you can help your child at home

- Be informed of school events - read the newsletter and notices put on display at the classroom door.
- Listen and watch your child read their take-home book and gently correct them if they make a mistake. Point out heart words, explaining that we need to know them by heart because we cannot sound them out.
- Encourage your child to practise writing the heart words.

What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH

Reading and Viewing

We have now learnt the initial sounds for all the letters of the alphabet. Our next steps will be to learn about diagraphs (two letters, one sound) and consonant blends (two letters, two sounds). We will also be learning to add 's' to make some nouns plural. Our new Little Learners Love Literacy program continues to be very successful.



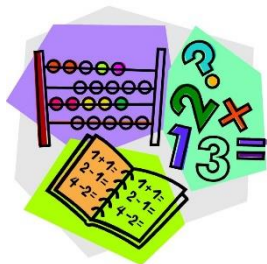
Writing

In writing this term, students will continue to implement their knowledge of letters and sounds to help them sound out words when writing. Students will participate in spelling sessions where they need to listen to a word or phrase and write what they hear. We will write recounts about our holidays and other special events that are happening this term. We will also learn how to write a description by describing some of our toys at home.

Speaking and Listening

There are daily opportunities for students to practise speaking and listening through class discussions and share time. There will also be another daily news share time – based on our inquiry topic about toys. A note and timetable will come home shortly. Please make sure your child is sharing something to do with the topic.

MATHEMATICS



It was great to see many Prep parents at the Parent Information Night held in Term 2. Prep Teachers will attend four more Maths PDs in Term 3. These maths PDs are extremely important for teachers to ensure they are teaching mathematics effectively, based on current research. In prep, we are making sure students have a really good foundations, in order to prevent misconceptions in upper year levels.

Number and Algebra

We continue to revise all that has been taught in first semester, and build on it by learning the 'teen' numbers. The 'teen' numbers are where many misconceptions arise when writing numbers as students often reverse the digits. Students often write 41, when they meant to write 14 because they hear the '4' first in fourteen. We will also be comparing collections of objects and numbers and working out which is bigger. Those parents that attend the parent information session will know that being able to explain the answer is just as important as the correct answer. Teachers will often be asking 'How do you know?' which encourages students to explain their reasoning.

We will also be starting addition and subtraction and looking at Australian coins when we learn about money. This term, we will also celebrate our 100th day of school!

Measurement and Geometry

This term we will revise two-dimensional shapes and also look at three-dimensional shapes in our environment. We will also look at mass, which will involve using language to describe which is heavier, lighter or to state which is the heaviest.

Statistics and Probability

We will do data again and look at interpreting answers from 'yes/no' questions. We will display data that we have collected.

INQUIRY

Our inquiry topic this term is 'Toys'. We start the unit off with an excursion to the Lego Education Centre in Docklands. This unit focuses on toys and how they have changed over time. We will also look at the similarities and differences in toys and discover what kinds of toys have moving parts. There will be opportunities for students to share their favourite toy. We will also integrate money and mass into our toy unit.

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

Specialist Timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education		PREP TARA PREP KENJI	PREP STACEY	PREP ELLIE	
Music		PREP ELLIE PREP TARA	PREP STACEY	PREP KENJI	
Science/Spanish		PREP KENJI PREP STACEY		PREP TARA	PREP ELLIE
Art/Spanish		PREP STACEY PREP ELLIE			PREP KENJI PREP TARA

Physical Education

The Prep students will be getting active, putting skills they develop into game play scenarios and promoting good sportsmanship this term. We will be having a Tabloid Sports Day where we will be running with eggs balanced on spoons, jumping in sacks and throwing quoits with accuracy. The focus of this day will be on 'having a go' and 'trying our hardest'. We will also be exploring different dance styles, jumping with ropes and even learning how to play 'Elastics'. More information will be available in the school newsletter regarding the date and time of event.

Music



In music lessons this term the prep students will continue to explore basic rhythm notation and begin working with tuned percussion instruments to create their own melodies as well as learn short instrumental pieces. We will be working on responding to music where the students will express what they enjoy and why. We will be exploring the musical element "pitch" and working towards students matching pitch when singing. Movement activities designed to help students with feeling and counting the beat will also be explored.

Science/Spanish

This term Prep students will learn more about the world around them. They will be exploring the patterns of events that occur on Earth such as the appearance of the moon and the stars at night, the weather and the seasons. While learning about the weather, students will also find out how we dress for different weather conditions and explore what different cultures wear. While exploring these concepts, students will learn vocabulary in Spanish to talk about weather, seasons and clothes.

Art/Spanish

In term three students in prep are going to continue to explore art materials and techniques, including collage, rubbing, watercolour resist and printing with different materials. They are going to investigate some instruments from South America and create their own maracas with paper mâché. Along the way students are going to continue to learn Spanish vocabulary for materials and actions in the art room, colours and shapes, family and animals. To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website <http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>.



Performing Arts/Spanish

Performing Arts will be delivered in Spanish in one 50 min session per week in Term 4 for Preps.

Student Wellbeing



After our 'Being Brave' incursion in Term 2, students will continue to focus on activities which build resilience and independence. We will continue to support students with activities that will assist with working cooperatively together and playing fairly.

