



PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT YEAR PREP

February 2025

MEET THE TEAM



AGENDA

1. Specialist subjects
1. School mission and values
2. Child Safe Standards
3. Student wellbeing
4. English
5. Mathematics
6. Inquiry
8. Homework
9. Events and dates
10. How you can support your child
11. Avenues of communication
12. Questions

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS



Prep Specialist lessons are:

Art/Spanish

Music

PE

Spanish

Library

Computer Lab



SPANISH



¡Hola! Me llamo Esmi.



In the Spanish class we learn through songs, stories, performance, games and movement.

We focus on listening and speaking.

A few topics we will cover:

saying my name and age,

expressing how I feel,

exploring the unique sounds of the Spanish alphabet.

Activate your Seesaw account for weekly updates.

Contact me on Compass.



SPANISH / VISUAL ARTS

P-2

Visual Arts and Spanish are taught together. The program follows the Content and Language Integrated Learning model (CLIL).

The focus of such a pedagogical model is to deliver learning outcomes for all students in both Content/Art and Language/Spanish by providing a meaningful context for purposeful language learning.

If you have Instagram, please follow @westgarth.artspan to see what students across the school are doing in Spanish/Art.



Students will have one fifty minute session per week.



Throughout the year students are introduced to the Spanish vocabulary for colours, the materials and actions in the art room. They learn to introduce themselves and express their emotions with others.





Westgarth Primary School
Safe, Fair & Friendly

PREP MUSIC PROGRAM

All prep students attend 1x 50 minute music session per week.

John Carr will teach Prep Kenji and Prep Trina and Simon Lewis will teach Prep Vicky and Prep Terri/Ellie.

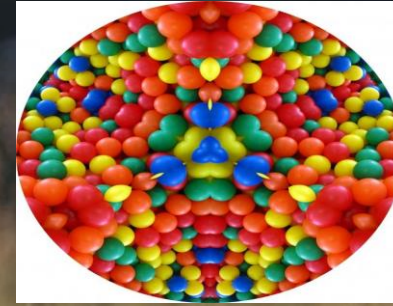
During music lessons, students will engage in a wide variety of musical activities aimed at developing creativity and a love of music and movement.

Students will:

- **Sing to communicate their experiences and ideas.**
- **Develop skills to help them sing in tune.**
- **Use un-tuned percussion instruments to play the beat and create simple rhythmic patterns.**
- **Listen to and discuss different genres of music.**
- **Identify what they enjoy about music they have listened to and why.**

The highlight of 2025 will be the whole school musical production in term 3, giving students to opportunity to perform onstage under lights at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre. Details will be announced later in the year.

PE IN PREP



A CHANCE TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE, CHALLENGED, AND TO HAVE FUN!

Activities that incorporate *fundamental movement skills* – movements that use different body parts including feet, legs, trunk, head, arms, and hands.

Focus on *values* - including cooperation, following rules, taking turns, and displaying sportsmanship.

Identify and describe different *emotions* we may feel while participating in PE.

Describe how our *body responds to movement* - e.g. increased heart rate, increased blood flow, brain becomes activated, mood improves.

CONTACT RUSHE LYNCH OR KATHY DASKALOU VIA COMPASS (NOT SEESAW) WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

LIBRARY



Each 50-minute session includes a lesson/story and then time for browsing and borrowing books.



Please ensure your child has a 'library bag' to help look after our library books. The green 'reading bag' can be purchased from the uniform shop. Preps also have the red library bag provided by the Department of Education.

In the **school newsletter**, there is a 'Library News' link. It contains important library updates, including diary dates for author/illustrator visits, **Book Fair** details (new in 2025) and **Book Week** information. The 'Library News' will also share what each year-level has been learning about.



MISSION AND VALUES

'The pursuit of lifelong learning, environmental sustainability and positive social, emotional and physical wellbeing.'

We support our students with the rights:

- To learn without distraction
- To feel safe and comfortable



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Our school is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children. We want children attending our school to be safe, happy, and respected. The Child Safe Standards recognise that all children are vulnerable and require schools to take steps to prevent child abuse and build a culture of child safety. Schools cannot assume that child abuses does not and cannot happen within our school or school community.

Volunteers make a valuable contribution to our school community and have a responsibility to keep student safe in our school environment. Volunteers must be familiar with and follow our school's:

- [Volunteer Policy](#)
- [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)
- [Procedures for responding to incidents, disclosure, and suspicions of child abuse](#)

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. All volunteers are required to complete the [Child Safe Training Module](#) and familiarise themselves with our [Volunteer Induction Pack](#). You will be asked to acknowledge and agree that you have done so when signing in at the office or Kitchen Garden.

If you require any further clarification, please contact our Assistant Principal Carolyn Shiels on 0394815577.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Student wellbeing is a priority. There are many strategies and programs that we implement to support students with a safe, secure and routine rich learning environment:

- *Setting the Scene*
- Consistent behaviour expectations and language (including prevention of bullying)
- Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR)
- Berry Street Education Model
- eSmart
- *Talking the Talk* Sexuality Education



Example Day

9:00 -9:15 (15min)	Morning Circle (greeting, roll, schedule, announcements, positive primer/brain break) --prepare for direct instruction– (whiteboard, marker, eraser, sit spots)
9:15 – 9:45 (30min)	Direct Instruction Phonics
9:45 – 10:00 (15min)	Catch up, pack up, set up and brain break
10:00-10:30 (30min)	LLLL (handwriting, chitter chant cards, worksheets, reading group) Small Group Reading
10:30 – 10:40	Eating Time
11:10-12:00 (50min)	Maths
12:00 – 12:10 (10min)	Brain Break
12:10 – 12:40 (30 min)	English (Reading, Writing, Spelling)
12:40 – 1:05	Eating
2 sessions	Specialist, Inquiry, SEL, Developmental Play, Mindfulness, Pack Up, Read Aloud, Assembly etc.

ENGLISH - DIRECT INSTRUCTION OF PHONICS

Skill 1: Segmenting

The ability to pull apart the individual sounds in words

pig /p/ /i/ /g/

Skill 2: Blending

The ability to push sounds together to build words

/k/ /a/ /t/ cat

Skill 3: Phoneme Manipulation

The ability to insert sounds into and delete sounds out of words.

Say cat (cat) now say cat without the c (at)

Say cat, (cat) change first sound to m you have (mat)



ENGLISH – READING

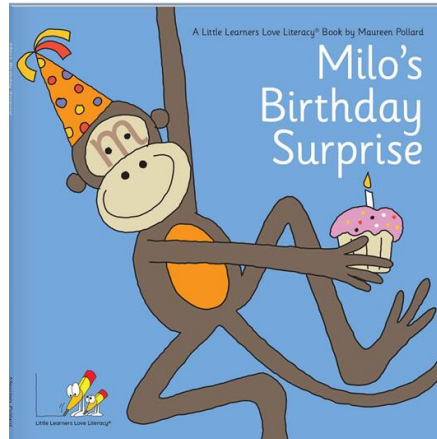
Little Learners Love Literacy focuses on 'phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge' giving children the skills they need to read, spell and write with confidence. This sequential program has 7 stages and it is developed from evidence-based literacy research.

The program gives students the skills to actually read (blending) what is on the page.



ENGLISH – READING

Children start reading home-reading books once they have learnt the first 8 phonemes (sounds) introduced in the storybook *Milo's Birthday Surprise*.



HOME READING

- To start later in term 1 after students have learnt the first stage of phonemes (sounds) and settled into school-life.
- Each stage of learning at school supports the next stage of home-reading.



ENGLISH – WRITING



- Little Learners Love Literacy program - linked to phonemes (sounds)
- Direct Instruction (phonics/spelling)
- Handwriting (correct pencil grip, letter formation)
- A range of genres throughout the year

MATHEMATICS

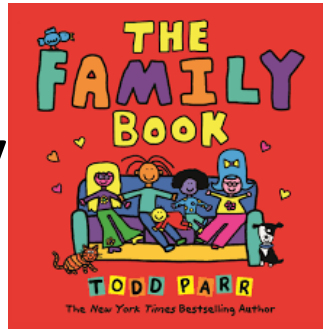
During term 1 we will focus on:

- Counting
- Recognising numbers
- Days of the week
- 2D shapes
- Data Collection



UNITS OF INQUIRY

Term 1: My Family



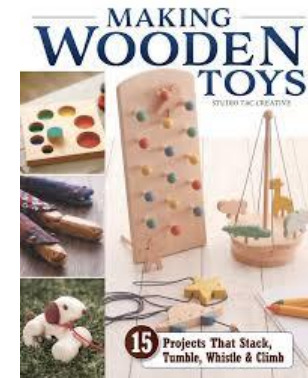
Term 2: Healthy Habits



Term 3: Creativity and performance (Musical)



Term 4: Toys



HOMework

- Daily home reading
- Optional Mathseeds
- Optional homework tasks on school website
- Teachers will exercise discretion in assigning additional tasks for their students on a needs basis



EVENTS AND DATES



TERM 1

- Prep testing- Fridays until 7 March
- School Photos Wednesday 26 February
- Welcome picnic- Friday 28 Feb 6pm
- Labour Day public holiday- Monday 10 March
- Preps full time- Tuesday 11 March
- Last day of term 1- Friday 4 April 2:30pm finish

TERM 3 - School Musical
9-11 September,

Term 4 - Swimming
Program at Northcote
Aquatic Centre

Mon 13/10-
Tues 14/10
Wed 15/10
Thurs 16/10

**** Correct Swimming dates**

Parent Volunteers

We value and encourage parent volunteers throughout the year. Here are some ways you can help:

- Excursions
- Incursions
- Creating resources
- Sharing a talent or skill
- Listening to students read



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD



In prep your child should:

- Pack and unpack their own bags and lunchboxes
- Read or be read to at home every night
- Be responsible for their own belongings and clothing
- Be at school on time
- Have a SunSmart hat (Start or the year until the end of April. Then September until the end of the year.) clothes and water bottle
- Please sign your child at the Compass kiosk at the office if they are late



- Used to communicate whole school and year level specific information
- Enables parents/carers to log student absences
- Provides opportunity for parents/carers to communicate with their child's teacher
- Schedule and view parent/teacher interview appointments
- Provides access to student reports

Two Compass kiosks are available for signing students in or out of school during the day, one at the front office on Brooke St and another in the WEB on Clarke St. No students are to access the kiosks.



- You will receive a weekly update to keep you 'in the loop' of what is going on in classrooms
- Provides updates and celebrations of your child's learning
- Provides an online journal of some of the tasks completed in class
- For year level teams to outline what your child will be learning at school

* Please use **Compass** when reaching out to staff, not Seesaw *



QUESTIONS



Please feel free to come and see us if you have any thoughts, concerns or queries.

We are here to support your family through your child's first year of schooling.