Curriculum News

A very warm welcome to Prep! Your child is at the beginning of a momentous time in their lives. They are starting their learning journey at school and all of the Prep teachers are very excited to be a part of this. We hope that both you and your child enjoy your time in Prep during 2015. This year, the Australian National Curriculum continues to be taught in Queensland schools.

LITERACY: English

In Term 1, students will begin to explore and read short, predictable texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive images. They will use visual cues and begin to identify some sight words in texts. Students will also begin to point to words in texts, and correctly answer simple comprehension questions. They will explore and reinforce their knowledge of the letters of the English language and their sounds. When writing, students will use environmental print, begin to apply some sound and letter knowledge in words and experiment with punctuation and finger spaces. They will also practise communicating clearly as well as listening and responding to others in a familiar environment.

NUMERACY: Maths

This term, students will explore counting forwards and backwards from different starting points; counting to identify how many as well as connecting number names and quantities. They will identify patterns and non-patterns, as well as describe, continue and create repeating patterns. Students will explore the language of location to describe position. They will sequence, compare and order familiar events. Students will compare objects based on size, using direct and indirect comparison. The students will also pose simple questions as well as identifying information gathered by asking and answering questions.

SCIENCE:

In this unit, students use their senses to observe the needs of living things, both animals and plants. They begin to understand that observing is an important part of science and that scientists discuss and record their observations. Students learn that the survival of all living things is reliant on basic needs being met and there are consequences when needs are not met. They analyse different types of environments and how each provides for needs of living things. Students consider the impact of human activity and natural events on basic needs. They share ideas about some sustainable practices that they could implement to support and protect their local living things.

HISTORY:

In this unit, students will investigate the following question: What is my history and how do I know? Students will investigate their own personal story, including their family background and relationships within their family. Through an appreciation of family stories, students will develop an understanding of their own history. They will also examine family structures and appreciate that diverse family groups today have commonalities as well as differences.

Key Days for Class PH

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole School Assembly</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1:35 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2:05 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1:35 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>9:35 am</td>
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Websites of Interest

- Mathletics
- Razkids
- Spellochrome
- Reading Eggs
- Sunshine Online
How Parents can help us

We would very much appreciate Prep parents supporting their child’s learning by making sure that their child is:

- Attending school regularly and arriving to class on time
- Taking pride in their learning and being willing to ‘have a go’ or ‘give it a try’
- Using the correct pencil grip
- Practising writing their own name - first and last
- Learning to count in the correct sequence to 20 and beyond
- Learning to read the numerals 0-10 and beyond where able
- Learning to correctly write the numeral 0-10
- Learning the names of 2D shapes
- Learning the name of all 26 alphabet Letters – uppercase and lowercase and the sound that each letter makes
- Practising writing the letters of the alphabet
- Learning their sight words
- Reading their home reader every night (the LSS Reading Program for Prep will begin later this term and further information will be provided)
- Completing other home learning activities

Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10 February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening from 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 February</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 April</td>
<td>Cross-Country Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday 2 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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Extra Information

**CLASS TIMES**

We ask that all students please arrive in the classroom each morning on time, before the second bell. When the 2nd bell rings, school has started and all children need to be sitting on the carpet ready to begin their day.

We also ask that students are not regularly collected early from school by parents, as essential learning continues until the end of the day at 2:35 pm.

**MUNCH AND CRUNCH**

Each Prep student needs to bring fresh fruit (or vegetables) for their Munch and Crunch each day (not tinned or in a packet). We suggest cutting up oranges, apples, carrots and peeling mandarins for your child. Students will still need to bring fruit or vegetables even if they have tuckshop.

The Prep students are settling in well to their new school and we are already off to a great term of learning and teaching!

______________________________  __________________________
Scott Holmes                    Ruth Hester
Classroom Teacher               Head of Curriculum

“Believe and Achieve”