



Grade Prep Newsletter

Term Four 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Term Four

Friday 1st November

Curriculum Day

Monday 4th November

Planning Day– Alternate program

Tuesday 5th November

Cup Day

Tuesday 12th November

Puffing Billy Buddy Excursion

Thursday 21st November

Grade 6 CupCake Fundraiser

Tuesday 26th November

Prep/1 Camp afternoon (stay at school for afternoon tea and games)

Thursday 28th November

Free Dress day

Friday 6th December

Junior Athletics Day

Tuesday 10 December

Step Up Day– Students spend the morning in their new grade

Friday 13th December

Celebratory Assembly 9-10.30

Monday 16th December

Prep celebration– 2.30pm for parents and children

Friday 20th December

Last day of school– special assembly to farewell our Grade 6s –parents welcome, Preps make a guard of honour as our 6's leave.

Time TBA

Early finish 1.30pm

Term Four

How have we arrived at Term 4 already? I'm sure we were just doing some transition sessions with your gorgeous children the other day!!! Term Four is a busy, busy term in Preps and the whole school. Lots of things happen! We had a brilliant time at swimming. So many of the children were nervous and unsure BUT they all trusted in us and all reported that they were proud to have overcome their nerves! The bus was of course a highlight, they felt very grown up! They all did a brilliant job of organizing themselves and dressing themselves and following the instructions. We are so proud of them!!! Who knows we may have been watching our next Ian Thorpe or Dawn Fraser!!!!



I CALL MY STUDENTS
"MY KIDS" BECAUSE
IN OUR YEAR TOGETHER
THEY AREN'T JUST KIDS
ON MY CLASS LIST,
THEY BECOME A PART
OF MY HEART.

#TEACHERCONFESSION

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What we are learning...

* Numeracy

- * Number 1-20 and beyond, counting, number recognition and formation (addition, subtraction)
- * We spend a lot of time on working with numbers to 20 in Prep, this is essential in giving children a sound understanding of number.
- * Counting by 10's, 5's and 2's
- * Days of the week, Months of the Year, Time
- * Chance and Data.

* Writing

- * This term we focus on letter writing. We have written many letters and have learnt our full name and address. We have also practiced addressing an envelope and understanding what all the parts of our address mean eg 25 is the number of your house etc...
- * We are focusing on their handwriting and making sure they leave spaces, have a consistent size and write on the baseline.
- * The children are challenging themselves to write a bit more and to make their writing more interesting by using adjectives and wow words.
- * Punctuation— We are doing a great job of editing using COPS as an editing tool focusing on capitals, organization, punctuation and spelling
- * Writer's Note book—creating ideas and seeds to use in our writing.
- * Spelling— Look, Say Cover, write Check—Magic words at their level. Children work in class on 5 words at a time, as they know these we add new words. The words are taken from M100W.

* THRASS

- * We are getting better at finding our phonemes on the THRASS chart to help us with our spelling through games.
- * We are focusing on digraphs and split digraphs (2 letter spelling choices) eg ch, sh, th, wh, ph, ng, ow, ou, ay, ew, ee, oo, a_e, o_e, u_e etc....
- * We learn our letters through the THRASS chart, for example we say 's' as in sun or l as in tin ow as in cow
- * With a blend of THRASS and synthetic phonics the children have many skills in reading and spelling correctly.

* Reading

For report writing purposes we have formally assessed the children's reading and levels using our F and P assessment tool. This asks for reading accuracy and also comprehension. We focus on comprehension a lot in Term 4. As they are able to read more words it is important that they also understand what they are reading. We will often keep children on a certain level of reader until they are comprehending what they are reading in detail. It is great to be able to decode more complex text but having a deep understanding of what you are reading is also important. Asking your children questions about the books they have read or you have read to them is a great way to help them with this at home.

Eagle Eye Look at the picture. Use the beginning letter.

Lips the Fish Get your mouth ready. Say the first sound.

Stretchy Snake Sloooooowly stretch each letter sound together.

Chunky Monkey Break the word into chunks you know. m at p fl at p spl at ter

Tryin' Lion Try to re-read the sentence. Think about what would make sense.

Skippy Frog Skip the tricky word. Read to the end. Go back & try it again.

Flippy Dolphin Flip the vowel sound. Try long & short sounds.

Careful Caterpillar Carefully read all the parts of the word.



STEM

STEM – This term in STEM we are looking at physical science, in particular exploring the effect of push and pull forces on different objects. Toys, balls and playground equipment.

P.E/Health

This term in P.E. we are completing a program developed by Gymnastics Australia called FreeG Kids. This program includes new and rapidly developing activities which encourage participants to use traditional gymnastics equipment in new ways. The program draws influences from martial arts, free-running, parkour, tricking and breakdance. Using this program we are introducing our prep students to basic skills and 'warrior circuit' activities to keep them active and engaged. Our sessions will focus on developing fundamental movement skills using fun and engaging sequential activities that build on our children's existing knowledge and skills.

In our first few weeks this term we have learned about safety, in particular how to fall without hurting ourselves or others. We have been practicing ninja moves over the vaults onto the crash mats and have learned the correct technique for a forward somersault roll.

We also have our Junior School Sports Carnival coming up later this term on Friday 6th December and we would love some parent helpers to come along on the day and help us run some activities. If you are free to come along please get in touch with Viv at hughes.vivien.m@edumail.vic.edu.au

Japanese

This term the Preps have begun studying the traditional Japanese folktale 'The Rolling Rice ball'. After reading the book in Japanese a number of times, we have begun to talk about the main characters. By the end of the term the students will be able to put together simple sentences in Japanese describing the characters in the book.

In support of the World Food Day campaign, the students will be making rice balls in class, and I will be uploading photos of each rice ball to the Onigiri Action website. Every time a photo posted related to onigiri with #OnigiriAction, Table for Two will donate 5 school meals to children in need around the world. This is a fantastic way the students can help others around the world. You could even join in at home. <https://onigiri-action.com/en/>

Philosophy

With the completion of our Respectful Relationships Program we will now be doing Philosophy in Term 4. This is a time for students to think deeply about issues and to master the skill of listening and taking turns to speak. This is a time to learn how to disagree respectfully and think about why you think something.

Music

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Art

We cant thank you enough.....

Thank you so much to each and everyone of you that donated items and helped us at The Patch Fest. We had Prep parents on the Patch Fest committee who put in hundreds of hours of work to make this event happen. We had parents running the food, helping serve, manning our Prep stall, setting up, packing up, playing in the band and organising the sound equipment, running the hair colour stall, our belly-dancers, bringing and setting up the stage, creating the online adds, doing all the social media and marketing, running the plant stall the list goes on and on. In fact it seems our Prep parents this year have gone above and beyond with their help. We are so appreciative!!! It is a huge day and it takes months of preparation and hard work. Thank you all so much, it really did take a village to make such a wonderful day happen. Well, done to our lovely Tania who took over when Michelle left to coordinate the day- so much work!!



Keep their learning going over the Christmas break by.....

Reading at home

Make reading fun

Reading at home needs to be fun and easy – something you both look forward to, a time for laughter and talk.

- find a comfortable, quiet place away from the TV for the 2 of you to cosy up and read for 10-15 minutes
- if you or your child start to feel stressed, take a break and read the rest of the story aloud yourself – keep it fun
- make some puppets – old socks, cardboard tubes, cut-outs on sticks – that you and your child can use to act out the story you have read. Or dress up and make it into a play
- play card games (you can make the cards yourself)

read songs, poems and rhymes - sing them together, too.

Here's a tip - when they are reading, your child will still be coming across words they don't know. When this happens, you could remind them to think about what they already know to do when they get stuck. If that doesn't help you might ask "What word would make sense that starts like that?" or "Can you use your reading strategies to help you?" If they still can't work it out – tell them and praise their efforts.

Take your child to the library

- help them choose books to share

find other books by the same author or on the same topic (or look for more information on the web – you might have to be the reader for this one).

Here's a tip - help your child to link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.

Talk about reading

- Talk about the story and the pictures, other stories you have read, and experiences you have both had that are like those in the story
- Sometimes you can be the listener, sometimes the reader and sometimes you can take turns. They might like to read to the cat, the dog, their teddy or a big brother
- All children like to be read to, so don't stop reading to them – no matter how old they are

Encourage your child to read all sorts of things – the TV guide in the newspaper, street signs, food labels. Simple recipes are great – you get to eat what you've read about, too.

Here's a tip - talk with your child all the time – and give them time to talk with you.

Writing at home

Make writing fun

- encourage your child to write – on paper or on the computer. It is OK for you to help and share the writing. Give lots of praise
- enjoy the message and don't make your child anxious about spelling or neatness
- make a photo book and get your child to write captions
- scrapbooks are fun, too. Old magazine or newspaper pictures about a favourite subject, dogs, your family, motor-

- or the latest toy craze, pasted on to blank pages – with room for captions or stories, too

play with words. Finding and discussing interesting new words can help increase the words your child uses when they write. Look up words in the dictionary or on the Internet.

Here's a tip - talk a lot to your child while you are doing things together. Use the language that works best for you and your child.

Give them reasons to write

Help your child to:

- write lists – 'Things I need from the shop', 'Games to play when I am bored', 'Things I want to do in the holidays'. The last one can be cut up and go into a box or bag for a lucky dip when the holidays finally arrive
- write out recipes or instructions for other people to follow (especially fun if the instructions are for an adult)
- keep a diary, especially if you are doing something different and exciting. Your child can draw the pictures or stick in photos.
- write letters, cards, notes and emails to friends and family and the Tooth Fairy – you might write replies sometimes, too

cut out letters from old magazines and newspapers to make messages write secret messages for others to find in their lunch box or under their pillow.

Here's a tip - display their work. Put it on the fridge. Be proud of it. Share it with others.

Talk about their writing

- Make up a different ending for a favourite story together and get them to write it down
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw. Get them to tell you the story

Keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.

Here's a tip - don't worry if your child's letters are sometimes backwards or words are misspelt at this age. The important thing is that they have fun writing at home and are making an effort.

Mathematics at home

Talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns

Help your child to:

- find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood; eg find 7, 17 and 27 on letterboxes
- count forwards and backwards starting with different numbers (eg 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, then back again)
- make patterns when counting forwards and backwards (eg "5, 10, 15, 20 then 20, 15, 10, 5 and 30, 40, 50, 60 or 12, 14, 16, 18, ...")

do addition and subtraction problems by counting forwards or backwards in their heads (eg $8 + 4$, $16 - 3$)

- learn their 'ten and...' facts (eg $10 + 4$, $10 + 7$) double and halve numbers to 20 (eg $7 + 7$ is 14, half of 14 is 7).

Here's a tip - being positive about mathematics is really important for your child's learning – even if you didn't enjoy it or do well at it yourself at school.

Use easy, everyday activities

Involve your child in:

- sorting (washing, odd socks, toys, cans) while tidying up

- telling you what their favourite things are – food, sport, colour reading - notice and talk about numbers.
- ask questions about the pictures like “how many birds are there?”

a shape and number search together wherever you are, like numbers of shoes, shapes of doors and windows. Here's a tip - mathematics is an important part of everyday life and there are lots of ways you can make it fun for your child.

For wet afternoons/school holidays/weekends

Get together with your child and:

- use mathematics words during play (treasure hunts, obstacle courses, building huts) - "under", "over", "between", "around", "behind", "up", "down", "heavy", "light", "round", "your turn next", "before", "after", "left" and "right", "square", "triangle
- play with big cardboard boxes using words like "inside", "outside"
- play games and do puzzles; eg jigsaws, "I spy something that is longer, bigger, smaller than..."
- do water play using different shaped containers and measuring cups
- bake – talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients and how many pieces you need to feed everyone
- dance to music and sing/clap to favourite songs make and play stick games with tī rākau or newspaper rolls play with a pack of cards - make up addition and subtraction problems using numbers to 20 look at a calendar – "how many days/weeks until an event?", "how many days in the month?", "how many weekends?".

Encourage your child to look for patterns.

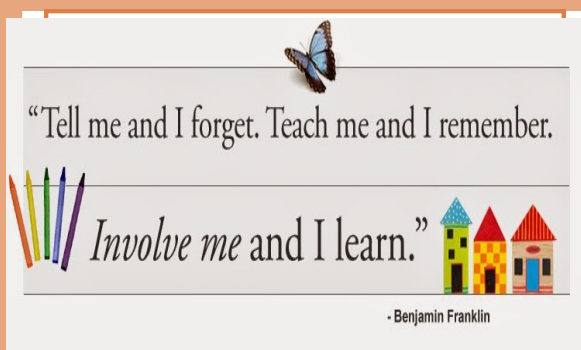
Here's a tip - the way your child is learning to solve mathematics problems may be different from when you were at school. Get them to show you how they do it and support them in their learning.

Puffing Billy Buddy Excursion

We are very excited about the upcoming excursion with our Grade 6 buddies! Thank you to those that have offered to help. We don't normally take parents on this excursion as we want the buddies to be with each other as it is a celebration of their time together. Also, Puffing Billy does not give us any tickets for parents. The weather could not possibly be worse than last year when we headed off in torrential rain, even when that happened we had a fabulous day! The children will need a small backpack, hat, raincoat, snack and lunch.

Hats, hats, hats!

Everyone needs a broad brim hat, it doesn't have to be a school hat. PLEASE name your hat so we have some chance of getting them back to you!



Next Year

Tomorrow is the last day for any requests about classes for next year. They must be sent to Deb. It Please see our whole school newsletter for more details.

Requests for specific teachers will not be accepted.

We spend hours upon hours on grade lists and try our very best to make sure we get the mix right. We will ask the children for their friendship requests and we make sure that they have at least one friend from their list.

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

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