Prep Term Two Newsletter

Thank you for attending the recent parent / teacher interviews to discuss your child’s developmental progress. It is a great opportunity to share dialogue, understandings of your child and goals for future success. The children have been excited to reunite with their friends! They have painted a scene from their holiday and their story is attached. These will decorate our room for a few weeks.

This term is a busy one as it encompasses Cross Country, Mother’s Day, Under Eight’s Week and Queensland Day to name a few. The theme for Under Eight’s Week is “Language – Actively connecting children to their world” and we will be planning an activities day with Years 1 and 2 to suit the theme. The children will also be setting up a Pizza Restaurant where they will practice making pizza and then invite their buddy down for the real thing!!

We are doing a History unit on the similarities and differences between families and at the end of the term we will be embracing the cultures of our class and school community. We are hoping that you will share your culture with us in different ways, maybe through cooking, art, dance, song, language – we are open to anything!! The children will be exposed to cultural diversity and the importance of being inclusive. We will end the term with a teddy bear’s picnic.

Social and Personal Learning:

We will be continuing the You Can Do It social/emotional Program. We welcome Connie Confidence into our classroom this term and I will attach parent notes for you to follow this concept through. The children will begin to identify themselves as a capable learner by having the confidence to have-a-go as well as increasing their independency through persevering with a given task. They will be encouraged to explore ways to respond to the feelings, needs and ideas of others through positive communication skills. The children will continue to help generate various strategies to resolve conflicts eg. Stop, I don’t like that; walk away; ignore; ask for adult help.

Health and physical Learning:

As we learn about our bodies we will investigate health services and identify parts of the body. Please maintain the healthy food choices in your child’s lunch box as we will be discussing these throughout the term. Please help children to choose their snack with a focus on a nutritious decision.

Lunch box treats: Have you tried rice cakes with spread, crackers and cheese, small pieces of cut fruit, dried fruit, pikelets/scones/mini muffins, hard boiled egg, olives, vegetable pieces [carrot, celery, cucumber, mushroom, beetroot] with dip [cream cheese/ corn relish], cheese sticks, yoghurt, salad lavash wrap/pita bread, or left-over cooked vegies/pasta/fried rice/pizza? Please be aware we do not have heating facilities for lunches. Water is the best drink!

Children will extend their balance control through movement and the use of equipment. We will practice jogging in the lead up to the School Cross Country which is held in Boyd Park. PMP continues on a Wednesday at 9am and Friday at 2pm to develop their gross motor skills. Thank you to those parents who give up their precious time to help each week. If anyone else would like to join us please feel free to turn up. Experimenting with fine motor movement of fingers, hands, wrists, arms and shoulders will help control with cutting, modeling, drawing and writing.
**Language Learning and Communication:**

Oral Language is a major component of the Prep curriculum so it is important that the children are prepared and ready to share their knowledge each week. Our Show and Tell Sheet for Term 2 is attached and the ideas are very much linked to what we will be doing in the classroom. We began learning letters and sounds in Term 1 and will continue this. We will reinforce this through games and letter and picture sorts. We will begin phonemic awareness, finding out where the sound is in the word (initial, medial, end sound). A Letter Can will begin going home this term. Instructions are simple and your child needs to bring it back the next day and present it to the class. Syllable counting will also be extended from 1-4 syllables. An important aspect to rehearse with your child at home is the retelling or "verbal recount" of events, stories and experiences. This helps the child develop memory at talk time rather than relying on teacher prompts. Continue the good work of reading to your child as we see the results at Prep as children make meaning from symbols, familiar words and pictures.

Library Borrowing – Thursday – remember books!

**Early Mathematical Understandings:**

The children’s fairytale, “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” provides the context for an investigation into how Goldilocks makes amends for her bad behavior by inviting the Three Bears to morning tea. Students will practice and consolidate many early mathematical concepts including matching, ordering, sequencing, collecting data, fractions and sharing as they re-enact the story, make sandwiches and work out how to share them equally. We are looking at patterns using manipulative resources (e.g. beads, mosaic boards) as well as making patterns in the sandpit with different wheels, then making the same pattern on paper with paint. Identifying patterns is a key element for later success with multiplication. Sorting to more than one attribute (colour, shape, type) and counting collections will enhance mathematical foundations. Children will continue to develop their positional language, comparative language (big, bigger, biggest etc); attributes (cold, hot, just right, full, empty etc); common 2D shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle, diamond, heart) and fractional language (whole, part of, slice of, piece of, half, halves, middle, quarters, equal parts, share equally).

There will be a focus on numbers and names to 10, missing numbers, counting forwards and backwards from a given number, group representation, picture graphs and data gathering.

**Active Learning Processes:**

We will be doing an Energy and Change Science Investigation called “On the Move” where we will investigate how our bodies move and how animals and toys move. This will lead into an investigation of how the human body works, the way we use our body parts (arms for lifting, holding, hugging) and what we need to feed our body to sustain energy (linked to Health and Physical Education). We will generate and discuss ideas, gather information, plan and test ideas and solve problems. We will also look at technology in the home and at school and how it helps us to function in our everyday living. We will continue to experiment with materials and processes in a variety of creative, imaginative and innovative ways through our art experiences. Responding to own and others’ representations, experiences and artistic works will enhance our appreciation of our personal strengths.

**Religious Education:**

We will also look at 3 stories from the New Testament: “The Lost Sheep”; “The Good Samaritan” and “The Lost Son” and link to safe/unsafe behaviours. We will also look at the family life of Jesus (linked to History unit). We are using the prayer response to “Peace be with you”, “and also with you”. This is followed by offering a sign of peace to their peers to practice greeting, eye contact, smiling and using the child’s name. We will learn The Lord’s Prayer and the Hail Mary.
Please check and read all notices on the Notice Board daily so that you know what is happening in the Prep classroom. It is important that you prepare your child for their Show and Tell each week – a major component of the curriculum. Many children last term were not prepared for this – it is a part of developing confidence with speaking in front of a group. Put the Show and tell Roster in a prominent place so that it won’t be overlooked!

**Important Dates:**

- **25 April**  
  ANZAC Day
- **29 April**  
  Cross Country at Boyd Park
- **May 7**  
  Labour Day
- **May 11**  
  Prep Pampering Parlour at 2pm *(for Mother’s day)*
- **May 14**  
  Cross Country at Boyd Park
- **May 18**  
  School Disco
- **May 21-25**  
  Under 8’s week
- **June 5**  
  World Environment Day
- **June 6**  
  Queensland Day
- **June 11**  
  Queen’s Birthday
- **June 11-15**  
  Multicultural Evening *(will let you know)*
- **June 20**  
  Reports and folios go home
- **June 21**  
  Prep Prayer Assembly