

# PREP AREA NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2017  
COBURG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Telephone 9386 1286 [www.cobw.vic.edu.au](http://www.cobw.vic.edu.au)



Dear parents/caregivers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. We are sure you enjoyed sharing your child's first school report and would agree this is a great time to reflect on the wonderful progress the children have made since the start of the year. Those first few weeks of settling in seem such a distant memory now!

Term 3 is a very exciting time in Prep. Everyone is working very hard, learning new things and building on the skills and knowledge gained in terms 1 and 2. We thank you for the interest, encouragement and support you have shown in your child's learning and we are excited about the second half of the year.

Thank you so much to all of the families who donated toys for our toy project! We have started working on these and are very excited to share the final product with you. We are still looking for old toys that we can use in these projects. If you would like to donate any small old toys that you have at home, it would be greatly appreciated!

We would like to thank the parents for your constant support of the Prep programs we are running this year. Without your support and dedication our programs would not run as smoothly.

## REMINDERS

- Please bring 'Tell and Show' in a bag on Thursdays.
- Dress up day – don't forget to dress up as your favourite book character on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

## PREP TEACHERS

**Jodie Kennon** (Prep Co-ordinator – Prep K - Room 28)

**Nicole Dunn** (Prep D - Room 27)

**Megan McLean and Amy Lebon** (Prep LM – Room 25)

**Siobhan Matuska** (Prep M – Room 26)

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

Alpha Snow Queen Show: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Writer's Festival Assembly: 9am Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August

Book Week: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Book Character Dress up day: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Fire Ed visits: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August

Literacy Week (including): Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Father's Day Stall: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Curriculum Day: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

End of Term 3: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

## LITERACY:

### Writing

In writing we are continuing to develop children's ability to express their ideas, experiences and opinions through writing and typing, supported by appropriate drawings or images. We are specifically focusing on:

- planning for writing
- development of ideas in sequence

- creation of simple and compound sentences
- spelling of frequently used words
- use of simple punctuation
- correct formation of lowercase letters
- handwriting

Continuing to encourage your child to write for pleasure at home, including making little books, writing letters and lists or even emailing family and friends, will assist in developing their writing skills.

Throughout Term 3, Preps will begin to create a special piece of writing for our Writers Festival. This whole school event requires each child to publish a piece of writing about a set topic. Families will then be able to view this writing at set viewing times and enjoy each child's success with one another. The topic for this year's Festival is 'My Wish For the World...Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future.'

### Reading

This term we are continuing to have a focus letter and word each week that we are learning to read and write. We are also introducing a focus rime to assist children with their knowledge of how words work and spelling strategies e.g. 'ar' helps you to read and write car, star, start, carpark.

In reading sessions we will specifically be focusing on developing children's ability to independently apply strategies when faced with an unknown word. These strategies include:

1. Using the initial letter and cross checking with the picture.
2. Thinking about what makes sense.
3. Reading on for meaning and re reading to self correct.

We are also working on developing an understanding of what reading with fluency and expression means and sounds like. Fairy tales and known nursery rhymes will be used to model both fluency and expression. A large part of our comprehension focus this term is on making inferences (something the author wants you to know but has not told you in words) and we will be using pictures, sentences and stories to model this.

### Oral Language Program

The Prep Oral Language Program runs once a week on a Thursday morning. We will continue to focus on appropriate speaking and listening skills, vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, sequencing and categorising. We will also begin a strong focus on Phonological Awareness. Phonological Awareness is the ability to perceive and manipulate the sounds of spoken language such as words, syllables, onsets (c) and rimes (ar) and phonemes (sounds). 'Tell and Show' occurs during this session as well.

### MATHEMATICS

Students have been working hard on developing their ability to skip count, as well as counting forwards and backwards from various starting points. We are continuing to work on understanding the place value of numbers. This is a concept students need to develop slowly as it is an important foundation for understanding larger numbers. This begins with understanding that ten ones is the same as one ten. Students then continue to explore this concept by recognising and understanding how to make a variety of numbers between 20 and 99 according to their place value. During this term we will

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also be working with teen numbers. Students will use their understanding of place value when making and recognising these numbers.

Our measurement focus for the beginning of this term is mass. Students are using pan balances to explore the weight of different objects to determine heaviest and lightest, whilst also developing an understanding of what it means to have balanced scales. We will be moving onto introducing capacity where, like mass, we will be using a lot of hands on activities and exploring everyday objects to determine what holds more, less and the same amount.

A busy mathematics term ahead with some very enjoyable hands on activities to explore!

## **INQUIRY**

At the beginning of Term 3 we have been investigating 'Toys'. We have discussed our favourite toys and compared these with our parents' and grandparents' favourite toys. We have looked at the features of a toy and explored how toys have changed over time.

Our next focus will be on 'Safety'. The unit will look at areas of fire safety, water safety, cyber safety, road safety and school safety. We will be lucky enough to have a visit from the Fire Department, to teach students about fire safety and to see a real fire truck up close. We are very excited to do this unit with the Prep students as the learning will be integral for their safety at school, at home and in the community. These topics will create great opportunities for important discussions and so we strongly encourage you to continue these with your child at home.

## **100 DAYS OF PREP**

On Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, we celebrated an impressive 100 days of school. This was a very special day for the Prep students, parents and teachers. The students loved having families come to share this day with a picnic and lots of 100 related activities. Thank you to all who made this a memorable day for our Preps!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child at school please make an appointment with their teacher.

Please log onto compass if your child is absent from school. Parents are responsible for recording absences as well as the reason. If you have not received your login details or are having difficulties with accessing compass, please contact the office. Don't forget regularly check the school website and seesaw for general information, past and present newsletters and updates.

*Kind regards,*

*Prep/Foundation Teachers*