

PREP CELEBRATORY NEWSLETTER



English

Reading

This term has been a busy one for the preps, with lots of positive learning occurring. The students have learnt how to look after and care for our books in and out of the classroom, especially in our classroom library, which has been fantastic to see. The students have started developing the skills to read independently and have been practising building their reading stamina. With the students, teachers set reading goals for the students to practise during independent reading. Students are using their goal books to practise various strategies to enhance their reading skills. We have recently started 'Previewing and Predicting'. The students have been looking at texts and identifying whether they are real (non-fiction) or made up (fiction) texts. Students have also been using their prior knowledge, which is what they already know, to make a prediction about what will happen next in a story. A fantastic start to the year. Keep up the great reading 😊

Writing

During Writing this term prep students learnt about the expectations of the writing lesson. Students have had a lot of fun learning to write their name. Students sign their name in every morning and have counted and named the letters that make up their name. Students have also put their names on the word wall so that others can use this when they are writing. Students have explored the writing centre and have used a variety of materials such as pencils, textas, gel pens, envelopes, various paper such as coloured and lined paper. Students have enjoyed learning about who they can write for and what they can write. Later in the term, students learnt about retelling and recounting what has been read to them. Students have ordered pictures and drawn their own pictures to show what happened in the beginning, middle and end of a text. Students have also used the retell rope to help them remember to include the characters, setting, problem and solution in their retell. Prep students have enjoyed exploring writing materials and having a go at writing this term! Well done on a fantastic start to writing!

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, prep students have engaged in the 100 days of school routine. This has included keeping track of each school day until students have been at school for 100 days. Some ways of tracking the days include, using a 100s chart, counting icy pole sticks, marking a blank 100s frame and marking a calendar. Students have learnt the structure of the mathematics lesson and have been given the opportunity to explore the materials on the maths trolley and how to use them to help them learn and solve mathematical problems. Throughout the term, students have learnt about three topics which included pattern, shape and counting. During the pattern, topic students have explored how to sort objects by different elements such as shape, colour or size. Students learnt how to make, copy, continue and explain which part of the pattern is repeated. During the shape unit, students have identified simple shapes and how to sort them. During the counting unit, students have learnt how to count each object once, know that numbers are said in a particular order and how to count forwards and backward to and from 10.

Inquiry

Students have taken part in two Inquiry units this term. 'Learning to Learn', Students learnt about different emotions and developed their awareness of feelings and strategies when experiencing certain emotions and stress. During this unit, students created their own individualised safety plan and each grade developed a whole class safety plan. The safety plan outlined preferred strategies to help students de-escalate and calm down when feeling angry, frustrated or anxious. Students identified what might make them feel that way and who can help. Students are using the class feelings board in their classroom, where they can visually show how they are feeling throughout the day. 'During Squeaky Clean', Students learnt about ways to keep their body healthy and clean. Students explored hygiene routines and practices they can do daily to keep their body clean. We have also explore how and why some people can have different health needs to others. Over all students have gained a lot of new knowledge from both Inquiry units this term. Well done prep students!

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PE

Prep PE: Celebration Newsletter:

Preps have had a fun and interesting term one in PE. A major focus of the term has been about learning to play safely and respecting each other in sport, along with behavioural expectations inside and outside of the PE room.

The preps have been excited to have their own space in the prep playground and have really taken ownership of this area.

We have been focusing on underarm and overarm throwing and catching, initially using small beanbags and getting a feel for catching and throwing, then with different sized balls. We have been developing skill sets through play based learning and repetition.

The preps have really improved in each skill set throughout the term and are learning to take direction well.

The Preps have also been learning important vocabulary with each skill set, as well as sporting etiquette and language such as 'are you ready' before throwing to a partner and "Mr Muscle Man" to help with body positioning during an overarm throw.

I am really proud of what the preps have achieved this term; they are a great group of students and I look forward to working with them in term 2.

Students demonstrating skills in Overarm (with 'Mr Muscle Man'), Underarm and Catch



Students demonstrating "Are you READY" and being "READY" exercises



ART

The preps have been extremely enthusiastic about art this term. We started the term with the focus "All about me", this was a great way for students to identify what was important to them by decorating their Visual Art Diaries with images of their families, friends and loved ones. Secondly, we worked with colour, shape, texture and contrast by exploring through collage that became the cover piece for their folios. We then moved into working with primary and secondary colours that incorporated mediums such as: pencil, collage and paint. Some of the exploring with primary and secondary colours was done in the prep visual diaries via a venn diagram and sketching and finally we explored with blowing paint to create our 'Squidgy Men' (inspired by Jackson Pollock) that demonstrated how we can mix primary colours to create secondary colours and create little creatures out of designs. The preps really loved this activity; they have had a fantastic and engaging start to the 2017.



SCIENCE

The Preps have had a great start to their first year of Science. They have learnt about living and non-living objects and how to identify or categorise these. The Preps explored the needs of animals and even got some up close and personal time with some baby chicks that hatched and lived in the Science room for 2 weeks. They also compared the needs of animals to their own needs through dancing, singing, and recording in their Science Notebooks. Finally, the preps have looked at this term, the five senses and how seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching can help them understand and connect to the world around them. Great job to all the prep scientists this term!

