



PREP CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER



English

Reading

At the beginning of the term, Prep students will be focusing on the first twenty days of reading. During the first twenty days of reading, students will discuss and learn how good readers choose and care for books, foster and develop a motivation and passion for reading, collaboratively develop a classroom library based on their interests and categorise books into sections. Students will learn about the expectations of take home reading and what to expect during our reading blocks engaging in 'read alouds', conferencing and buddy reading.

Later on in the term students will focus on the comprehension strategy previewing and predicting, activating their prior knowledge and combining it with information they gain from previewing the text by looking at its features to form predictions.

Writing

At the start of the year the prep team focuses on the systems and routines that will build lifelong writers. Our main focus will be around writing centres. A writing centre promotes active inquiry into how letters and words work. Magnetic letters with boards, pocket charts with letter cards, software programs, and a variety of writing materials such as papers, pencils, computers, printers, envelopes, tape and stamps will help writers to 'have-a-go' at writing. We also build writing stamina and resilience.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, prep students will be engaged in the 100 days of school routine. This will include 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 will explore what good mathematicians do, understand the structure of the mathematics lesson and explore the materials on the maths trolley and how to use them to help them learn.

Throughout the term, students will learn about three topics which include pattern, shape and counting. With pattern, students will explore how to sort objects by different elements such as shape, colour or size. Students will learn how to make, copy, continue and explain which part of the pattern is repeated. With shape, students will identify simple shapes and sort them. In counting, students will learn how to count each object once, know that numbers are said in a particular order and to count forwards and backward to and from 10.

Inquiry

During Inquiry this term, students will explore two different units of work. The first unit is titled 'Learning to Learn.' Students will learn about different feelings and develop their awareness of strategies they can use when they experience a particular feeling. Each student will develop a Ready to Learn Plan that outlines suitable strategies that they can use to de-escalate when feeling angry, frustrated or upset. Students will also be encouraged to use the feelings chart in their room to show how they are feeling at different stages of the school day. The second unit is titled, 'Squeaky Clean'. Students will learn about how to keep their body healthy and clean. Students will also explore what their daily hygiene routine should be, things they can do to keep clean and why some people's health needs are different.



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Science

Science at the Prep level involves students exploring and observing the world using their five senses. Students will be undertaking learning tasks which will assist them to identify the needs of:-

- humans such as warmth, food and water
- other living things in a range of situations, such as pets at home and plants in the garden.

They will then compare the needs of plants and animals. During these investigations students will be developing the following science inquiry skills:

- questioning and predicting — responding to questions about familiar living things
- planning and conducting — exploring and making observations by using their senses
- processing and analysing data and information — taking part in formal and guided discussions related to their observations; using drawings to represent their observations and ideas
- communicating — sharing their observations and ideas through discussions, role plays and drawings

PE

The Preps will be doing a range of activities in PE for Term 1. We have already started the term by introducing the Preps to the 'Prep playground area,' which is for Preps only, so the Preps can confidently take ownership for this area. We have also focused on expectations inside and outside the PE room and expected behavior. Next week we will start our throw and catch unit with a range of fun, play based activities dedicated to learning these skills. We will also be learning to challenge our bodies in new ways as the Preps discover how their bodies move during our gymnastics unit. Finally we will end the term with a unit on Health that will focus on good sportsmanship and co-operating with others when we participate in activities and the importance of following the rules. I look forward to a fun term 1 with the new Preps!

Art

Term 1 in Art will be creative as usual. We have already started the term learning about classroom expectations and how to appropriately behave. We have also been learning about lines and how they relate to drawing. We have been using lines to draw about our families and our holidays and demonstrating what kind of lines they know already. Next the preps will be learning about colour, we will firstly be focusing on primary colours and fun activities associated with that using paint and crayon. Also using paint we will then take our primary and make secondary colours. Finally we will be doing an activity revolving around Easter to finish the term. I look forward to having fun with the Preps in Art this term.