

PREP CELEBRATORY NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2019



English

Reading

At the beginning of the year the Preps were engaged in the first 20 of reading, where they set up classroom libraries and learnt about the different aspects of a reading lesson. Throughout the term students have engaged in class discussions, read alouds, turn and talks, conferences, learning centres and oral language experiences to support and extend their beginning reading behaviours. Later on in the term students developed their Previewing and Predicting skills by using their prior knowledge and looking at the illustrations of a text.

Writing

This term in writing, Prep students have engaged in the first 20 days of writing, learnt how to orally recount an experience and participated in the Grade 4 Buddy program creating a classroom book every week. Throughout the first 20 days of the term, Prep students worked on setting up the routines and expectations of good writers and learnt about what a writing session looks like. During our writing sessions, students engage in investigation stations for the first part of the session. Through investigative play, students have been building their world knowledge and vocabulary, which supports both their reading and writing development. After the first 20 days of writing, Prep students engaged in a recount unit learning how to orally recount an experience using the 4 W's; who, what, where and when. This term we also started Grade 4 buddies, where once a week Prep students and their Grade 4 buddy engaged in an oral language experience and wrote about what they did with their buddy, creating a classroom big book.

Mathematics

This term in maths, students began the term by learning about the maths equipment in their classroom and how they use it in maths. The preps also learnt about patterns where they learnt how to represent, continue and create simple patterns using materials. They then learnt about shapes where they had to identify simple shapes in their environment and sort shapes by their common and distinctive features. Students then worked on matching individual objects with counting sequences up to and back from 20. Lastly the preps will spend the last week of term on length where they will compare and explain the length of objects.

Inquiry

This term in Inquiry, students have been exploring two different units of work, 'Learning to Learn' and 'Squeaky Clean'. As a class, students set up classroom expectations and procedures and unpacked the Melton West School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix. Later in the term students moved onto exploring 'Squeaky Clean'. Students participated in tasks such as a germ experiment where they could see all the germs on their hands using glitter and dirt, sequencing tasks around their hygiene routine and tasks that demonstrated the importance of cleaning their bodies. At the end of the term students invited parents to an Inquiry Showcase, where they created a daily hygiene schedule to use at home.

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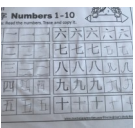
ART



Term 1 has been exciting for our Grade Prep artists! Students have learned about colour theory by identifying what our primary colours are and how mixing them creates our secondary colours. Grade Preps have explored with different mediums from pencils, crayons and their favourite, Magic Model Clay! Students were able to mix primary colours with magic clay to make secondary colours and were very excited with the immediate transformations. Grade Preps have also completed activities that involved the colour wheel and works inspired by Artist Pierre Mondriaan, who was known for simple compositions involving primary colours. Overall students have successfully learned about our art routines and how to take care of our artist tools. Congratulations Grade Prep on a wonderful term of Art!



LOTE-Chinese



This term in Chinese, Grade Prep students have focused on the Chinese Zodiac, Counting in Chinese, colour words, basic greeting words and some Chinese songs. Students in Prep learnt how to count Chinese numbers with the gesture, how to draw a Chinese lantern, and how to write Chinese numbers 1-10. They also investigated the importance of Chinese as a world language and why we need to learn Chinese. They started gaining awareness of the difference between Chinese characters and Pinyin (Chinese pronunciation). They also learnt "about me" in Chinese. They were able to answer in Chinese when the teacher asked them "how old are you?" and "How are you?"



During this term, students developed the following skills: Questioning, analysing, writing, speaking, collaboration skill and communicating their ideas.



P.E

The Grade Prep students have had a wonderful start to the year in PE. They have been learning and demonstrating safe behaviours by following rules and instructions in PE lessons. They have also been learning the importance of being active, while learning new skills and playing new games. This term we have focussed on learning the locomotor skills of running, jumping, skipping, leaping, hopping, galloping, sliding and walking backwards.



Science



Throughout Term 1 the Preps have been introduced to the Biological Science strand of Science through learning about living and non-living things, the needs of humans and animals in order to survive, and our "5 senses" (seeing, hearing, smelling, touching and tasting). Students have demonstrated their learning through cutting, pasting and colouring activities, scavenger hunts, nature walks, and through conducting a 5 senses popcorn making experiment – which was lots of fun and enabled students to discover that you use all 5 senses when making popcorn!

