



# PREP CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER



## English

### Reading

Early on in the term, students engaged in the First 20 days of reading, setting up classroom libraries and learning different aspects of a reading lesson and expectations. Throughout the term students have engaged in class discussions, read a-louds, turn and talk, conferences, learning centres and oral language experiences to support and extend their beginning reading behaviours. Later on in the term students learnt two reading comprehension strategies, previewing and predicting and critiquing. Students learnt how to make a prediction before and during reading a text, using their prior knowledge to make connections and how to critique a text, sharing their opinions and discussing what parts of the story they liked and did not like.

### Writing

At the start of the year the prep team focused on the systems and routines that will build lifelong writers. Our main focus was 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. We then moved onto giving our opinion where students used the prompts "I like" and "I don't like" to state their preferences for objects and experiences. Students were also encouraged to give a reason for their thinking.

## 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 reach 100 days. Some ways of tracking the days include, using a 100 chart, counting icy pole sticks, marking a blank 100s frame and marking a calendar. We can't wait until we reach 100 days of school! Students have learnt the structure of the mathematics lesson and have had the chance 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 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 backwards to and from 10. Prep Students have had a lot of fun during maths this term!

## Inquiry

This term in Inquiry, students have been exploring two different units of work, 'Learning to Learn' and 'Squeaky Clean'. Students used their knowledge about their feelings to create a 'Ready to Learn Plan' that outlines suitable strategies that they can use to de-escalate when feeling angry, frustrated or upset. 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 a special light, 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 sorted food depending on if it was good or bad for their teeth.

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## 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.

## SCIENCE

The Preps have had a great start to their first year of Science. They have learnt about living and non-living things and how to identify or categorise these. The Preps explored the needs of animals and compared the needs of animals to their own needs through dancing, singing, and recording in their Science Notebooks. Finally, the preps have looked at, 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!



## 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!