

PREP OVERVIEW – TERM 3, 2017

Dear Parents,
Every term, each teaching team distributes an overview of the curriculum that will be covered during that term.

I trust that you will find this comprehensive information useful.

Debra Starpins
Principal



CLASSROOM OVERVIEWS

ENGLISH

During Term 3, students will continue to develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. In both Reading and Writing, students will be exposed to factual texts and will learn the purpose, structure and features of these texts. Students will continue to read a range of books each day and will build on the length of time they can read independently. They will extend their knowledge of letter blends and word families, as well as high frequency words. Students will be encouraged to use a range of decoding strategies such as chunking sounds and letter blends as well as monitoring their reading by fixing their mistakes. Comprehension skills will be developed including visualising, summarizing, and asking and answering questions based on texts heard and read. There will be an ongoing focus on rhyme and word families.

Students will continue writing texts from personal and school-based experiences and reading their texts back to the teacher or an audience. They will be encouraged to use their five senses to explore the world around them in order to write simple poetry. Students will write Information Reports based on the Inquiry topic 'Living Things' using structures, features and topic specific vocabulary. They will make plausible attempts at spelling unknown words using their knowledge of letter and sound relationships and simple spelling patterns. Students will consolidate their knowledge of simple punctuation including upper and lower case letters, full stops, using spacing between words. They will be encouraged to re-read their writing for meaning.

During handwriting sessions, students will use lined writing paper and continue to focus on the correct starting position and formation of all upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. Students will be involved in daily speaking and listening experiences by regularly making brief presentations to small groups and the whole class. They will share their schoolwork and their mascot recout through the 'Language Experience Writing Bag'.

MATHEMATICS

Students will have rich and varied learning experiences in Mathematics. An emphasis will be placed on using the appropriate language to demonstrate their understandings while using concrete materials. Students will celebrate being at school for 100 days and will be involved in rich open-ended tasks to consolidate their learning. Students will be introduced to Subtraction and will revise and build on the strategies which can be applied to solve Addition and Division problems. They will begin to use consistent units for measuring and comparing length, mass and capacity. Students will continue to collect data, and will be represent and interpret their data through the use of simple graphs.

INQUIRY

Living Things

In this Inquiry unit, students will investigate things that are living and non-living. They will identify the basic needs of living things, how they grow and what they need to survive. Students will explore how to take care of the natural environment by growing a seed, taking observations and investigating optimal growing conditions. They will investigate their personal needs and wants and compare and contrast these with other living things. Students will be given the

opportunity to further develop their understandings of what living things need to survive when they visit the 'Collingwood Children's Farm.'

DIRECT EXPERIENCES

Collingwood Children's Farm

Cost: \$17 per student

The excursion will provide a rich, enjoyable and hands on experience for children to apply and extend their knowledge of the Inquiry unit 'Living Things'.

Book Week

Book Week begins the week starting 21st August. This year's Book Week theme is '*Escape to Everywhere*'. Students and parents will be advised of events closer to the time of Book Week via the school newsletter.

Author Visit

Cost: TBA

An author visit will be arranged to coincide with Book Week. This will promote enjoyment of literature to students as they will be involved in an exciting and interesting session facilitated by a popular author or illustrator. More information will be provided about this closer to the date.

LIBRARY

Students will visit the Library weekly and will continue to borrow and return books from the library. They will continue to return books to the correct areas using the author's surname on the library shelves. In addition, students will be introduced to the factual section of the library. The students will be exposed to a range of texts written and illustrated by Eric Carle as part of the author study. They will acquire knowledge of the characteristics of his unique writing and illustrating style. They will also compare and contrast his work with previous authors studied.

VCOP

This term, the VCOP characters Connie Connective and Ollie Opener will be introduced and students will be taught how to use these elements in their writing. They will identify and use powerful sentences openers and use connectives to join simple sentences. Later in the term, all students will receive 'talk homework', where they will bring home a teacher-selected topic to talk about with their family in order to write about it the next day at school.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

In I.C.T. students will continue to reinforce their understandings of the different functions of the laptops in their classrooms and will continue to use iPads in an educational setting. Students will participate in online programs and software, including Sunshine Online, as well as participate in educational applications to further develop and reinforce their Literacy and Numeracy skills. Students will continue to develop skills in being independent when using the iPads and laptops, including typing, recording voices and taking photos.

HOMEWORK

Prep students will be expected to read their 'Take-Home' reading book each night with an adult and return the book to school the following day. They will also be given the opportunity to bring home two weekly library books to share with their family and will return the book to school the following week. This term, students will be introduced to the 'Language Experience Writing Bag'. This task will encourage students to write a recount about an experience they have had with the class mascot and then share their writing with the class. Each child will have an opportunity to take the bag home approximately once every two weeks.

SPECIALIST OVERVIEW

ART

During Term 3 students will participate in a Threads and Textiles and Painting unit. The main focus of these sessions will be continued skill development and exploration of associated language, tools and materials. In Threads and Textiles they will explore fabrics using the five senses and understand that textiles can feel and look rough, fluffy and lacy. They will explore the tactile nature of various materials including fur, hessian, satin, wool and natural and synthetic fibres. They will work with threads and practise winding and binding threads, knotting and splitting string. Simple weaving on looms will also be explored. In Painting the students will be visiting the colour wheel and specifically discuss the primary colours. They will use various materials to apply paint to a surface such as sponges and crumpled paper. Then the students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of brushes to create unusual effects such as dabbing, twisting, dripping and pulling the brush. They will be urged to use their imagination and describe colours in the environment (clear blue sky). This term the students will also have the opportunity to enter their artwork in an Italian Poster Competition. They will complete a collage or drawing artwork- 'The Hot Air Balloon' and some Italian vocabulary will be added to the poster.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Prep students will explore living things and will continue to build on knowledge of animals learnt, for example 'il pappagallo e il gatto'. They will be introduced to 'Gli Animali' such as 'il cavallo, il topo, il cane, il coniglio, la gallina, and la pecora' from various stories including 'Nella Vecchia Fattoria'. They will learn to describe the animals by using 'grande o piccolo' (big or small). The Prep students will learn the term 'la mongolfiera' (the hot air balloon) as they will work on a poster featuring a hot air balloon and use words in Italian to describe it. Students will also learn some prepositions such as sotto (under), on (sopra), dentro (inside) and dietro (behind). Students will be introduced to 'il' and 'la' (the) in Italian and will continue to engage in stories, simple role-plays and songs. Students will explore a variety of communicative activities to further consolidate speaking in Italian using correct pronunciation, intonation and culturally appropriate gestures.

MUSIC

Students will continue to revise and practise identifying and responding to music elements with chanting, moving, singing, dancing, listening, creating and playing. Students explore playing on percussion instruments, character voices ('*Two Fat Gentleman*'), dancing with a partner and in groups and reading graphic symbols. Graphic symbols are used to demonstrate music elements such as tempo and dynamics and music vocabulary is reinforced to make students aware of music concepts and their terminology. Students engage in echo activities including '*I Hear Thunder*' and '*Echo Sticks*'. Students are encouraged to be creative and imaginative throughout activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During Term 3, students will continue to develop their fundamental motor skills. They will specifically focus on passing by foot and continuing with their development of throwing, bouncing and catching. Students will again participate in a range of fitness activities throughout the term including short sprints, relays and distance running. Emphasis will be placed on correct running stride and leaping. Students will use these results to determine whether their fitness has enhanced from earlier in the year. Students will also take part in activities to improve their core strength, which will involve using the monkey bars on the school playground.