Prep Term One Overview

Whether you are an experienced prep parent or a first timer, welcome to prep 2015. Your child is set for an exciting year of learning and growth and we feel privileged to be part of it with you. So that you have an understanding of this learning we have outlined our Prep teaching and learning programs for Term 1.

As there is a wide range of student abilities in each classroom, the teaching and learning programs will be structured so that all students’ needs are met. A current classroom timetable for term 1 has been sent out with this overview. Please keep this handy so that you are able to talk with your child more specifically about their daily learning program. In term 1 all classes are involved in a Quality Beginning program that is designed to promote a smooth transition into school and to teach the school values of A Fair Go For All, Honesty, Respect, Trust, Caring, Tolerance, Learning, and Personal Achievement. Embedded in the Quality Beginning program is the You Can Do It Program. The YCDI Capabilities are: Organisation, Getting Along, Persistence and Confidence, with Resilience underpinning everything. In term 1 the major focus is on ORGANISATION. The classroom learning program will also focus on Physical, Personal and Social Learning encompassing: health knowledge, building social relationships, working in teams, and communicating with others.

Developmental Play Based Program

In term 1 all preps are involved in a development play based program. This will be a structured play session where the children will participate in a range of activities. These activities differ from week to week and focus on different themes. Students play, create and solve problems, make discoveries, imagine, practise skills, test out ideas, and challenge their own abilities. They interact with others, sharing ideas and knowledge. Students enjoy the experiences and socialise with others. Within the developmental play based program and with teacher guidance, students will use the school values and ‘You Can Do It Capabilities’. Themes such as wild animals, the beach, restaurants and many more will be explored. Students will also participate in many language based experiences on various topics such as blowing bubbles, making popcorn, making slime and much more. These experiences will link to all areas of English and are strongly connected to the play based program.

English

Reading and Viewing: In reading students will be developing an awareness that written language conveys meaning, as well as recognising the components of a sentence, such as letters, words, spaces, capital letters and simple punctuation. We will be focusing on reading our 33 high frequency words.

Writing: The focus for the writing program will encompass learning the alphabet letters and sounds and becoming aware of how these letters relate to words, sentences and the stories we are reading. Students will be encouraged to make experimental attempts at writing words and stories. They will use letters and known letter patterns to represent ideas.

Speaking and Listening: Emphasis will be on some of the attributes of a good speaker and listener. These include taking turns to speak, putting up your hand and not interrupting. Students will be expected to follow instructions. Our initial focus will be on developing self confidence when speaking to teachers, friends and the whole class. For confident speakers, the focus will be on asking questions to seek further information.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

Students will participate in open-ended activities including counting, reading and recognising numbers to 10 and beyond, number patterns and place value. Our aim is to enable students to develop a solid understanding of numbers, as this is vital to their future success in mathematics.

Measurement and Geometry

Students will be introduced to activities relating to length, mass, time (days of the week), shape and location. They will compare the lengths and masses of familiar objects and sequence the events in their day. Students will sort, explore, name, draw and describe basic shapes. They will also be using the language of position (under, behind, near).

Statistics and Probability

Students will participate in the creation of simple graphs and develop their understanding of the presented data by asking and responding to questions.

Science and History

During the term students will focus on the Science topic, ‘Our Senses’ and on the History topic, ‘Me and My Family’. They will explore and observe their world using the 5 senses of smell, sight, touch, hearing and taste. They will participate in discussions and a range of activities focused on themselves and their families.

Hydration Policy

We encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day to enable them to stay hydrated. The bottle is to be filled with water only please.

Home Learning

To help your child’s reading development we ask that students read with you each night for 10-15 minutes and identify the high frequency words on their lists and in their books. Please ensure that your child returns their red reading satchel each day.

Sun Smart Policy

Please note that from SEPTEMBER to APRIL, ALL CHILDREN must wear a PPPS Sunsmart hat. Wearing of PPPS school uniform is COMPULSORY, (including on excursions). A note from home is required if your child will be out of uniform at any time.

Payments

Money can be sent to school on any day of the week. Please place money securely in a zip lock bag. If your child brings a small amount of money to spend at the canteen please make sure it is securely contained in a purse or wallet.

Absences and lateness

IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY unless you are sick or there is a family crisis. Research has proven that a high number of absences from school has a negative impact on student learning. It is essential that students have regular attendance and are punctual. If your child is unable to attend school, it is a
In Term 1, students will be introduced to activities that encourage the development of coordination and motor skills. It is necessary for students to wear runners on these days.

The Prep team is looking for volunteers to assist in running the PMP program. To be eligible you must have completed the half hour Volunteer Helpers’ Training. You must also be able to assist for the entire time. The next Volunteer Helpers’ Training courses are to be run on Monday 9th of February at 2pm, Tuesday 10th of February at 6pm and Thursday 26th of February at 9:15 am.

Physical Education

Mr Sebastian Scanu and Mrs Kellie Goldspink will share weekly lessons. We are very excited to meet the new preps this year. We are looking forward to providing them with the opportunity to learn and demonstrate the basic motor skills of running and kicking while being involved in activities and minor games. Health related fitness will be incorporated into the Physical Education program through discussions, which include the importance of warming up and stretching.

The PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) program and fitness activities will be taken by home group teachers to further develop skills and concepts. It is important that all students remember to wear appropriate footwear (runners) on their timetabled Phys. Ed days. It is also a huge help if students are able to tie their own shoe laces.

Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)

During term 1 the students will participate in PMP for 2 sessions per week (Wednesdays and Fridays). The aim of the program is to further develop coordination and motor skills.

Visual Arts

During term one students will focus on collage, using a variety of materials, tools and techniques. They will also learn about paper construction and develop their manipulative skills of cutting, pasting, fringing and tearing when creating collage art works based on the topic of “Me”. Students will also focus on painting. They will use water paints to create a series of master pieces with a focus on holding the brush correctly and filling their page.

Music

Let’s get physical and move to the music! This term the music room will be busy with moving, singing and playing as the preps get musical! They will explore the concepts of beat, rhythm and pitch whilst experimenting with a variety of percussion instruments such as drums, tambourines, triangles and rhythm sticks.

Drama

In Term 1, students will be introduced to activities that encourage the development of creativity and imagination. They will experiment with the use of voice, sound, movement and space to communicate their ideas and feelings. Preps will be guided to begin making connections as they play, sing, move, respond and interact with the world around them.

eLearning

In term 1, students will focus on the skills of logging on and off the school network and shutting down the computers correctly. They will be introduced to a variety of software applications including Kid Pix, Targeting Maths, 2Publish+, Simple City and Microsoft word, which they can use to further develop their literacy and numeracy skills in the classroom. Students will be rostered to use classroom computers on a regular basis.

Languages Program

During Languages (Indonesian) this term, students will be identifying Indonesia on a world map, speak simple greetings and introduce themselves. They will also be learning to say the days of the week and months in Indonesian. They will be encouraged to use the Indonesian language through a range of fun activities and games.

Library

The students visit the library each week and borrow a book to take home. Please share this book with your child and help your child to remember to return the book in their library bag before library day.