Dear Parents of students in Prep,

The term has started off very smoothly! The children have settled into their expected learning routines with enthusiasm and are happy to be back with their friends! This term we will be exploring and learning about “Weather” for our Inquiry Unit. We will investigate this unit from a young scientist’s perspective, and develop understandings that daily and seasonal changes in our environment including weather, affect daily life. Our daily ‘weather watch’ using our senses to gather information…what we see, hear, feel, will provoke curiosity and inspire our young scientists to investigate the unit further and ask more questions. If you can start supporting them to collect images/graphics/symbols about the weather found in newspapers, it would be greatly appreciated as they can be used in their Science Weather Journal.

**What we expect the students to learn in reading:**

Students will continue to select 5 “Just Right” books on a weekly basis and read these daily at school as well as at home with you. Your praise and encouragement as your child’s reading develops, is invaluable. Please sign the log book nightly to show that you value their efforts as young readers and ask them what their reading goal is and what they need to practise to become a better reader. Students will continue to develop letter-sound relationships and build on word knowledge. The expectation is for them to know their letters and the sounds they make and the 13 high frequency words we had on our word wall in Term 1 (reading them automatically). We will be adding to that list this term.

Students will be looking at non-fiction books and comparing them to fiction books. Through daily exposure they will be able to form conclusions and learn about the various features in non-fiction texts and how they assist the reader (headings, diagrams, captions, labels, facts, contents page, index, glossary…)

Students will start to use a variety of strategies to decode and understand texts

- Looking at pictures and illustrations
- Using the title and the front cover information
- Getting their mouth ready by looking at the initial sound in words
- Knowing how to read high frequency words and reading them automatically
- To be able to ‘chunk’ and ‘segment’ words (breaking them up)
- Looking at parts of a word they already know
- Looking at the ending –s, -ing, -ed
- Sliding across the word … looking at the whole word and asking if their prediction makes sense!
- Reading around the word and working out what word would make sense
What we expect the students to learn in writing:
Students will be given daily opportunities to write about things they know about and build on their belief that “they are great young writers with great ideas!” They will be expected to think about what they want to write, rehearse their message and then be “brave writers” and write their message down, having a go with unknown words by recording the letters that make the sounds they hear in a word. Students are encouraged to write the high frequency words we have on our word wall automatically, so practising the words at home will help them.
Our young writers will learn to make decisions about topics, purpose and audience. Through our Unit of Work, students will record observations and understand that information is “factual”. With guidance and encouragement, they will further develop concepts about directionality of writing, pencil grip, spacing and letter formation.

What we expect the students to learn in mathematics:
Students will continue to build on their knowledge of Number and Place Value using concrete materials (counters, icy-pole sticks, unifix blocks, dice, playing cards, ten-frames and calculators). They will be exploring pattern in number, counting on and counting back, ordering numbers and finding numbers that come before or after a given number. Concrete materials will be used to work out simple addition and subtraction problems. Students will compare and order the duration of events using everyday language of time. They will interpret simple data displays and collect information to make their own picture graph.

Important Dates:
- Thursday 1 May, school photos
- Monday 19 May - 23 May, Education Week
- Monday 19 May, Pupil Free Day/Report Writing
- Thursday 22 May, Twilight School 1:00pm – 7:15pm
- Monday 9 June, Public Holiday
- Monday 16 June, Prep Planning Day (students have specialist teachers)
- Friday 20 June, Student Reports sent home
- Wednesday 25 June, Parent/Teacher meeting
- Friday 27 June, 2.30pm dismissal (end of term) Casual Dress Day

Specialist lessons days and times:

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<th>Year Level</th>
<th>VISUAL ARTS</th>
<th>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</th>
<th>INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</th>
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<th>PERFORMING ARTS</th>
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<td>Prep B</td>
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<td>Prep C</td>
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Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Prep Teachers,
Jamie, Jenny and Thomai