Dear Parents of students in Prep,
Welcome back to another exciting term that will engage and spark some wonderings for our inquisitive Prep learners! As Mrs Sturzo is enjoying the sun in Europe, we’d like to welcome back Ms Kasikakis who is replacing her!

This term is going to be packed with experiences and information as we explore our unit of work: ‘I can keep myself safe!’ Through this unit we will look at personal safety…on our way to school, at school, on our way home and the procedures to follow in case of an emergency.

If any parents are experts in this field, we would love to have you in as guest speakers. See one of us to discuss any ideas you may have and how we can incorporate them into our unit of work. We will be meeting our crossing supervisors, discussing their role and how to use the crossings. We will have the firefighters come to visit and talk to us about good fires, bad fires, smoke alarms and having a family meeting place in case of a fire. Ambulance Victoria will inform us further as we engage in the ‘Ouch’ program, a 50 minute incursion at our school. RACV Road Safety will discuss safety measures we need to take when travelling. We also have our Intensive Swimming Program this term, as well as a Whole School Sports Day!

It’s hard to believe that half a year is over and on Tuesday, the 28th of July, our enthusiastic Prep students are going to be celebrating their 100th day at school!

We will continue to encourage ‘rubbish free’ snacks and lunches, as our students become more aware of their environment and how they can assist by recycling, placing scraps in the compost bin and reducing waste. Please don’t worry and stress if your child insists on having their corn chips placed in a brown paper bag or refusing lunch orders. Encourage them to talk about what they have been learning and share your knowledge and experience on the topic. Our aim is not to judge what everyone is having for snack and lunch but to promote environmentally friendly choices, even if these can be difficult at times.

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. This is an important routine and your praise and encouragement as your child’s reading develops, is really important. A friendly reminder to sign the log book nightly to show that you value their efforts as young readers and discuss their reading goal or how they feel about reading and what they may need support with.

This term, students will look at the features of a non-fiction text and explore how information is gained from the title, headings, labels, diagrams and photos. Depending on the text, they will be exposed to the contents page, the glossary, bold words, index…and discover the purpose of these features. Students will be encouraged to continue to automatically read and write the high frequency words introduced in the classroom.

What we expect the students to learn in writing:
Students will start to think like writers of non-fiction texts who can give an audience information and facts about a topic. They will go through the process of reading many non-fiction texts both in the classroom and the library (research) and then record their knowledge...
providing their audience with a heading of what they are ‘experts’ on, a diagram/illustration/photo, labels and facts. The vocabulary they will stumble across in their area of interest may be challenging, however, we will be supporting them with this, with many anchor charts and word lists displayed in our classroom.

Students will continue to discuss their writing with their teacher during a ‘writing conference’ … a ‘chat’ between the ‘writer’ and the teacher. They will be asked questions like: What writing piece are you working on at the moment? What are you doing as a writer that you’re happy with? What do you need help/support with? This will result in setting an individual writing goal for the student. Just like a reading goal, it will tell the student what he/she needs to practise.

What we expect the students to learn in mathematics:
Students will continue to explore numbers to 10 and their various combinations. They will understand how numbers are related to 10 and that a number can be taken apart and recombined in different ways.

9 is… 5 and 4, 1 less than 10, double 4 and 1 more, 2 more than 7, 2 less than 11, 6 and 3 more, …

They will explore teen numbers, recognise, represent them and sequence them with greater confidence. They will count and compare numbers in the teens, articulating how many more/less in a collection. Numbers before and after will be explored daily.

Students will become ‘The 10 Experts’ learning all their facts about 10… 10 and 0, 9 and 1, 8 and 2, 7 and 3, 6 and 4, 5 and 5 … They will use the 10 double sided counters in yellow and red to discover the various combinations.

Important Dates:
- Friday, 24 July, Tree Planting Day, Walk to Kororoit Creek
- Tuesday, 28 July, Celebrating 100th day at school!
- Wednesday, 29 July, Incursion: RACV Road Safety
- Wednesday, 5 August, Firefighters’ Visit
- Monday, 14 September, Incursion: Ambulance Vic, Program: ‘Ouch!’

Specialist timetable:

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<th>Year Level</th>
<th>VISUAL ARTS</th>
<th>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</th>
<th>INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</th>
<th>LIBRARY</th>
<th>PERFORMING ARTS Drumming</th>
<th>LOTE Spanish</th>
<th>Footsteps</th>
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Kind Regards,
Prep Teachers Jenny, Laura, Helen and Thomai

PS: A special request for a box of tissues from the families who might have forgotten, will be greatly appreciated during these ‘runny nose’ weather months. Thank you!