Welcome to our third curriculum newsletter this year. We would like to say thank you to those parents that attended the parent teacher interviews. To those parents that did not attend parent teacher interviews or would like to make another appointment we encourage you to see your child’s teacher.

Inquiry
This term the Prep students’ will be involved in a SCIENCE based unit of inquiry titled: “What is it made of?”

The Major Topic Understanding (Central Idea) to be explored and developed within the inquiry will be:
There are differences between the natural and material world but there are connections between the two.

The Focus Questions (Lines of Inquiry) that will lead the students in their learning will be:
- What is part of our natural world?
- What is part of our material world?
- How are the natural and material worlds connected?
- Why are both these worlds important in our lives?

Scienceworks Excursion
On September the 5th the students will be visiting Scienceworks in support of our Science based Inquiry Topic “What is it made of?” The students will be involved in the Nitty Gritty Super City and Guess Again workshops. Students will be bringing home notes about this excursion very soon.

The Grade Prep Team,
Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson Room 1
Mrs. Sarah Kam Room 2

Term 3

Important Dates

<table>
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<th>July 26</th>
<th>August 8</th>
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<td>National Schools Tree Planting Day</td>
<td>100 Days of School Celebration</td>
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September 5 Excursion
September 19 Family Prep picnic

September 2 Curriculum Day PUPIL FREE DAY

100 Days of School
On Thursday the 8th of August the Preps will have been at school for 100 days. The Preps have been counting the days by using unifix cubes, sticks, bundling, skip counting and finding the number on number charts everyday. We will be celebrating this event with a party. You are welcome to send a plate of food along to share with a 100 days theme. A note will be coming home soon with a detailed explanation.

Unit News
Tree Planting
Tree planting day is an annual event where each child has the opportunity to plant a tree or shrub within the school grounds. At ANPS we have a strong focus on Sustainability and the Environment. Our Tree Planting Day will have an environmental focus. ANPS will be having a ‘Rubbish Free Day’. We request that all parents support this event by ensuring that your child’s ‘snack and lunch’ are packed in containers or materials which can either be recycled or reused with minimal or no rubbish going into the school bins.

Library Books
Please encourage your child to bring their library books / bags to school. Children have library once a week with their classroom teacher. Please note Prep P and Prep K Library days have changed.

Prep P Tuesday
Prep K Wednesday

Reminders:
- Arriving at school on time is vital to your child’s learning. Learning time begins once your child steps into the classroom. Being on time develops good life habits. The school day begins at 8:45am.

- Please wait for your child outside the building after school.

- Please clearly mark your child’s belongings. This will assist us when items go missing as a lot of time can be spent looking for lost items.

Literacy
Independent Reading:
Children are continuing with their independent reading this term. We will be focusing on different text types and a variety of comprehension strategies. This term we will be looking at Procedural text which will be strongly connected to our Inquiry topic.

Writing:
The Writer’s Note book has been a successful feature of our writing program. Children are encouraged to continue to bring in photos or mementos to paste into their Writers Notebooks to assist them with the development of writing ideas.

Take Home Books:
A reminder that students have their readers changed every Monday as best as we can. Please remember to record the titles of the books your child reads in their reading logs. Your support at home is an invaluable part of your child’s learning. Listening to your child read and reading with and to your child provides them with an opportunity to practise the skills learnt at school.

Numeracy
This term we will be concentrating on:
- Counting and making groups to 20 and beyond
- Addition and subtraction
- Measurement
- 3D Shapes
- Patterns in numbers

These mathematics concepts and skills will be developed by using the problem solving strategies.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Term three will be a busy term for the Prep students, as they will continue to be involved in the Perceptual Motor Program. Every student will be encouraged to develop the ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information through challenging and controlled activities. The Perceptual Motor Program will run in conjunction within their weekly Physical Education lesson time. During lesson time the students will be introduced to the game of Hockey. Students will be taught the correct techniques for dribbling and trapping a Hockey ball, passing accurately, controlling the ball while running and shooting for goal. Students will be involved in playing modified games of Hockey during their class lesson time and will be given the opportunity to work as a team.

SUSTAINABILITY

This year ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ will be held on Friday July 26th. ANPS has been an active participant in the ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ every year for the last 10 years, with all students being involved in planting a tree, helping to improve our school’s environment. This year ANPS has designated the day an ‘Environmental Day’ as part of our school’s commitment to the environment and sustainability and in support of ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’.

Throughout the day, all students will be given the opportunity to plant a native tree in their grade’s designated area in the school’s gardens. Grade 5/6 students will provide the rest of the school with support and guidance in planting and caring for trees.

During the day, students will participate in activities with an Environmental focus. These Environmental activities will assist in the development of the students’ knowledge and appreciation of trees as a sustainable resource and the important role that trees have on our planet.

In support of our ‘Environmental Day’ (Friday July 26th) ANPS will be having a ‘Rubbish Free Day’. We request that all parents support this event by ensuring that children’s ‘snack and lunch’ are packed in containers or materials which can either be recycled or reused with minimal or no rubbish going into the school bins.

It is hoped that the ‘Environmental Day’ will assist students in gaining a greater understanding and connection with their environment and the need to care for it.

On Thursday the 18th of July (Week 1) the grade 3/4 students were involved in the construction of a “Rain Garden” within the frog pond area to collect and filter storm water before the water is released into the frog pond. The rain garden was made possible through the generous funding we received from the 2012 MOBIL Bright Futures Education Grant.

We look forward with excitement to the construction of the school “Garden Wall” later in the term. ANPS was nominated by City West.

MUSIC

This term our Prep students will be working together in bringing music, dance, and drama together in a creative culmination of their learning so far this year. With stage show performance preparation as our specific focus, the students will begin to work with concepts and ideas for our exciting end of year school concert. We will be working on performance skills, guided choreography development, and audience observation so that every child prepared to feel well hit the stage in large audience year. Looking another fun filled Arts!

ART

The focus for the Preps in the first few weeks of Term 3 in Visual Arts will be modelling. The children will use playdoh / bread dough and magiclay (an air drying modelling material) to create different artworks. Book Week and

COMPUTERS

Throughout term three the grade Prep students will continue to familiarise themselves with the components of the computer. The students will be encouraged to become independent users of the computer as they develop their confidence in turning on and logging onto the computer and using the Altona North Primary School webpage. During the weekly ICT lessons the students will be undertaking tasks that support their classroom Inquiry topic of ‘What is it made of?’ Programs such as KidsPix and Kidspiration will be used to classify man-made and natural objects. The students will also be given the opportunity to draw objects with shapes and lines using manipulation techniques. The students will also use the internet to begin experimenting with kid friendly construction and building programs. Finally the students will continue to experiment with and use the Interactive Whiteboard in the Computer Lab.