**Unit Information / Introduction**

Welcome to Altona North to all our new Prep families. Students are settling in well and readily becoming familiar with school routines and expectations.

Thank you to all parents for clearly labelling the children’s bags, clothing and lunch boxes. As many students have similar bags and lunch boxes, this makes it easier for staff to return lost items and for students to identify their own belongings.

The school promotes healthy eating through class programs and our fruit program, where fruit is available for students to eat each Tuesday. Eating time is extended for all Prep children during Term 1.

Thank you to all parents for bringing your child to the Wednesday testing sessions. This has enabled us to meet most of our families and allow us to gain valuable insight into each child’s abilities.

The main Habits of Mind that we will be introducing this term are LISTEN and PERSIST.

Both classrooms have set up their Literacy and Numeracy Walls for children to refer to during their learning time.

**HOME READING**

Home reading system will start Monday 18th February. Your child will bring home a blue book pack with 5 books inside. We have already written the title of each book in the ‘READ IT BOOK’ (yellow log book) for this week. We would ask you to share the book with your child as often as possible, so they can borrow a book from the library.

Please return your child's blue book pack every Monday for them to receive 5 new books. Please read through the ‘READ IT BOOK’ for ideas to make reading time a happy and positive experience for you and your child. We encourage you to share the book with your child as often as you can. Any questions please speak to your classroom teacher.

How can we work together to make our classroom world a better place?

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

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**Curriculum Overview**

**ENGLISH**

**INDEPENDENT READING**

Students in Prep will be involved in the development of their classroom library. The classroom library will be a continually evolving part of the classroom. It plays an important part in the curriculum and fosters positive habits and attitudes towards reading. Students are being encouraged to read independently at this time.

**WRITING**

Prep students will be introduced to the Writers Notebook. This is a very special book. Students will be encouraged to bring items from home such as: photos, tickets, memorabilia, etc. to include in their Writers Notebook to encourage them to write about things of interest to them.

**ENGLISH ONLINE INTERVIEW**

All students in prep are currently being assessed throughout the month of February. This is an assessment that all prep students in Victorian Government schools will undertake. The English Online Interview takes the form of a one on one interview between the teacher and the student. With responses being recorded by the teacher on an online system. The English Online Interview assesses student against all dimensions of English VELS (reading, writing and speaking and listening) and provides comprehensive information about student achievement.

**MATHEMATICS**

The Maths curriculum that the students will be involved in this Term will include; Number (counting, place value, number recognition), positional language (up down, above, below etc.), measurement (length).

**NUMERACY INTERVIEW**

The Numeracy interview is an assessment that all Prep students undertake. It assesses students on number, space and measurement. The Numeracy interview will also take place on the Wednesdays in February. Your child’s teacher will remind you about appointments.

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**INQUIRY**

Our term one topic is ‘Relationships’. This topic involves the students in learning that develops the Major Understanding of ‘Working together makes our school world a better place’.

**Questions to help guide our thinking and learning:**

**What does it mean to work together?**

- Why does working co-operatively together make us a happy classroom community?

This term there will be a whole school incursion with the Life Education van. You will have received a note regarding this early February.

**MATHEMATICS AT HOME**

Please involve your child in everyday situations that involve mathematics for example:

- Counting one to ten and beyond.
- Finding basic geometric shapes e.g square, circle, rectangle and triangle
- Noticing numbers in their home and local environment
- Using mathematical language e.g: behind, beside, in front of, under, over, next to etc
- Simple measuring - long short; longer shorter; longest shortest

**REMINDS**

*Give your child opportunities to recognise and write their name in different ways. At school they are encouraged to use a capital at the start and lower case for the other letters e.g. Jenny*

*Practise with your child the easiest way to pack their school bags. Many of the bags are so full children have problems finding items and keeping them safe.*

*Please make sure that snacks and food are in packaging that children can open easily.*

*Please return the yellow bag that was given to your child recently. This will become their library bag so they can borrow a book from the library.*

*Please check your child’s bag for work samples, school notes or newsletters. Newsletters go out on Thursday’s with the oldest or only child from your family at the school.*

*Home reading bags returned every Monday.*
Computers
Throughout Term 1, the grade prep students will familiarise themselves with the various components of a computer. The students will be encouraged to become independent users of the computer where they will learn to turn on and log onto the computer to use various programs. They will also develop skills in using the keyboard and mouse when word processing. During the weekly ICT lessons, the students will be undertaking tasks that support their classroom inquiry topic titled ‘All About Me’. The students will also be given the opportunity to use Programs such as KidsPix and Kidspirartion where they will use basic manipulation techniques to create simple pictures about themselves that include lines and shapes.

Mrs Anastasiou

Physical Education
During Term One the prep students will have a fantastic introduction into Physical Education through play and experimentation. The students will begin developing the fundamental motor skills of bounce, roll and underarm throw through game and skills based lessons. The students will learn the response to whistle cues and will be taught about the care of equipment and safe play.

The students will be introduced to the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP), which aims at developing the student’s ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information. The PMP program is proven is assist with students learning within the classroom environment and can assist in the development in Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Miss Shiels

Music / Performing Arts
During Term One prep students will be introduced to Music and explore singing, responding to music and playing instruments. The students will begin to understand the concepts of high and low sounds, pitch, rhythm, beat and moving to music.

All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class.

There will be an opportunity for all students to participate in the Altona Beach Festival and this will become a strong focus during term one.

This year there will be a junior and senior ANPS choir, with auditions and sign up being held in the first week of school. There will also be a small instrumental group, which may become a guitar ensemble or small acoustic band. We encourage students who may study an instrument or own an instrument to practice on outside of school to participate in this program.

Miss McCawley

Visual Arts
During Term One children will become accustomed to the routine of attending the art room. They will be given time to explore and experiment with a variety of mediums both freely and with structured and guided activities. Discoveries will be made in the elements of art such as line, shape, pattern and colour. The children will learn to use visual arts as a means of expression relating to personal experiences, observations and their own identity. Children will also examine patterns and images as seen on ‘Willow’ crockery and will use this as inspiration for their art work. Drawing, painting, modelling (using playdoh), and collage (cut and paste) activities will be a focus to develop or improve fine motor skills, which are essential to children’s learning.

Mrs Morgan

Sustainability:
The prep students will be introduced to the recycling programs at ANPS through the practical use of the paper, can/plastics, worm bins and waste bin.

The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment in which we live in, through every day actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products

Through out the year the students will participate in environmental education sessions in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the schools worm farms/ paper and cans/plastic recycling programs. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products

Mr Raghdo