Term Three 2015
Grade Prep Newsletter

Inquiry
This term the Prep students will be involved in a SCIENCE based unit of inquiry titled: “How the World Works”

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 July the 23rd 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
Mr. Warren Davies Room 2

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 Monday is the regular day that take home books are changed in both classrooms. 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.

Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 30th</td>
<td>Scienceworks Excursion.</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
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<td>August 20th</td>
<td>Tromarama at the NGV</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
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100 Days of School
On Friday July 24th 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.

Auslan:
In term 3 Lee Tomkins will continue to teach the students in the use of Auslan. During these sessions with Lee, students learn new signs and learn songs using sign language and are told stories in sign.

Lee has created an Auslan display on the board in the corridor near the Pep classrooms. Please take the opportunity to look at the Auslan display and if you like, try using the Auslan signs with your child.

Unit News
As you can see from the “important dates” section this term is a very busy one filled with exciting and educational activities all linked to the AusV/ELS curriculum. We are very much looking forward to our involvement in these activities and events, which will in themselves be engaging and informative. They will also be an important basis of your child’s learning as they will be followed up in the classroom, where a great deal of extension work will occur to make these experiences worthwhile.

Library Books
Please encourage your child to bring their library books / bags to school. Children have library once a week with their classroom teacher.

Prep D Tuesday
Prep P 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.

• We encourage you to please wait for your child outside the building after school, as this assists us for a more orderly dismissal.

• 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.
COMPUTERS

During this term the children will be building their knowledge of the computers and all the associated parts. They are learning to navigate the ‘desktop’ to open specific programs. The children are developing their skills of using the mouse by exploring the program ‘KidPix4’ and ‘Kidspiration’. They will use these programs to create visual representations of the knowledge learnt about their inquiry unit, ‘What Is It Made Of?’

Joanne Jackson

SUSTAINABILITY

This year ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ will be held on Friday July 25th. ANPS has been an active participant in the ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ every year for the last 12 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 classroom 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 25th) 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.

Students in grade 3-6 will take part in the Royal Melbourne Show’s School vegetable competition; Altona North Primary School will submit vegetables that are currently growing in our vegetable garden pots for judging at the show. The school judged the winner is based on the size and quality of the three types of vegetables – Carrots, Beetroot and cabbage.

We look forward with excitement to the construction of the school second “Garden Wall” later in the term and the school’s Vegetable Garden Beds. These two projects will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape.

Altona North Primary School is an accredited “Water-Live it Learn It” school and as part of our commitment to this program we will commence preparations to participate in the National Water Week, which will be held Term 4.

Wal Raghdo

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During Term Three the Prep students will continue to be involved in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP). Every student will be encouraged to develop the ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information through challenging and controlled activities. 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 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.

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Cassie McCawley

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

During term three in Music & Performing Arts, students will focus on exploring and participating in Drama, Dance, Music and Performance. This will prepare students for their upcoming term four-school concert performance.

Students will be creating, learning and performing a specific dance and drama routine. Students will work on developing and building their co-ordination, timing, practice and performance skills. This will be done through participating in class routines, warm ups, small group activities and individually. Students will work together to develop and rehearse a performance, which will be assessed at the end of term.

Cassie McCawley