Welcome to our fourth curriculum newsletter this year. We hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday and are all ready and prepared for term 4.

Inquiry Unit

Our Inquiry Unit for this term is

Water

Major Understandings

Daily and seasonal changes in our environment, including the weather, affect everyday life.

FOCUS QUESTIONS: [Lines of Inquiry]
1. What is weather?
2. How does the weather affect living things?
3. Why is water important?
4. How do we use and how can we save water in our homes and at school?

Students may bring home small homework tasks for you to be involved in as a family to do with our inquiry topic ‘Water’.

Curriculum Overview

English

Reading

Students in Prep have developed their ability to read for a greater length of time during independent reading. Independent reading time is a combination of classroom library and reading their just right book packs. During this time, students practice the comprehension strategies that have been modelled by the teacher. This term we will be focusing on rhymes. You can assist your child at home by reading nursery rhymes or stories that have rhyming words. The reading aspect of our literacy sessions have fostered positive habits and attitudes within the children, towards reading.

Students will continue to be given the opportunity to read simple print that includes some frequently used words i.e. the Oxford 100 Words. They will be encouraged to use their developing comprehension strategies and look at the title, illustrations and reflect on their own experiences to bring meaning to the text.

Writing

The children will be supported in their writing to use conventional letters, groups of letters, simple punctuation and further their knowledge of sound letter relationships. Students will continue to be supported in structuring sentences through basic concepts of print. They will continue to use their Writer’s Note Books with a focus on writing short simple poems including rhymes.

We would like to encourage you to support your child in bringing along something to place in their Writer’s Notebook. A ticket from a movie, a photograph or anything else of interest that your child can paste into their book that will encourage them to write.

Mathematics

During term 4 we will be focusing on a number of different topics some of which include:

- Counting and making groups to 20+
- Counting back from a given number.
- Skip counting (2s, 5s, 10s).
- Using Problem solving Strategies.
- Number names to 10—20
- Addition and subtraction
- Length, Area, Volume
- Simple mapping, revision of 2D and 3D shapes.
- The language of Chance and data

To develop students thinking to a deeper level we will continue to solve Open Ended Problems using both the ‘Pictures, Numbers and Words’ approach and the ‘Problem Solving Strategies’.

Swimming Program

The swimming program will be happening every day of the 1st and 2nd week of term 4. Parents please make sure your child brings a sturdy bag for swimming as plastic shopping bags can break and get mixed up easily. Please label all your child’s clothing.

The students not taking part in the swimming program will be involved in a water safety program at school.

We would like to thank you all for your involvement in your child’s education this year and wish you a very happy and relaxing holiday.

The Prep Team

Elizabeth Paterson
Warren Davies
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Term 4 will be a fun and exciting time for the Grade Prep students as they are introduced to the traditional Australian sport of Cricket. The students will participate in a sequence of lessons to develop their skills in the following areas: catching, bowling, batting, fielding and over arm throw. They will have the opportunity to develop these skills through fun, team game activities which require the students to work cooperatively together. The students will also continue to develop the fundamental motor skills of bounce, roll, kick, catch, jump and underarm throw by participating in rotational circuit activities during Physical Education lessons.

Lynette Soto

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

During term four in Music & Performing Arts, grades Prep-6 students will focus on developing, creating and performing a class item for the end of year school concert with the theme of ‘Hollywood Movies’.

Students will discuss, create and plan their concert item by developing characters, choreography, acting parts, dance routines, props, costumes and lighting ideas for their performance. There will be a focus on building students’ co-ordination, timing, acting, dance and music skills through practice and performance.

Cassie Macawley

VISUAL ARTS

During Term 4, the children will engage in activities which will further promote fine motor skills by drawing, painting, ‘lacing’ using threads, collage and construction.

In keeping with the classroom theme of ‘Water / Recycling / Energy’, the children will explore how food dye can be mixed with water to be used for painting and they will use recycled materials in collage activities.

Projects will be completed in preparation for the School Concert – ‘Hollywood Movies’, and the children will engage in activities relating to Christmas and other celebrations.

Deb Morgan

COMPUTERS

During this term the children will be building their knowledge of navigating the ‘desktop’ to open specific programs. The children will continue to develop their skills by exploring the programs ‘KidPix4’ and ‘Kidspiration’. They will use these programs to create visual representations of their knowledge learnt about ‘Water Safety’, and their inquiry unit, ‘Water, Recycling and Energy for Me!’ The children will continue to access the internet by navigating through the ‘Altona North Primary School’ website, to specific websites about their unit.

Joanne Jackson

SUSTAINABILITY

As Part of the inquiry units in Term 4, students in grades p-2 and 5-6 will engage in an inquiry into Sustainability.

Grade Prep students will be focusing on “Water”. Students explore basic environmental issues such as looking at water in relation to themselves, e.g. drinking, swimming, weather, Water cycles and seasons.

Wal Raghdo