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Curriculum Newsletter

Prep Term One 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to our Prep families for 2020. It is only Week 3 and the children are already beginning to settle into the routines and procedures of Prep. We congratulate them on their, often courageous efforts so far and are eager to share their ongoing learning adventures.

This year, the Prep children will have many opportunities to learn at their own pace in accordance with the Australian Curriculum. Our Prep teaching team meets weekly to plan, share ideas and resources and to discuss children's needs and interests.

The **Key Learning Areas** and content are:

English –Through shared book experiences and participating in a variety of activities relating to texts, the children will be immersed in a print enriched environment where they will become familiar with concepts about print. These concepts include; Directionality, One-to-one word matching, Letter and letter-sound relationships and High Frequency words.

Our role as teachers is to teach the skills and strategies required for reading, your support at home is to concentrate on the pleasure and practise of reading. While our official home reading program has not commenced, we strongly encourage daily reading with your child.

Mathematics – **Numbers** to 9 will be explored. In **Patterns and Algebra** the students will be comparing groups; whilst in **Measurement** the concepts of long, short and tall; heavy and light; full, empty and half-full; length and day and night will be investigated. In **Geometry**: the questions-what is a circle, triangle and square; what are curved and straight lines will be answered.

Science- In the '**Weather in my world**' unit, science is linked with literacy in the classroom. Students' beliefs and understanding about the air, sun and wind will be developed as they work through hands-on activities. Through investigations, they will increase their knowledge of how the characteristics of weather affect their daily lives.

Humanities and Social Sciences - As the children settle into Prep, routines need to be established. The children need time to get to know each other as well as their school environment. We are beginning Term One with a unit entitled, "**Belonging**". It will be a time for us to get to know the children and the families they belong to. During this time, we will focus on our similarities and differences as individuals and as family members and on the importance of families. We will also compare our family images with those of the past to gain further insight into the features of families. The children will learn each other's names and how to relate to each other, beginning to develop friendships and a sense of belonging in their new class communities. If you have not brought in a photo yet of your child's family could you please do so as soon as possible for 'Our Family' photo display?

Religious Education- The children will participate in Daily Prayer and will be developing their vision of how they want their classroom environment to be. As part of this visioning process the students will explore the theme of 'Aim High and Fly' which is helping children achieve their own success. We will continue to explore the story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' by Carol McCloud. This book explores the metaphor of filling and dipping in an invisible bucket to help illustrate to children how our actions and words impact on the well-being of ourselves and others. Commencing with Ash Wednesday, there will be a focus on ways to improve oneself, by trying to follow Jesus' example through Lent. The children will be introduced to Gospel stories and Catholic teachings. Particular attention will be paid to relationships with peers and ways to treat others in Prep.

Drama with Mrs Vester:

Unit Title: This is Drama!

Welcome to Drama! This term the Prep students will be introduced to the exciting world of Drama. Through a series of learning experiences including dramatic play, improvisation and role-play students will discover how to use their bodies, voice and facial expression to explore character, problem and place.

There will be an overarching focus on teaching and fostering the skills of listening, teamwork and self-expression, which are essential to learning in the drama classroom.

HPE with Ms Mann

Prep students explore fundamental movement skills during Term 1. Within this unit of work, pupils develop their capabilities with jumping, hopping, galloping, skipping and body awareness. Students participate in fun games to learn the importance of following rules and instructions, listening, social skills and team play.

Music with Miss Muir:

Prep students are introduced to music in Term 1 with the unit '*Musical Beginnings*'. This introduction allows each child to foster a sensitivity and interest in beautiful music; to help them to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially through music; as well as prepare each child's musical ability for more formal music instruction in the areas of singing, rhythm and critical listening. Students will learn a variety of songs and rhymes through singing, movement and playing by ear to stimulate musical intelligence.

Prep is an exciting year full of growth; physically, emotionally and socially. Fostering an environment where the children feel secure, happy and valued members of Guardian Angels' is paramount. It is essential that we take every opportunity to encourage the children to share the knowledge and skills they have already acquired so we can then plan for more individual needs and interests. Therefore, activities may vary in each of the Prep rooms. We are looking forward to being part of this wonderful journey with you and your children.

Kind regards,

The Prep Team.