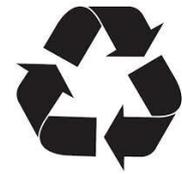




# Prep Update

## 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017



Welcome back to school and Term 3. It is only Week 3 and we have already been very busy in the classroom. Our programs are already jam packed with lots of exciting activities. This term the children will be learning how individual actions affect our environment.

Below are some important reminders:

**EXCURSION TO THE GOULD LEAGUE:** Families will have now received the note about our excursion to the Gould League. Our excursion will be on **WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**. Please make sure the note and payment is returned by **WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**, as **NO** late payments or forms will be accepted.

**3R's THE EARTH'S TREASURES:** As part of our RRR unit, we are asking students to bring a pre-loved toy or book to school to swap with another prep student and 'reuse' their old toy/book. If you can please bring in your old toy/book by **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August** for our students to exchange with each other.

**SCHOOL CONCERT 2017:** The Mt Eliza Primary School concert is on **MONDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> and TUESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**. Tickets will be going on sale from Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> August. Get in quick, as this is a very popular school event. Please visit the school website for more information on ticket sales. Our children have been busy practising the songs they will perform for you. On the two nights of the concert the children will be 'backstage' with their teachers before and after they perform and pick up procedures will be handed out closer to the event. Your children may come to school late the days following the concert, as we understand that they may need a sleep in after their performances. This is a great event for the children to be involved in and we encourage ALL children to attend.

Please see the following note from The Arts Committee.

Dear Parents.

This year's Prep item is based on the actress Shirley Temple.

All students will be provided with a costume from the school's Performing Arts wardrobe. Costumes will be sent home the week before the concert. All students will have bare feet on stage, and therefore will need to wear a pair of **named** slip on shoes while they wait for their performance.

All students will need to wear foundation make-up and red lipstick [even the boys] as this will highlight their faces on stage and give them a real 'showbiz' experience.

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
The Arts Committee.

### **IN THE CLASSROOM:**

#### **Literacy:**

This term the children are continuing to develop the literacy skills they have learnt so far this year, as well as practise new skills. They are beginning to use dotted thirds when handwriting to help them write letters with correct formation and size.

You might have heard your child talk about VCOP, Big Write and WOW words. VCOP is a writing program that explicitly teaches four elements of writing: vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation. The use of these writing elements is taught and practised in fun and hands-on ways during weekly VCOP sessions. This is followed by a Big Talk that allows students to talk about and prepare their ideas for writing, before completing a Big Write about a specific topic. After writing we share our work and look for examples of how we have used some of the VCOP elements. There is great excitement when WOW words are found – interesting and often descriptive words. You and your child could look for examples of WOW words in books when you are reading together.

All students will continue to work in small, targeted groups during learning centres. These rotations allow your child's teacher to work very closely with each child during the week and to assess and cater for their needs in literacy.

Thank you for continuing to listen to your child read their take home books and M100 words at home. Some students are able to read all of the first M100 words and will start learning to read the next 100 words and/or to spell the first 100 words. Though please remember that the children aren't expected to know how to read 100 words yet, and will learn to do so at their own pace. It is a great idea for all children to go back and reread the words they have already passed in their Green Homework books, as they can be forgotten. Another great idea is to try and use the M100W words in a sentence, eg. "What **did** you do on the weekend?" Look for these words as you read interest books too!

#### Mathematics:

We have been exploring 3D shapes, capacity and place value. This term the Preps are learning some Mathematic topics in needs based groups so that each child participates in activities that target their specific point of need. The children completed preliminary assessment to determine known skills and are grouped according to these results. We represent the stage each child is working on and the stage before and after it with a ladder we call a 'Learning Ladder'. This helps the students understand what they can do, what they are working at mastering and what the next step will be. Your child may have been talking about doing Maths with another Prep teacher. These groups are fluid and will change as we find out the needs of your child for each area of Mathematics. Next up is addition and then subtraction! The children are excited to be doing 'grown up' Maths.

#### Inquiry:

In our Inquiry Unit "3R's- The Earth's Treasures" the children will pose questions to do with this topic and explore these questions individually, in groups and as a class. Some questions that will lead our inquiry will be:

What does reduce, reuse, recycle mean? How do I look after my bedroom environment in relation to the 3R's? How does my family look after our home environment in relation to the 3R's? What choices can I make to RRR at school? What choices can we make to RRR in the community? How can I make a difference?

We trust the children will become engaged in this sustainability inquiry and enjoy making, creating, thinking, problem solving and becoming better young global citizens – our future will be in good hands!

To keep in line with the school's Sustainability Policy, we will be having 'nude food' classrooms every day-not just on Tuesday's. If your child comes to school with rubbish, we kindly ask them to take it home to assist us to reduce waste at school.

**JOGGING CLUB:** Jogging club is on every Thursday beginning at 8:20am on the oval. Each lap is recorded and included on the children's jogging club card. Achievement certificates are given to children who run 10km, 20km, 50km and 75km. (And you can even get a 100km award!) Congratulations to all the students who have achieved awards! Come along and have some fun!

**A BIG Thank you!** We would like to thank all our families who participated in our Term 2 'Sensational Sky and Seasons' Fundraiser. We have sent our donation to The Salvation Army's Winter Action- Heat with Heart campaign. The funds raised will go towards some warm blankets for those in need this winter.

As we are still in cold and flu season, we would greatly appreciate **donations of hand sanitiser**. Thanks in advance for helping the Prep's stay healthy!

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to see your child's classroom teacher.

The Prep Teachers.

