



Prep Update

Friday, 24th February, 2017



Dear Prep Parents,

It was terrific to see the Prep children enjoy their first experience with the canteen on icy pole day. Lots of big smiles all round. The children have been coping very well with recess and lunch play with the rest of the school students and also adjusting well to having reduced Prep teacher supervision as the week has progressed. At the end of this update you will find some valuable reading tips to use at home. Below are some reminders to keep you up-to-date with what is happening at school over the next couple of weeks.

PREP HOURS: The hours for Prep students until Friday, 10th March is 8:45am until 3:00pm. **Prep students will be attending school this coming Wednesday, 1st March.**

A reminder of Prep times are below:

Week 5: Monday, 27th February - Friday, 3rd March 8:45am-3:00pm. Drop off and pick up at the dots.

Week 6: Monday, 6th March - Friday, 10th March 8:45am-3:00pm. Drop off at the dots and pick up at the front of the school (unless an alternative is arranged with the classroom teacher)

Weeks 7-9: Tuesday, 14th March - Friday, 31st March 8:45am-3:15pm. Drop off at the dots and pick up at the front of the school (unless an alternative is arranged with the classroom teacher)

Please note: Monday, 13th March: Labour Day Public Holiday

Term 1 School Holidays: Monday, 3rd April - Monday, 17th April. **Term 2 begins Tuesday, 18th April.**

In the Mornings: Children are to line up on the dots by the time the second bell rings at 8:45am. The teacher will meet the children there and walk them into class. Please encourage your child to carry their own bag into the classroom and say their goodbyes at the dots. This is very beneficial in developing their independence.

In the Afternoons: The teachers will walk the Prep students out onto the asphalt area to be picked up at **3:00p.m.** Teachers will wait with all students in this area until they have been picked up. If you would like to make any alternative arrangement please see the classroom teacher.

READING HELPER PROGRAM: We will commence our reading helper program this coming **Tuesday, 28th February.** If you offered to assist with our reading program, we would love you to come into the 'Pod' area of the classrooms. If you did not indicate that you could help but are available on any of the days that your class has reading assistance please feel free to attend

on a casual basis. You will need to sign in using the Reading Helper's book in the Prep Pods. For any other time you are helping at the school, you will need to sign in at the Office and obtain a Visitor's Badge.

Please note: If you are coming in to assist with reading you **MUST** complete the "Parent and Volunteer Helper's" form that was sent home. If you require another one please go to the front office or see the classroom teacher.

ASSEMBLY: Our Prep children will begin assembly on **MONDAY, 6th March**. Assembly is held in the New School Hall beginning at 2:20pm. Parents are most welcome to attend.

CLASS CONTACT LIST: Please return this notice **ASAP** if you wish to be on the class contact list. Thank you to the parents who are busy preparing a contact list ready to distribute to their class. It is a great way to communicate with other parents in your class.

EATING AT SCHOOL: We would like to reinforce the procedure that we follow in Prep with regards to play lunch and lunch eating at school. At **BOTH** recess and lunchtime the children get a minimum of 15 minutes of eating time inside the classroom. If the children still have food to eat once the "outside play" bell goes then they are able to complete eating inside (if the classroom teacher is not on yard duty or have other commitments) or they may take their food outside to our Prep "eating" area to complete eating. The teachers endeavor to check lunch boxes prior to them going back into school bags but this is not always possible. If you have any concerns about this issue your child's classroom teacher is the best point of contact.

ABSENCES: If your child is absent from school could you please write a small, signed note with the date and reason why so that we can place them in our administration folders. This information is essential for us as we are legally required to have an accurate attendance roll and your note assists us greatly in this. As advised previously however, it is not necessary to phone the School on the day of your child's absence unless your child will be away for an extended period.

NUDE FOOD TUESDAY: A reminder that every **Tuesday** at MEPS has become "Nude Food Tuesday". We highly encourage the students to bring a packed lunch **without** any wrappers, cling wrap, foil, etc. A lot of you are already bringing nude food with the amazing containers you have! We have a weekly competition so we hope you and your children get into the "Nude Food" spirit!

WHO AM I?: If you have not yet returned a baby picture and questionnaire about your child when they were little please do so **ASAP**. We will be using these over the next week as part of our "Getting to know you" unit.

RACV STREET SCENE INCURSION: On Wednesday, 15th March, the Prep students will be participating in a RACV Road Safety Program. Topics covered include passenger safety, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety. There is no cost for the incursion.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL: If you have a query, question or concern the first contact person you should approach is your child's classroom teacher. If your classroom teacher is unavailable then feel free to approach one of the other Prep teachers. We work very closely together and therefore would most likely be able to assist with your query. Remember we are here to make the transition to school for you and your child smooth. No concern or question is too small. The classroom teacher is often busy at the beginning of the school day so if you wish to discuss any issue in detail we suggest that you make an appointment time to see your classroom teacher.

MATHLETICS: You will find the Mathletics log on details in the children's homework book (exercise book in their take home book bag) next Monday. These codes work on all computers and some tasks can be completed on iPads too (although it can be a little restrictive). You can log on from home and complete tasks to reinforce what the children are learning at school. Please support your child to complete the tasks and don't be tempted to do the work for them. If you would like to work on something at home the following topics would be valuable: Count to 5, How many dots?, Order numbers to 10, Matching numbers to 10, More, less or same to 10 and Pattern and Number activities. If you have any trouble logging on please see your classroom teacher.

READING TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

- Make a regular time to read with your child, whether it is morning or night, a reading routine is a terrific way to set up your child for success.
- Talk about the book! Look at the pictures and discuss what is happening before you read the writing. This is a huge helper for comprehension of the book - showing that they understand what has happened.
- Point out punctuation and discover why it is there! They may recognise some from their Daily Diary at school.
- Trace around letters, numbers and words. They could be letters they learnt at school (Ss, Mm & Tt) or they may recognise letters from their name. Discuss the difference between a letter and a word.
- Make it fun! Using your high frequency words (Golden Words in "homework" book) make some flash cards and have a race to learn them. Play games like fish, snap and try recognising them inside their readers together.

Thank you for your continued support.

THE PREP TEACHERS

