

TEACHERS

Mrs Natalie Room 1
Ms D Room 3

Welcome to our 2019 Prep students and their families. Our aim is to provide a wonderful year of learning for your child through a partnership with parents and the school. We will ensure that we provide a caring, supportive school environment that allows for the best possible learning experiences for each child. We look forward to an exciting term 1!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1



26 February:	Prep Parent Welcome Information Night BBQ for our new Prep students and parents
Week beginning 4 March:	Prep students start Full-Time
11 March:	Labour Day holiday (Public Holiday)
5 April	End of Term 1 - students finish early at 1:30pm
23 April:	First Day of Term 2

Prep Assessments and Interviews

We are currently assessing students and interviewing parents on Wednesdays. Please ensure **you and your child** are on time for the assessment and interview. After the assessment we will have a discussion with parents and ask you to sign some permission forms.

Prep Family BBQ and Information Night

This will be held **Tuesday evening on February 26 at 5:00pm**. Please put this date in your diary. We would love to see all the Prep parents and Prep children at school for this informal get to know you evening. Please come and join us for the sausage sizzle before we begin the Parent Information night. Important information will be shared so please ensure at least one parent is attending the night.



LITERACY

Literacy sessions are held each morning before recess. All students will be involved in activities to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. **Please ensure your child arrives on time** so that they can enjoy the introductory activities. All students will visit the Oral Language Centre to participate in activities to develop oral language as an essential element in developing reading and writing skills. Sessions in our Oral Language Centre will take place as part of our Literacy block. At the Oral Language Centre, children will listen to stories, be involved in oral activities to promote vocabulary and grammar and develop writing skills. In the classroom, children will be involved in letter and word recognition and developing reading and writing skills.

This year the students will be involved in a new Literacy Program called '**Little Learners Love Literacy**'. It is a phonics based program with emphasis on the sounds that letters make.

We will be introducing, revising and extending students in their letters and sounds.

This term we will focus on the following letters: **Mm, Ss, Ff, Aa, Pp, Tt, Cc, li.**

We will introduce these words: **l, a, am, at, it.**

We will also introduce these small words '**am, at, it**' to extend into three letter words, for example;

am- jam, dam, Sam, ham

at- cat, mat, sat, fat, hat, pat, bat

it – fit, pit, sit, hit, bit.

Home Reading

Home reading will be not start this term, as we are allowing students to settle into the school routine.

Home reading will run from term 2. It is vital that reading at home with your child becomes a daily activity. This should be a fun time spent allowing your child to become familiar with books and discussing pictures and stories. As the year progresses Prep students may be able to identify some words in their home reading book. Make this a special, relaxing time shared with your child. Students will borrow from the school library and this is a good opportunity to establish shared reading routines at home.

NUMERACY

Our focus for this term is developing one to one correspondence in counting and number recognition. We are also looking at different ways to make numbers e.g. 2 and 1 makes 3.

This term we will be focusing on the following:

Numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Shapes: square, circle, triangle, rectangle.



We are also discussing the calendar and learning associated vocabulary.

You can help at home by asking questions to investigate Maths. Here are some examples:

What shapes can you see? How many are there? Can you clap 4 times?

Enjoy singing songs and rhymes together that have counting sequences.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Topics to be taught this term:

Start Up Program: The Lalor East Primary School values of **Caring, Cooperation, Respect, Personal Best** and **Honesty** will be covered. The program assists students to clarify why we come to school and the steps we all need to take to ensure we can be successful at school. We will be learning about becoming a good listener. We will also be learning about our morning and afternoon routines. We will be developing our classroom expectations and mission statement.

Caring
Respect **Honesty**
Personal Best
Cooperation

Cyber Bullying: This will be our first of a series of lessons to increase understanding of cyber bullying.

PMP: Perceptual Motor Program

The program will run each **Wednesday** from 2:30-3:30pm. All students will be taking part in our PMP program. The program aims to develop the child's perception and understandings of themselves and their world through movement. Children will be involved in many different movement activities (jumping, balancing, and crawling) and will be using our PMP equipment. We will be holding our PMP hour in the Multipurpose Centre.



Primary School Nursing Program

Merrin Sullivan, the Visiting Primary School Nurse from the Primary School Nursing Program, will be visiting our school commencing **12/3/2019**. This is a service that helps to identify, address and support children and families with concerns that may impact on health and learning and is provided free to all children commencing school. All families of **Prep** students will receive a questionnaire to complete about their child's health and wellbeing. **Please complete and return the questionnaire promptly to the school.** All questionnaires need to be returned - you may choose not to participate by completing the highlighted consent section on page 3. **Prompt return of all the forms would be appreciated.**

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

ART - Karren Moncur

Prep students will practice their cutting skills in the first few weeks of school. They will draw shapes to cut out, fold paper and cut out shapes to create a lacy effect. They will then glue down these shapes to paper and tubes. The children will then look at mark making and draw with many different pencils, pastels and textas. The children will be painting in Term 2, please provide a smock so your child does not get paint on their clothes.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Dean Sharples

During Term 1, the Prep students will be learning the rules and values associated with Physical Education, participating in movement activities and will be beginning to develop their fundamental motor skills. The promotion and development of fundamental motor skills will include running, hopping, skipping and the vertical jump.



Please send your child to school wearing runners or sneakers on their P.E. day as this is the most appropriate footwear for our Multipurpose Centre.

MUSIC/SPANISH - Luis Rios-Gonzalez

In term 1 students will learn common greetings in Spanish, numbers from 1 to 10 and some basic colours. Additionally, they will learn songs in Spanish to reinforce the vocabulary learned in the lessons. Students will learn basic forms of music notation to play and write simple melodies on keyboard. There will be activities to nurture their sense of pitch and rhythm. In addition, children will be introduced to the culture and traditions of different Spanish speaking countries.



TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

GRADE	ART	MUSIC/ SPANISH	PHYS/ED	LIBRARY	ORAL LANGUAGE	PMP
PREP Mrs Natalie ROOM 1	Tuesday	Friday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday
PREP Ms D ROOM 3	Monday	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX TIPS

Eating healthy food helps children concentrate and learn. Please ensure your child has at least one piece of fruit or vegetables in their lunchbox for snack time.

- **Fruit** – best choice is fresh fruit. Dried fruit is sticky and high in sugar, so have it occasionally. Best left out of the lunch box are dried fruit bars and ‘straps’, which are very high in sugar, low in fibre and stick to children’s teeth causing tooth decay.
- **Vegetables** – try vegetable sticks with dip or a small container with mixed vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks, capsicum and cucumber. Chips and packets of crisps are best left for parties and special occasions.
- **Yoghurt** – Yoghurt should be kept cool in an insulated lunch box. Best left out of the lunch box are ‘dairy desserts’ and flavoured milks, which are high in sugar.



HELPING AT HOME - Ideas to encourage reading and writing:

Talk to your child

Ask your child to talk about their day at school. Encourage them to explain something they did, or a game he/she played during recess.

Say silly tongue twisters

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

Read it and experience it

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to a trip to the zoo. Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book. **Read it again and again.**

Talk about letters and sounds

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmm."

Please feel free to come and speak to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We often have meetings before and after school so it is best to make an appointment.



We are looking forward to a happy and successful year with your child in 2019.

Ms D and Mrs Natalie.