Welcome to our 2013 Preps and their families. Our aim is to provide a wonderful year of learning for your child through a partnership with parents and the school. The Prep teachers are committed to providing a caring, supportive school environment that allows for the best possible learning experiences for your child. These experiences have been planned to ensure the growth of both academic and social skills of each child.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>Preps start full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>Teddy Bears’ Picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th March</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LITERACY**

Literacy sessions are held every morning before recess. Each child will be involved in activities to develop reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. **Please ensure your child arrives on time** so that they can enjoy the introductory activities.

Preps 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
- develop writing skills.

In the classroom, children will be involved in letter and word recognition and developing reading and writing skills.
This term we will focus on the following letters:

Ss, Aa, Tt, Mm, Pp, Ee

We will focus on these words:

I, a, am, went, and, to, the, me, it, in, is, at

TEDDY BEAR’S PICNIC

On Friday the 8th of March we will hold a teddy bear (or soft toy) picnic to coincide with learning the letter T.

HOME READING

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 term progresses, your child may be able to identify some words in their home reading book. Make this a special, relaxing time shared with your child. Home reading will begin shortly. Please return the bag and book daily so the book can be changed.

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,

Colours: red, yellow, blue, green, purple, pink, orange

Shapes: square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, heart,

We are also discussing the calendar and learning vocabulary associated with length and area.

You can help at home by asking questions to investigate Mathematics. 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 covered 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.

Look at Me: Children will learn about how they are unique but can also have the same likes and dislikes as others. They learn about the things they can do and what makes them special.

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

PMP: Perceptual Motor Program

Each Wednesday at 2.30-3.30 all Prep children will be taking part in our PMP program. The program aims to develop the child’s perception and understandings of themself 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. Children will be taking part in the program in bare feet so shoes and socks will be removed before beginning the program. This year we will be holding our PMP hour in the Multipurpose Centre and we are looking for volunteers to help run the program. Please see your child’s teacher if you are able to assist us.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

ART - Karren Moncur

The children will start the year improving their cutting skills. They will practice cutting around drawn shapes, fringing paper and making curls. The children will create collages by sticking the shapes onto paper and making pictures. They will finish the term by creating a Mad Hat, covered with curls and shapes.

Please provide your child with a smock (an old shirt) so they don’t get paint on their clothes.

Music - Deanna Weiland

In Music the focal point will be on "Beat". The children will be introduced to a variety of instruments and will learn to play these instruments along with simple beats. They will also learn about beat through movement and singing along to a variety of different pieces of music.
Physical Education - Lara Arsana

During Term 1, the Prep students will be learning the rules associated with Physical Education, participating in movement activities and will be beginning to develop their fundamental motor skills. The Prep students will participate in activities that involve 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.

TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>PHYS/ED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP HERBERT ROOM 1</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP DE VINCENTIS ROOM 3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lalor East Primary School Parent Room

You are very welcome to use our Parent Room before picking up your child at the end of the day. Our Parent Room is located in room 9. (at the end of the corridor in the south building, opposite the GP Room) You will find couches where you can wait in comfort. It will be cool in summer and warm in winter!

Prep for Parents Website

Would you like tips on how to support your child in their first year at school?

Then subscribe to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s weekly Prep for Parents email.

You will be sent an email every Wednesday during school term that will include tips, advice and information about the day-to-day experiences children have in the classroom and things you can do at home to assist and encourage your child.

To subscribe to Prep for Parents, see:


We have included some tips for parents to help their child adjust to school life. These tips come from the Prep for Parents weekly newsletter mentioned above.
Some things you can do to help your child adjust to school include:

- Ensure they have a healthy breakfast – this is important for energy to get through the day.
- Make time to chat to your child about what they did at school that day. This will give you a good idea of what they enjoy doing and how they are getting on in their new environment. Remember, your child’s emotional reaction to going to school may vary a lot, especially during the first few weeks.

**Healthy Lunchbox Tips**

Eating healthy food helps children concentrate and learn.

- **Fruit** – best choices include fresh or tinned 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.
- **Milk, yoghurt and custard** – include a small drink of milk (freeze overnight) wrapped in a cloth in the lunch box. Fruit yoghurts 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.

We are looking forward to a happy and successful year with your child in 2013. 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.

The Prep Team - Daniela, Lauren and Karen