Welcome back to term 3. We hope you all enjoyed the holiday break. It was fantastic to see and talk to parents at the 3 Way Conferences last term. We will continue to provide a supportive and caring classroom environment to enable all the students to achieve their highest possible standard.

We are introducing a **new parent/child storytime session** on a **Friday morning, before school**. We would love to see you in the classroom at **8.50 am until 9.00 am each Friday**, where you will be able to share some great new picture story books with your child or with a group of Prep children. Please come and spend this special time with the Prep children and share books by reading or talking about a book!

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING**
Activities this term will include:
- stories, songs, poems, chants & rhymes
- share time
- listening games & activities
- visiting the Oral Language Centre.

**WRITING**
Children continue to be involved in writing experiences including:
- modelled, interactive and independent writing
- tracing and copying letters, focusing on the correct formation.
**NUMERACY**
This term we will focus on:
- revising numbers 0-20, counting, recognising and making numbers
- ordinal numbers from 1st -10th
- introducing simple addition & subtraction
- 3D solids/objects
- location: over, under, in, out, next to etc

**INTEGRATED STUDIES**
This term we are learning about Fire Safety. The children will learn about safe and unsafe fires, what to do if clothing catches fire and how to evacuate in case of fire.

Epping fire fighters will visit us to talk about fire safety. We will also discuss how the police and ambulance officers help us and when and how to call 000.

**Try these ICT SITES**
This is a list of some educational computer sites that you may like to use at home. They cover both literacy and numeracy ideas.
- http://www.topmarks.co.uk/
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary/
- http://www.abc.net.au/countusin/

We are collecting boxes for our box construction table in the Oral Language Centre. We would appreciate any boxes (cereal boxes, biscuit boxes etc) being brought to school. Please bring them to the classroom and we will take them to the OLC. Thankyou.

**IMPORTANT DATES**
- August 9th: Multicultural Day
- August 17th & 24th: Fire Fighters visit to school
- August 15th: Curriculum Day - no school for students
- August 27th: Book Character Parade
- August 29th: Family Maths Night
HOW TO HELP AT HOME

- Ensure your child borrows books daily and share the reading with them at home each night. Allow children to look at the pictures to help them when reading
- Borrow & return library books weekly
- Model reading in front of your child and tell them stories
- Use positional language as children play in the garden or at the park, such as under, over and across the monkey bars
- Continue to complete Maths Share activities at home. The children are enjoying these activities.

Do you play dice games at home?
Dice games encourage children to recognise numbers quickly.
Taking turns and discussing the game improves cooperation and encourages speaking and listening.

We encourage Prep students to play with their friends in the Prep playground. When Prep students play with older siblings, they miss out on building important friendships with their own age group. Please encourage your child to play with students their own age, whilst at school.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Being involved in an activity after school has many potential benefits. It can help your child with their learning in school. It can give your child another group of friends. It can help build their confidence. There are many different types of activities. Some suggestions include: swimming lessons or learning a sport.

The Lalor Library has a Just4 Kids activity session on a Wednesday, after school from 3:30-4:30 pm. This might be worth a try!

In term 4 the Prep children will be studying a unit called The Farm. An integral part of this visit will be an excursion to Bundoora Children’s Farm. We would love to have all children come to the farm with us so we would like to let you know that we expect the excursion to cost approximately $25.00. We will be asking for parent helpers on this day.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (COMPUTERS)
The Prep children will attend our computer lab weekly. They will work on extending their Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Studies work using technology. Each Prep grade has a Smartboard and children use this daily.

PMP
We continue to enjoy our PMP session on Wednesday afternoons, in the Multipurpose Centre. Thank you to our Parent helpers. We couldn’t run it without you!

SPECIALIST CLASSES

ART - Karren Moncur
The children will be involved in a printing unit, in which they will create rubbings of their environment. They will then print sponges by dipping them in paint and pressing them onto paper. The children will create a mono print, rolling paint onto plastic and drawing a picture in the paint with a stick, then printing this. The children will finish this unit with a potato print.

MUSIC - Brad Jones
In music this term, the Prep students will be learning about dynamics and tone colour. The students will learn to distinguish between soft and loud sounds and will use their voice and different instruments to reinforce the concept of dynamics. Students will also familiarise themselves with the sounds different instruments are capable of making.

PHYS/ED - Lara Arsana
In Term 3, the Prep children will be participating in a Gymnastics unit, where they will learn basic Gymnastics skills such as the forward roll. They will also continue to develop their Fundamental Motor Skills by practising the bounce. To finish the term, the children will participate in a ‘Movement to Music’ unit that will explore a variety of dance styles.

If you have any concerns about your child’s progress, please come and talk to your child’s teacher. It’s usually a good idea to call or send a note to arrange a specific time as we often have meetings before and after school and may not be able to meet with you on a particular day.

We are looking forward to another fabulous term of discovery!

The Prep Team
Francesca Silluzio, Daniela De Vincentis, Lauren Herbert and Karen O’Neill