Welcome to our 2015 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 be 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

17 February: Parent Welcome Information Night
3 March: Foundation students start full time
9 March: Labour Day holiday
27 March: End of Term 1 - students finish at 1:30pm

FOUNDATION FAMILY BBQ AND INFORMATION NIGHT
This will be held Tuesday evening on February 17 at 5:00pm. Please put this date in your diary. We would love to see all the parents and 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.

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. Prep 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 term we will focus on the following letters: Ss, Aa, Tt, Mm, Pp, i, Ee.
We will focus on these words: I, a, on, to, the, me, at, it, is.
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, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
Colours: red, yellow, blue, green, purple, pink, orange
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 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.

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 Thursday from 2:30-3:30pm. All Prep students 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. We will be holding our PMP hour in the Multipurpose Centre.
SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

ART - Karren Moncur
The children will learn the rules of the art room and start to familiarise themselves as to where everything in the art room is. 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. The children will create pictures using oil pastels and crayons. They will make marks with the ends and sides of the crayons.

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

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.

MUSIC - Luis Rios-Gonzalez
In term 1, students will be developing a sense of pitch and rhythm through learning songs that involve actions and movement. These songs usually involve themes that reinforce other areas of the curriculum such as literacy and civics and citizenship. They will also be introduced to a variety of music and sound qualities, such as rhythm, tone and beat. Additionally, students will learn about different music instruments and their features.

TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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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.

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 your last 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 2015.**

The Prep Team
Karen and Brad