

Welcome back to Term 3. Wow it's hard to believe we are already half way through the Prep year. Your child received their first school report and you should be very proud of their achievements. This semester we will be working hard to continue the fantastic work from Semester 1. Our focus will be reflecting on your child's areas for further development and helping them to achieve them. Below is an outline of the many things that we will be doing during Term 3.

### WORKING TOGETHER

You can continue to help and support your child in the following ways:

- Prompt arrival to school ensuring a smooth morning transition.
- Ensure your child has a clearly named bottle of water each day.
- Reading/Sharing take home books daily, and caring for these.
- Teaching your child to tie shoelaces.
- Ensuring belongings and clothing are **clearly named** (please check regularly).
- Checking your child's bag for notices/letters (found in front pocket of bag).
- Carefully monitoring your child's health especially once colds, etc become prevalent.
- Writing a note to explain absences unless you have spoken to the teacher.
- Practising sight words from your child's reading folder with your child.
- Assisting your child to practise their learning improvement plan goal. (*More information on learning improvement plans below*)
- Logging on to your class blog and completing any activities.

### ENGLISH

#### ORAL LANGUAGE

Learning in this area will focus on:

- The Oral Language Play Program will focus on a range of oral language skills:
  - Using Who, Where, When as prompts for speaking.
  - Recounting stories and personal experiences sequentially.
  - Retelling events in a story in sequential order.
  - Use grammatically correct simple sentences to communicate purposefully with peers and adults.
  - Using correct personal pronouns (he, she, her, his).
  - Listening to and understanding short stories with supporting pictures.
  - Riddles, rhymes and poems.
  - Dramatic play and puppets.
  - Using character voices/expression when telling a story.
- Introduce SCUMPS for Show and Tell (SCUMPS stands for Size, Colour, Use, Materials, Parts, Shape/Sound).

## READING

Learning in this area will focus on:

Modelled/Shared reading and Guided reading small groups sessions working on the following:

- Continue building on skills developed in Term 1 and 2.
- Continuing 'Read to Self' and building reading stamina.
- Continuing daily take home readers.
- Reading fiction texts.
- Learning about features of a fiction text such as events, characters, setting, complication and solution.
- Retelling events from a text.
- Identifying some differences between imaginative and informative texts.
- Understanding the texts they are reading or being read.

## WRITING

Learning in this area will focus on:

- Continuing to build on skills developed in Semester 1.
- Expanding ideas to more than one sentence by adding more information on a topic.
- Writing a description using number, size, shape, texture, colour, position and doing sentences.
- Using conjunctions (joining words) to connect sentences.
- Spelling simple high frequency words.
- Learning about onset and rime to spell words (cat – c onset/ at rime).
- Writing simple narratives (stories) with a beginning, middle and end.
- Using criteria checklists for self-assessment of writing.
- Correct formation of lower case letters.
- Beginning to learn about handwriting on dotted thirds lines.

## MATHEMATICS

### NUMBER

Learning in this area will focus on:

- Multiples of ten (20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90).
- Making models of teen numbers.
- Estimating and counting collections.
- Counting forwards and backwards from a variety of starting points between 0 and 20 and beyond.
- Making equal sets.
- Addition – combining sets using concrete materials, telling stories with an addition focus.
- Sharing collections equally.
- Ordinal number to 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Problem solving.
- Copying, continuing and creating patterns with objects and drawings .
- Naming numbers in terms of their part/ part whole. *For example I instantly see 4 counters but this is made up of 3 counters and 1 counter or 2 counters and 2 counters. There are 6 pop sticks and I can see them as 3 and 3 or 2 and 4.*
- Using calculators to investigate patterns and simple computations.

## MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY

Learning in this area will focus on:

- Position: Give and follow instructions using positional language such as next to, beside, in front of, under, through and behind.
- Shapes: Revisiting 2 dimensional shapes. Naming simple 3 dimensional shapes such as cube, sphere, cylinder, cone, pyramid. Identifying edges, faces and corners of 3D shapes.
- Mass: Hefting objects (Test the weight of something by holding it in your hand) to identify lighter/heavier object. Using balance pans to check.
- Capacity: using rice/sand to decide which container holds more/less. Discuss language of empty and full.
- Length: Ordering objects from shortest to longest, smallest to largest. Informally measuring objects using string, unifix blocks and hands.
- Practising reciting the days of the week in order. Sequencing events in order.

## STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

Learning in this area will focus on:

- Asking a friend a yes/no question and recording.
- Graphing information in a pictograph.
- Making simple true or false statements about data collected.

## INQUIRY

In Term 3 we will begin our Design inquiry.

The skills students will be developing are:

- Problem solving
  - Identify the problem
  - Consider possible alternatives
- Observe and describe

The understandings developed through the inquiry will be:

- There is a design process (plan, make, test, change)
- There are a range of materials – they can be used in different ways
- Materials can be recycled and reused

## iPAD APPS

These are the main iPad apps that we will be using in the classroom during Term 3.

### Literacy Apps:

- *Continuing to use Term 1 and 2 apps: rED, Touch and Write Australia Victorian Unjoined Cursive, Eggy Alphabet, School writing, Starfall ABC, ABC ninja, Skyfish Phonics, Beginning sounds interactive game - Sound sorting, Jolly phonics letter sounds, Spellosaur, Photo Touch Sight words, Felt board*
- Phonics vowels
- Word families
- Alphabet sounds Word study

- ABC Phonics long vowel words
- ABC Phonics short vowel words
- Phonics consonants
- Fitzroy readers books
- Little learners love literacy books
- Vowel stories for beginning readers

### Mathematics Apps:

- *Continuing to use Term 1 and 2 apps: Eggy numbers, Bugs and numbers, Friends of Ten, Targeting maths K, Teaching Number lines, Counting and Skip counting, Tens frame snap*
- Ladybug Addition
- Dominoes Addition
- Friends of ten
- Hands on Maths Number balance
- Place value MAB
- Counting board
- Skip Count

## CLASS BLOGS

We will continue to use our class blogs. Students will access the blog at school and we encourage you to help your child access it at home. There will be links to online activities for students to play at home related to classroom topics, and questions to answer at home.

Our class blogs are as follows:

- J15 Miss Matters: <http://kidblog.org/PrepJ15/>
- J16 Ms Browne: <http://kidblog.org/PrepJ16 2015/>
- J17 Miss Lewis: <http://kidblog.org/PrepJ172015/>
- J18 Miss Hanley: <http://kidblog.org/misshanley/>

**Studyladder** – Students have been using a website called Studyladder. Activities are set by your child's teacher to rehearse classroom material. Your child can access Studyladder at home. A link to your class' Studyladder can be found on your class blog.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special events for Term 3 are:

- PMP continues every Thursday 1:55pm – approximately 3:00pm
- Parent Teacher Student interviews – Tuesday 21 July
- Curriculum Day - August 14
- Inquiry excursion – date not set
- Fire Education visits – August 18 and 25
- Back to Kinder visit (*Watsonia, Watsonia North and Warrawee Park Pre Schools*) – date not set

## INDIVIDUAL LEARNING IMPROVEMENT PLANS (ILIP)

In Semester 2, students will receive an individual learning improvement plan. The first goal for your child will be discussed at the Parent/Teacher/Student interviews. After their goal has been established, games and activity ideas will be sent home for students to practise. Students' goals will also be practiced at school.

We thank all of the parents that have offered their time to support the Prep programs such as PMP and take home readers. We continue to need your support to be able to provide the best programs for your children. The weather isn't the best at this time of the year, but we still need brave volunteers to help the running of PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)! If you are available, please write your name on the chart in the Prep courtyard. Your class' take home reader sign-up sheets are still located outside your child's classroom. By volunteering to help change readers, you are giving the students in the class another opportunity to practise their reading. Families will be informed of any other opportunities to volunteer throughout the semester.

We encourage all families to download the **Tiqbiz app** on their phone to keep up to date with any notifications related to Prep. *Download the app from your app store and search Watsonia North Primary School.*

Thanking you,

Ali Browne, Bonnie Lewis, Chloe Hanley and Jacqui Matters ☺