Prep Newsletter
19th February 2013

The Prep newsletter along with a great variety of other helpful resources such as the School newsletter and Canteen menu can be found on the school website at www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au. A reminder that we use the blue book cover bag as a communication bag between school and home. All notes and information are placed in the book bag to come home and we ask that lunch orders, swimming money, bus notes etc are placed in the book bag so the children (and us) are able to find them on arrival at school.

Lunch orders
A canteen menu can be found on the school website www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au. Please write your child’s name and the items they would like from the canteen on a bag and include the money inside. All canteen items for Prep children need to be ordered through the lunch order basket.

Fresh Fruit Friday
All children in Prep- Year 2 are supplied with a piece of fresh fruit on Fridays. This fruit is provided by TSPA to encourage healthy eating. Children make a selection from an apple, orange, piece of watermelon or a surprise bag, which includes sultanas and carrot sticks. Prep children eat their fruit at the beginning of snack time.

Theme
This week we have commenced our ‘Me’ theme. Children will focus on themselves especially their body awareness throughout the week. They are encouraged to think about the connections of body parts eg ‘The head’ is connected to the body with a neck. This assists children when completing jigsaws. Many children use only shape to complete jigsaws. They also need to be aware of colour and the special relationship of the picture. Eg Head at top, feet at the bottom, car roof at the top, wheels at the bottom etc.

Literacy
We have continued to revise the ‘s’ and ‘m’ sounds and introduced the sound ‘f’ this week. The children are enjoying taking their sound books home and pasting in pictures or objects beginning with the current week’s sound. Books must be returned by Friday as this is the day the children will share their work with the class. Catalogues that come in the letter box are suitable to find pictures if you don’t have access to magazines. Children may also draw the relevant pictures or find objects such as a feather etc.

You can encourage children to “hear” sounds by asking them to get their mouth ready to say a word. They need to think about the position of the tongue and the shape of their mouth. Talk about sounds that begin words e.g. ‘H’ for Hannah. Children usually hear the initial sound of a word then the final, sound and finally the middle sound.

1 3 2
 c a t
Children will continue to focus on words, spaces, letters, full stops and capital letters during reading and writing activities. They are encouraged to move their finger under the words as they are reading (this is called tracking). They also need to be aware that eyes move back to the left of the text to read the next line. Children need to progress from tracking to word matching as they read.

When children are writing at home please ensure that they use the correct starting point (especially s, m and f). Correct formation of these letters is a daily occurrence at school. We emphasise that letters begin with a downward movement. We have included a sheet with the correct starting points of letters and numerals.

**Numeracy**
This week we will continue to work with patterns. It is important that children understand that a pattern repeats again and again and that they can identify the part that repeats. We have been making patterns in a variety of ways using colour, object or shape. The children have been enjoying looking for patterns around the classroom and in the school ground. We will also continue to play dice games and practise oral counting.

**Parent helpers**
We will not require parent helpers in the classroom until 2\textsuperscript{nd} term as it is a very busy term and we like to give the children time to settle into school. The Canteen are always looking for willing helpers so if you have some spare time and could help at the Canteen please ring the Office and ask to be put on the roster.

Linda Ludeman and Mandi Poustie.