Prep Newsletter
5th February 2013

Welcome to the 2013 Prep Newsletter. The Prep Newsletter will be sent home each Tuesday in your child’s book cover bag. The general school newsletter will come home on Thursdays.

The Prep children are settling into school very well and are enjoying many new experiences and adventures. Prep children do not attend school on Wednesdays during Term One. They should rest on Wednesdays and are expected at school on the other days.

The Prep classes are known as Prep L (Ms Ludeman) and Prep P (Mrs Poustie).

Notes and communication
All notes, bus notes, lunch orders etc. should be sent to school in the book cover bag. Any worksheets or notes sent home will also come via the book cover bag. As children open their book cover bag as soon as they arrive at school every morning, it is the best chance for us to discover unexpected communication.

If children are unable to attend school you must forward a note to their class teacher explaining the reason for the absence. This note will be kept on the school files for seven years.

Literacy
We will spend this week focusing on developing the children’s understanding of sounds, letters and words. Most activities will be related to their names. It is important that children understand that print is talk that you can see. Letters are also sounds that you can hear. Our focus is on the sound the letter makes rather than the name of the letter.

This week we have introduced the letter ‘S’. We focus on the sound that ‘s’ makes not the letter name. To assist children to hear sounds in words we use a visual cue. This is called Cued Articulation. Information regarding the cues articulation sign will be included in the weekly Prep newsletter. Children have made a list of class words beginning with the ‘s’ sound and completed various activities related to it. Please note that words that have an ‘sh’ at the beginning such as ‘shark’ are not included in the list of ‘s’ words as they make a ‘sh’ sound not an ‘s’ sound.

Every Tuesday children will bring home their Sound Book. Each week we encourage the children to paste/draw pictures of the week’s sound on the following two pages at home. Please return the book to school by Friday each week.

Take home books (also known as readers)
Children choose their own book from their Book Box to take home. Children are not expected to ‘read’ these books. Parents may read the book to the child and ask some questions about the book. There are some excellent tips on hearing your child read in the yellow Home Reading Book. After the child has read or had the book read to them, ask the child to re-tell the story to you. This encourages children to sequence correctly and expands their language. This reading session needs
to occur daily and should only take approximately ten minutes. Please use the yellow *Home Reading* book to record the date and title of the book read. Several titles may be recorded in each box. Some of our take home reads are suffering from wear and tear. If you find a book in disrepair please send a note to us.

**Numeracy**
During Numeracy activities we will focus on oral counting, matching numbers and sorting collections into groups. Children will also play number games using dice. We encourage the children to be able to quickly recognise the number of dots on each face of the dice. This skill is called *subitising*. It is an important skill in developing Early Numeracy skills and we encourage children to regularly play games with dice both at school and home.

**Library**
Library sessions will commence this week. Children require a bag when they borrow any item from the Library. Children may change library books daily if they wish. The library is open for borrowing before school and from 1.25pm during lunchtime. Children may also borrow on their Library day.

All children need to also be enrolled as a member of the Corangamite Library to allow them to borrow *any book* that is housed in our Library. Please complete the attached form and return it to the classroom teacher if your child is not already a member of the Corangamite Library.

**Literacy and Numeracy Assessments**
On Wednesdays we will be asking some children to come to school for approximately 45 minutes to complete evaluation tasks. We try to ask children who live close to school or those who haven’t toddlers to organise to come in. The other children will be tested during school hours. Parents do not need to be school whilst the testing is taking place.

**Swimming**

Swimming will commence on Thursday 7th Feb for Prep L and Friday 8th Feb for Prep P. Please ensure you are returned the permission form by the first swimming day. Cost is $1.90 per session, or $13.30 for all swimming sessions (or please indicate on the form if you have a Pool Ticket). Please send money along on or before each swimming session.

Children should bring their swimmers, towel and goggles (if they have them) in a small backpack or bag they can easily carry over their shoulder to the pool.

The children will walk to the pool with two staff members, and will arrive at approximately 11.15am, to allow the children time to get changed before they commence their lesson at 11.30am. Parents are welcome to meet us at the pool at 11.15am to assist with changing and acting as ‘spotters’ while the children are in the pool. A reminder that toddlers are not able to swim during School swimming time as per the policy.
**SPECIALIST CLASSES**

Children will not be in their regular classroom when they have Specialists. Please check the following timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist Class</th>
<th>Prep L</th>
<th>Prep P</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Art</strong> (Lee McLeod)</td>
<td>Thursday, Session 4 (12.10 pm)</td>
<td>Thursday, Session 3 (11.30 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Library</strong> (Jenny Evans)</td>
<td>Monday, Session 5 (1.50pm)</td>
<td>Tuesday, Session 5 (1.50pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong> (Matt Haugh)</td>
<td>Friday, Session 3 (11.30 am)</td>
<td>Thursday, Session 3 (12.10pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PE</strong> (Matt Haugh)</td>
<td>Friday, Session 4 (12.10 am)</td>
<td>Thursday, Session 4 (12.10pm)</td>
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</table>

While swimming is on

If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to discuss them with us, or check in the information booklet that was included in the enrolment package that was given out at the 2012 Prep Information Night. We are not able to be personally contacted during teaching time so please leave a message with the Office Staff if you would like to speak to us and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Please tell the Office Staff (rather than us) if you are ringing about bus changes as they need to know to update the bus roll. They will then pass the message on to us.

Linda Ludeman and Mandi Poustie