Welcome back everyone!
From all the excited chatter about the holidays it sounds as if you were all very busy and the children had some great experiences.

**Prep Breakfast!**
As part of our camp program Prep children are invited to have breakfast at school on **Friday October 26th**. Please bring your child to the Prep classrooms at **8.15am**. There will be fruit, cereal and toast on the menu to be served by Mrs. Humberstone, Ms. Waterfall and some Grade 6 buddies.

The cost of this activity has been incorporated into the ‘2012 School Costs’. However, if you are in arrears of your payment plan your child may not be able to participate.

This will be a fantastic experience for all students; we are looking forward to a fun morning!

**Literacy**
We will continue our two-hour Literacy session during which children participate in reading, writing and speaking and listening activities.

**Reading**: The best way to learn to read is to read! We discuss characters and stories and talk about the strategies we can use to work out unknown words. Our author study this term is Eric Carle, so if you have any of his books at home that you wish to share, we would love to see them at school.

**Writing**: Students write every day using a variety of genres including, stories, reports, recounts, letters and lists. They are encouraged to have a go at spelling unknown words. Children are asked to read and check their work and often share it with others.

**Speaking and Listening**: Please continue to help your child prepare for their ‘Show and Tell’ day. Bringing notes, drawings or other aids often helps children speak more confidently to the class.

**Mathematics**
The one-hour numeracy block includes a strong focus on Number. We begin with a daily oral maths session including things such as counting patterns, number facts, addition, subtraction, days, months and maths games. At this stage children are usually very good at rote counting, but still need lots of practice counting objects and using materials to aid number calculations.

**Integrated Studies**
This term we will be learning about **Sustainability** and how we can reduce waste and recycle and re-use some things. There will be an excursion to **The Cooper’s Settlement** at Bundoora Farm involving some hands on experiences.

The Fire brigade will also be visiting our Prep grades to talk about fire safety.

In December we will talk about how families celebrate Christmas and enjoy some Christmas craft activities.
Home Reading
We can’t stress enough how important home reading is and appreciate your support by reading every night. Thanks to those who have volunteered their time to listen to reading at school – the kids love having you visit. We can always use more helpers so if you are available to help, let us know. Prep W especially needs helpers on Tuesday and Thursday and Prep H on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Library
We will continue visiting the library on Mondays this term. The children have been enjoying many of the new books purchased this year. Thank you to the parents who took these books home to cover. We have a few missing library books so please check at home and return any overdue books to the library.

‘Slap’ on a Hat!
Term 4 is a SUNSMART term. Please ensure your child brings their wide brimmed school hat every day. If children do not have a hat they will be asked to remain under the covered area during play times. It is also important that hats are clearly named as they are easily lost.

Head Lice
This continues to be a bit of a problem in the Prep area. Please make sure hair that is shoulder length or longer is tied back everyday. Clips are also necessary to keep hair out of the eyes. Please continue to check your child’s hair at least once a week and if head lice are found, please treat immediately and inform your class teacher. If you need any further information about treatment options, please come and see us.

Curriculum Day
We will be having a curriculum day on Monday 5th November. Teachers will be working on developing our integrated curriculum on this day. Students are not required to attend on this day.

Tissues
We would like to thank parents for their contributions of tissues throughout the year. However, we are running low – so, if you are able to donate another box of tissues it would be appreciated.

A BIG Thankyou!!!
Thank you to all parents who have helped in the Prep classes this year. We appreciate the help with Reading, PMP and Swimming. The children enjoy your company and benefit greatly from your assistance.

Ways to help your child
The best way to help your child’s education is to read with them each day. Share the take home reader, encourage retelling of the story and fluency when reading. When listening to your child read encourage predicting what will happen next and re-reading to improve comprehension. It would also be great if children could spend 5 minutes each day reading and writing the Magic words in their reader covers. Please continue to praise your child’s efforts and display and share their work.
Dates to put in your diary (More details to follow)

Monday 22nd October  Fire Brigade Visit
Friday 26th October  Prep Breakfast
Monday 29th October  Fire Brigade Visit
Wednesday 31st October  Prep 2013 Information Night
Monday 5th November  Curriculum Day
Tuesday 6th November  Public Holiday – Melbourne Cup Day
Saturday 10th November  Shopping Tour (book your tickets with Nikki Webster)
19-23rd November  Book Fair
Thursday 22nd November  Italian Carnivale Day
Friday 23rd November  P-2 Excursion – Bundoora Park
Tuesday 11th December  3-Way Conferences

Prep Specialist Timetable

There have been some minor changes to this timetable

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Canteen Day</td>
<td>School Banking</td>
<td>Prep H - PE (9.40 – 10:20)</td>
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<td>Canteen Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Prep H – Italian</td>
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<td>Prep W - PE (10.20 – 11:00)</td>
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<td>11:30-12:30</td>
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<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Prep H Art</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Prep H - Library</td>
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<td>Prep 1/2S</td>
<td>Prep H Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:30</td>
<td>RE (30min)</td>
<td>Prep PMP</td>
<td>1/2N</td>
<td>Prep W Science</td>
<td>Prep Buddies</td>
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<td>Prep W – Library</td>
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Nut Free Policy

Please remember we are a nut free school when you are packing your child’s lunch.

We are looking forward to working with you this term,

Jenny Humberstone & Trudi Waterfall
Specialist Classes

Visual Arts
During Term 4 Prep students will be very busy developing their collage skills as they create their own wonderful eye-mask for our very special 'Carnivale Day' held in November. They will also be exploring various techniques and skills involved in printing and will be able to make their own designs. Finally they will be creating some very special Christmas decorations.

Science
Preps this term will be studying Living Things. We will ask the question “What are Living Things?” and explore and observe living things in our school yard on a walking safari! We will look at how living things have similarities and differences and study their varying coverings. We will study the main parts of a plant, find out where living things are found, what they need to survive and how they use their senses. I am hoping in the last couple of weeks of term to cook a yummy Christmas treat so we, as living things, can use our sense of taste and smell.

Italian
For Italian in Term 4, the Prep children will be looking at a few folktales such as 'Giacco and il Fagiolo, Alla Festa and Pinocchio'. We will also be studying a traditional Italian festival called 'Carnevale' and learning about the different characters such as Arlecchino and Pantalone and their masks 'le maschere'. I'm planning an Italian celebration day, which will embrace the making of the mask in Visual Arts and then watching a performance called 'Pantalone's Inn'. The date for Carnevale Day is Thursday 22nd November 2012! Keep your eye out in the newsletter for more information about this celebration. Viva Carnevale!

Physical Education
The children in Prep will be focusing on their fundamental motor skills of bounce, catch, kick and hit during Term 4. Some new minor games will be introduced, to compliment and extend the children's skill levels in these areas.

The language motor program will continue to run, during this term. The children will be provided with more complex tasks, eye tracking and language to facilitate this program.