Welcome back everyone!

We hope you all had a great holiday and are ready for an exciting Term 3.

**Literacy**
This term we are doing a couple of Author studies. We will be looking at books by Linley Dodd, Pamela Allen and Eric Carle. We will be looking at the rhyme and rhythm of these stories and finding key elements authors use to make their writing interesting. Students are welcome to bring in books by these authors from home to share with the class too.

Preps are continuing to learn the 100 magic words this term. They need to know words in different contexts and be able to read them confidently, quickly and out of order before they move to the next level. It is really important that students not only know these words when practicing them, but are able to recognise them quickly when reading books. Once students know the 100 magic words by sight they will then be challenged to learn how to spell these words. Students will be given a number of words to practice at a time.

In writing we will be focusing on various genres: recounts, narratives and information reports. We will be working on recording the sounds heard, making reasoned spelling choices, adding detail and reading back writing to make sure it makes sense.

**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.

**Mathematics**
This term we will be practising more counting – including skip counting and counting backwards! We will continue working on addition strategies, including counting all, counting on and using a number line. We will also begin learning to subtract numbers. We will be doing lots of fun things with measuring, patterns and shapes too.

**Integrated Studies**
*Friendship and Fairness* is the Prep Inquiry Unit for this term. This unit is an introduction into the concept of social justice. Throughout the unit students will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of empathy and fairness in all situations. We will be linking the importance of basic classroom rules to the bigger picture of justice and the significance of respect for others.

**Key questions that will be investigated:**
- What are the best ways to show that I care about others?
- How can I stay fair when I am playing and working with my classmates and others?
- How can I make sure I get what I need without stopping others from getting what they need as well?
**Literacy Show**
As part of book week students will have the opportunity to experience the Tony Bones stage show adaptation of the story ‘Herman and Rosie’ written by Gus Gordon. ‘Herman and Rosie’ has been shortlisted for the ‘2013 Picture Book of the Year’ by The Children’s Book Council of Australia. This book will come to life on stage in a theatrical performance with music, song & dance, drama, puppetry and comedy. This will be on Thursday 12 September.

**Show & Tell**
All students have received their ‘Show and Tell’ timetable and allocated day. We would appreciate it if parents could continue helping students prepare for this. Remember children may bring photos or drawings to support their talk.

**Pre-service Teacher**
Beginning 26th August, Prep W will have a pre-service teacher working us. Her name is Jennifer Hibbert and she is from RMIT.

**CONCERT – Woo Hoo!!**
This term Prep students will be participating in their first school concert. We have begun dance practice and are having loads of fun. The concert is on **Wednesday 14 August** at Yarra Valley Gammar School in Ringwood. A note has gone home for permission to attend the rehearsal at the venue, please return this ASAP. Tickets are available from Tuesday 30 July.

**Costumes**
We are underway with getting the costumes ready for the concert. If you are able to help with preparing costumes or props please let us know (you don't have to be a whiz on the sewing machine, just have some time and a pair of scissors). On the night, students are to arrive at the venue to meet their teacher. Costumes will be waiting for students at the venue, however Preps will need to arrive in black pants/leggings – we will do the rest!

**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.

**5-cent Fund Raiser**
This term each class has a 5-cent collection tin to raise money for our school gardens. Any 5-cent pieces can be brought in and added to our collection. The tins will be weighed each week and results announced at assembly. There will be a special prize for the grade that raises the most money. Last year’s 1/2s were the winners ... which grade will collect the most 5-cent coins this year? 😊

**Curriculum Day**
We will be having a curriculum day on Tuesday 27th August. Students are not required to attend school on this day.

**Canteen**
Canteen days are Mondays and Fridays. Please see Susanne in the canteen if you can help out on either of these days.
**PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)**
The Prep PMP program is continuing this term. We have had a number of wonderful parent volunteers – thank-you! If you could join them and help out on Wednesdays 2:30–3:30pm please let us know.

**Staff Car Park**
Please remember that students are not to be dropped off or picked up via the staff car park. Please also use the path and pedestrian gate when exiting the school rather than walking through the car park.

**3 Way Conferences**
We would like to congratulate all prep students who participated in their first 3 way conferences. It was great to see you share your wonderful work with your parents.

**Wet Mornings**
As we continue through the winter season we are bound to experience some wet weather. Students are asked to wait in the undercover area near the Prep-2 playground if it is raining. Depending on the severity of the weather, an announcement will be made, directing the students into the Jan Bobin Learning Centre between 8:30am and 9:00am. We appreciate your cooperation.

**Attendance**
WHPS adheres to the Departments policy – ‘It's Not OK to be Away’.
The expectation is all students attend school, **all day – everyday**.
If your child is absent please provide a written explanation to your classroom teacher upon return to school.
It is also important that students are **at school at 9am**. Many learning opportunities are missed by students who arrive late to school.

**A Big Thank-You**
Thanks to Miss Ally Clarke who has done an amazing job replacing Mrs Humberstone over the past two weeks – Thanks Ally! We enjoyed having you and we are sure we’ll see you again soon.

**Prep Specialist Timetable** There have been some minor changes to this timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Canteen Day</td>
<td>School Banking Prep H – Art Prep W – PE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Canteen Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prep H – Science Prep W - Italian Pre W - Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prep H - PE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Prep H - Library</td>
<td>Prep H - Italian Prep W - Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 again this term,

Jenny Humberstone & Trudi Waterfall
**Specialist Classes**

**Science**
This term the Preps are studying Science as a ‘Human Endeavour’ with the unit focus on sorting objects by characteristics. We will be looking at how objects can be sorted in to all different kinds of groups such as hard and soft, wet and dry, same and different and smooth and rough. When we look at the objects we have sorted we will investigate what these objects can do for us in our everyday world. We will find out what different objects are made from and whether such materials bend, stretch, float or are waterproof. We will look at the difference between shelters and buildings and what they are made from as well as what function certain pieces of clothing can provide us.

**Italian**
Bentornati!! Welcome back!! to yet another busy term!
This term the children will be introduced to the folktale "Pinocchio", who is a traditional character from Italian children's literature. The story, written by Carlo Collodi, was first published in Italy in 1880 and since that time many versions have appeared all over the world. The story "Ecco Pinocchio" is based on the traditional story of the making of a Pinocchio puppet. The children will listen to an arcobaleno program version of the Pinocchio story where they will learn the greetings, revise a few body parts, learn traditional nursery rhymes, make a puppet, role-play the story and study the characters. The children will be introduced to many Italian websites on the topic such as Zecchino D’Oro and Languages On Line to help further consolidate the Italian language learning. The children have access to iPod touches where there’s the opportunity to be enthusiastically engaged in Italian games and many applications.