

Watsonia Heights Primary School

Prep Term 3 Newsletter 2018

Welcome back to school everyone!

We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and had a nice break. It has been lovely to see all of the Prep children back and keen to learn. We have heard a lot of chatter about all the fun activities they did on the holidays and they have had a lot to write about! A reminder that school newsletters are published fortnightly and will be available on the school website and are also published via Compass.

Dates To Remember

- Friday 27th July - School Disco Evening (Prep 3:45pm-4:45pm)
- Tuesday 31st July - WHPS Maths Night 6:30-7:30pm
- Wednesday 1st of August - 2019 Prep Playdate 4-5pm
- Thursday 2nd August - Olden Day of School
- Tuesday 7th August - Preps 100 Days of School Celebration
- Tuesday 7th August - Parenting Children Who Worry Seminar 9:30am
- Monday 13th-17th August - Science Week
- Wednesday 15th August - Whole School Concert Rehearsal at George Wood Performing Arts Centre
- Wednesday 15th August - WHPS Concert at George Wood Performing Arts Centre - Yarra Valley Grammar
- Monday 20th August - Book Week Treasure Hunt 3:30-5pm
- Wednesday 22nd August - Book Week Dress Up Day
- Friday 24th August - Curriculum Day - No School Today
- Tuesday 28th August - 2019 Prep Playdate 4-5pm
- Wednesday 29th August - Science Fair 9-11am
- Friday 31st August - Father's Day Breakfast 8-9am GP Room
- Friday 31st August - Footy Colours Day
- Tuesday 4th September - Prep-2 Mini Olympics
- Wednesday 5th September - The Great Book Swap

Term dates

Term 3: 16 July to 21 September

Term 4: 8 October to 21 December

100 Days of School - Tuesday the 7th of August

We will be having a whole day event to celebrate the milestone of the Preps completing 100 days of school! Throughout the day we will be completing activities that all relate to the number 100. This will include making 100s crowns, making 100s in various crafty and imaginative ways and making 100 wishes. Of course we can't wait to see the children's 100 Days of School craft projects that they are doing at home. Please bring them in as soon as they are ready as it will help to create an atmosphere of excitement. We will culminate the day at 2.30, with a walk around the 100 Days of School craft projects exhibition, in the central area of the BER building and presentation of achievement

certificates to all students. In the past we have noticed that the children love having their parents attend the walk around of the exhibition so it would be great to see you there. However, feel free to come and join us at any time throughout the day to help us celebrate.

Concert: Wednesday 15th August

This year's theme is celebrating our latest school initiative about the importance of sustainability for our environment. It will be held at the same venue as usual; the Yarra Valley Grammar School in Ringwood. Students have commenced rehearsals and some costumes have been distributed. A note will be sent home soon regarding what students need to wear from home on the night of the concert. All costumes are supplied by the school. We will also be sending home concert DVD orders, along with details on how to book your tickets online. Excitement is building as we anticipate another amazing concert!

School disco - get your dancing shoes on!

Tonight we are holding the annual WHPS disco! The children are very excited and have been busy thinking of song requests for the special guest DJ that will be hitting the decks from 3.45-4.45pm! Please remember to send along a named drink bottle with your child. Entry will be via the main entrance to the GP room and pick up is via the main office entrance. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon and witnessing some spectacular dance moves!

Inquiry Learning

Our inquiry topic for this term is Change. The purpose of the unit is to provide the students with an understanding of the concept of change and how it affects our lives. In our immersion phase we will be discussing and experiencing how our world and local community have changed over the last century. We have begun by looking at a presentation of photos of Greensborough in the past, to the present day. The children were fascinated with the differences in the houses, the land usage, transportation, how people dressed and how the main shopping area looked compared to how it does today. Following this we were lucky to have Laurie McQuade, a local historian come in to talk to the children about living in the olden days. The children were very engaged with his stories about what his childhood was like.



Our visit to Bundoora Park and our Olden Day school special day are our main immersion learning events. As the term progresses we will be looking more closely at the decades of the 60s, 70s and the 80s focussing on the changes in family life, toys, technology and entertainment. Our activities in the

classroom will be complimented in the children's specialist subjects, such as learning about life cycles in science.

Bundoora Park Excursion

To immerse the students in our Inquiry topic of Change, we went on an exciting excursion to the Heritage Village at Bundoora Park on Tuesday. We explored an olden day house, played olden day games (not an iPad in sight!) and even visited a replica olden day school. The children thought the olden day teachers were mean and not very funny! Some of the highlights of the day were practising the heel toe polka, visiting the farrier, writing with a quill and seeing the kangaroos and emus.



Olden Day School Day - Thursday 2nd August

On this day we will be running our classes like school was in days gone by. Our rooms will be set up differently and we will be doing work such as dictation and maths sums off the board. The children will experience older style sports and games activities including playing marbles, skipping, elastics and shoe shining! We will be dressing up like teachers from the past and we would love to see the children dress up too. As dress codes were strict in the past this means that all girls will need to be in dresses and boys in pants and a shirt. It would be great if you have something that's a little old fashioned for them to wear e.g. - boys - collared shirt with a tie and a cap, girls - long dress with long sleeves and lace, hair up in a bow and hat and all students in school shoes if you have them. Please do not go out and buy outfits especially! Whatever you have will be fine.

Nude Food

Schools nationwide are embracing the Nude Food revolution and encouraging children to bring a rubbish free lunch to school. Watsonia Heights Primary School has dived into the Nude Food initiative with great enthusiasm! The children are passionately declaring their food as Nude Food and we have seen a fantastic reduction in the amount of plastic packaging being brought to school. Our new designated eating areas have also been a great success. The school is staying cleaner and as a result, less rubbish is making its way into the environment. We wish to thank parents for their commitment and for helping us spread the message. Nude Food is a perfect opportunity to educate children about how their actions can impact the environment and their health. Together we are modelling the positive message that 'nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet'.

PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)

Thank you to parents who have helped with PMP sessions this year. The children really enjoy this program and benefit greatly from your assistance. Our wonderful PE teacher, Miss Massa runs our PMP sessions with the teachers each week. The engaging activities aim to target the development of coordination, locomotion, balance, eye tracking and fitness. Other benefits of PMP include the development of auditory, visual, language, social and memory skills. We especially love ending each session with a dance off!

Literacy

Preps have a daily, two hour English session during which children participate in Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening activities.

Reading:

During the first semester, the children have been focusing on using different reading strategies to help them read and understand books. They really enjoy working independently and in a small group during reading rotations, to complete a variety of phonics and reading tasks. We would like to say a big thank you to parents and grandparents who have listened to the children read at school this year. This individual reading time is a great opportunity for children to practise their reading and they love sharing books with an adult. We welcome new helpers to come and listen to children read, so please come along at 9am if you can help.

Writing:

At Watsonia Heights Primary School we use a writing program called VCOP that focuses on four elements to improve writing: Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. This term Preps will be working on two of these elements, Vocabulary and Punctuation. You may hear your children talk about WOW words. These are interesting or descriptive words children have identified to extend their vocabulary and to include more information in their writing. Initially in Punctuation we are focusing on capital letters, full stops and question marks.

Last week the children had their first Big Write experience, where they greatly enjoyed writing about their school holidays. We were impressed with the effort and determination that the children showed. We look forward to seeing how their writing develops over the coming weeks. By discussing the Big Write topic with your child on a Wednesday night, you will enable them to explore their ideas and set

them up for a successful writing experience. If they can't say it they can't write it, and talking with an adult helps children organise their ideas. Children write every day in Prep and they are encouraged to use their Jolly Phonic knowledge to have a go at spelling tricky words. They often write about their daily lives, as well as writing some imaginative stories and nonfiction information.

Speaking and Listening:

Oral language is an important part of Prep literacy. Please continue to help your child prepare for their Show and Tell. Bringing notes, drawings or other aids often helps children speak more confidently to the class.

Home Reading: Make family reading time an important part of your family life!

The best way to help your child's education is to read with them each day. Share the take home books and talk about the story. Encourage your child to predict what might happen next and make connections to their own life. It would also be great if children could spend 5 minutes each day reading and/or writing the Magic words.

WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY 20 MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?

Student A reads 20 minutes each day *3600 minutes in a school year *1,800,000 words *Scores in the 90 th percentile on state tests.		Student B reads 5 minutes each day *900 minutes in a school year *282,000 words *Scores in the 50 th percentile on state tests.
		Student C reads 1 minute each day *180 minutes in a school year *8,000 words *Scores in the 10 th percentile on state tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

It all adds up. Want to be a better reader? Simply Read.

Mathematics

The one hour Mathematics block continues to include a strong focus on number. At this stage in the year, children are usually very good at rote counting, but still need lots of practice counting objects and using materials to aid number calculations. We start each lesson with fun and interactive warm ups and games to get our brains in maths mode! This term we will be exploring numbers all the way up to 100. We will be revising the concepts of addition and subtraction.

The children have been challenging their creativity by exploring real world maths problems. They loved ordering Costco shopping lists and working out which aisles they should visit. They designed a new suburb which incorporated graphing, counting, statistics and addition. A particular favourite was

surveying each other to find out what sports equipment our school should buy with our Coles vouchers! The children can't wait to keep extending their problem solving skills in maths this term.

Game Show Family Maths Night - C'mon Down!

After the success of last year's family maths nights, we will once again be holding an evening full of maths games and challenges for all WHPS families. There will be game show hosts scattered throughout the school with fun challenges that the whole school can participate in. More information will be provided via Compass. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Specialist Timetable

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 - 10:00		School Banking Day	Canteen Day		Canteen Day
10:00 - 11:00		Prep M: Science Prep G: DLC Odd Weeks			
RECESS					
11:30 - 12:30	PMP: PC: 11:35-12:05 PM: 12:10-12:40 PG: 12:45-1:15	Prep M: DLC Odd Weeks	Prep G Library	Prep C: PE Prep M: Music Prep G: Science	Prep G: Mandarin
12:30 - 1:00		Prep C: DLC Odd Weeks	Prep M Library	Prep C: Science Prep M: PE Prep G: Music	Prep G: PE Prep C: Mandarin
1:00 - 1:30					
LUNCHTIME					
2:30 - 3:00		Prep C: Music PM: Mandarin	Prep C Library		Prep Buddies Assembly
3:00 - 3:30					



Nut Free Policy

Please be vigilant in observing our nut free policy as we do have children in the prep/1/2 area with severe nut allergies.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to come and see us.

Ally Clarke Bec Mead Angela Gray

clarke.allison.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

mead.rebecca.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

gray.angela.m@edumail.vic.gov.au