



#Marg's Photo

PREP NEWSLETTER TERM 1, 2020

Welcome

Dear Parents,
We would like to officially welcome you to the new school year. For a few of you this is not a new experience and for those of you who are just beginning your school journey at St Paul's we hope you are settling in as well as all of your beautiful children.

The children have had a wonderful start to their first year at school. They have met up with Year 5 buddies, and have attended their first school Mass. They have also had their first shared playtime with the whole school. We look forward to working in collaboration with you as we strive to make your child's first year of school a happy and memorable one. Please note that as from next Monday students will be asked to line upon the snake outside and wait for their teacher to come and collect them in the morning when the bell rings.

Kind regards,
Marg Mitchell & Kate
Brandon



Religion

Each morning at 8:55am we begin the day with Christian meditation and prayer. The children will gather around our class prayer cloth at the sound of the meditation music played throughout the school. We invite parents to join us for meditation from week 5, as by this stage the children will be familiar with the routines of school.

The children will learn about the stories of Jesus and make connections to their own experiences of family and friendship. They will reflect on what it means to be a part of a community by identifying their own experiences of welcoming or being welcomed. Children will be introduced to our prayer space and some of the objects and symbols that make up this space. As we prepare for Easter we will share many stories about Lent and Holy Week with a focus on the way Jesus teaches us to love and serve. Storytelling, symbols and actions are a key part to sharing our faith traditions during our lessons in religion.

Seesaw

This school year, our class will be using Seesaw, a secure online learning journal where students can create and upload artifacts to document their learning. Your child will add things like photos, videos, and voice recordings to their Seesaw journal. We would like everyone to sign up for a Seesaw Parent account to be notified when your child adds new content and have access to their journal. Login information to follow.

Code of Cooperation

Both classes have been working on developing their Mr Potato Head "Code of Co-operation". The "Code of Co-operation is designed to assist the children have a shared understanding of the expectations of the classroom to ensure everyone is able to learn, be safe and have fun.



Literacy

The Literacy Program enhances each child's literacy skills and knowledge and develops the foundations for future learning. The program aims to develop the student's ability in the areas of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. The students are involved in specific learning and teaching sessions and participate in a variety of learning tasks developed to suit their needs.

This term we will explore books and begin to look at strategies for reading. We will further develop the children's understanding of the alphabet with sound/letter relationships. Take Home Reading will begin when students start full weeks of school in March. Children will be encouraged to share their thinking through writing and recording ideas. We will introduce correct letter formation and pencil grip and begin to discuss strategies for spelling.



Numeracy

This Term we will be exploring the numbers from 1 to 10 by identifying, making collections and writing the numerals. Children will practice counting from 1 to 10 both forwards and backwards from different starting points. The children will identify patterns and experiment in repeating these. In Measurement and Geometry, the children will sort, describe, and name 2D shapes. Students will experiment with collecting and representing data and answering yes/no questions when interpreting data.

Inquiry

This Term the children we will be investigating the theme of relationships and belonging. We will be learning about the importance of belonging to include friendship groups, our family group and the school community.

As part of our social emotional learning we will discuss friendships, what makes a good friend and how the choices we make affect others. A major part of these lessons is done through reading picture story books so the children can identify characteristics of good friends through the characters.

Communication

With everyone's days becoming increasingly busy please feel free to email us for simple correspondence or to arrange a time to discuss any concerns. Email is also an appropriate way to communicate your child's absence from school.

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Margaret

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Investigations

This Term the preps will engage in three sessions of developmental play each week. Through play children develop fine and gross motor skills, creativity and imagination. Engaging in appropriate play-based experiences will support the development of the children's communication skills, persistence and resilience while also supporting their ability to successfully work in teams.

Parent Helpers

From Term 2, we will require parent helpers in the classroom to assist with rotational activities during our Literacy block. This is a teaching time and so unfortunately younger siblings are not able to be in the rooms as it is a distraction to the children's learning. In order to be able to participate as a parent helper, you are required to have completed a Literacy training session and hold a current working with children's card. Dates for these training

Student Absences

We ask that a phone call to the office or a short email be sent to the teacher and the office when your child is going to be absent.

Important Dates

- Prep Information Night 25th February
- Students begin full time 2nd March
- Labour Day Public Holiday 9th March
- Last Day of Term 25th March 2:30 finish.

Specialist Time Table

Beginning week 3 students will participate in all specialist subjects.

Prep K -

Sport - Students are to wear their sports uniforms on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Lote - Every second Monday.

Art - Monday

Performing Arts - Monday

ICT - Tuesday

Library -.Wednesday

Prep M - Students are to wear their sports uniform on Monday and Thursday.

Lote - Every second Monday

Art - Wednesday

Performing Arts - Monday

Library - Thursday

ICT - Tuesday

Birthday Celebrations

The children are able to bring in a small treat to share with the class. As we are encouraging healthy eating a good choice could be a fruit kebab, popcorn or an icy pole.

Just a reminder that no party invitations can be given out at school except when the whole Grade is being invited. Parents can use the Friendship List to post invitations.

Healthy Eating

All children at school will have a fruit/vegetable **only** break around 10am daily. We ask that all Preps bring their water bottle and cut up fruit/vegetable into the classroom when they arrive and place it on the Healthy Food/ Water Bench (Please label all items with your child's name).

The next break is at 10.45am and your child can have a small snack before the 1st play time.

Our lunch break will be at 1.40pm and the children have their sandwich/ wrap/ packed food and little snack.

Performing Arts - This term in performing arts the children will be exploring ways to express their ideas through drama and creative movement. The children will be using their imaginations and developing their creativity through role play, improvisations and story telling. We will be going on many wonderful adventures as the children learn to share ideas, work collaboratively and build new relationships.



.PE

During Term 1 Phys Ed the children in Prep will focus on the areas of Basic Movement, Ball Handling and Games. Skills that will be covered will include throwing, catching, bouncing, running, jumping, skipping and hopping. The children will also participate in games that develop communication, cooperation, body awareness and teamwork.

sessions will be confirmed shortly.

Lost Property

Please ensure that *everything* your child brings to school is clearly labeled with a permanent marker.

Please ensure you rename second hand uniform items as it can be hard to track down the owner when the name of the item is not that of your child. If your child loses an item, please check Lost Property which is located in the Sickbay Area near the Office.

Art- Foundation students will be introduced to expressing their own ideas and developing art skills and techniques using different mediums within the Art room space. They will establish Art room routines and respectful interactions in art and experiences in developing fine motor skills and awareness of shape, line and colours will be practised. We will explore emotional literacy in visual art, focusing on 'Summer Holidays', 'Knowing Me; Knowing You', using different art mediums.

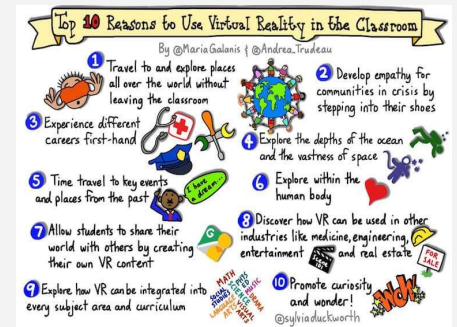


Japanese

What an exciting milestone to be a part of your child's educational journey in 2020! This term in Japanese, the lessons are conducted on Mondays for 40 minutes. Each class will participate in alternating weeks: Prep K (even weeks: 2, 4, 6 and 8) Prep M (odd weeks: 3, 5, 7 and 9) Our focus is exchanging greetings and farewells with appropriate gestures.

ICT/DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Thanks to the P&F, last year I was able to purchase a Virtual Reality kit. It has finally arrived and we are all very excited about its prospects.



This term all students will be immersed in new learning using the Virtual Reality headsets and an app called Google Expeditions.

Imagine a class full of children taking an immersive, guided tour through some of the cultural gems and natural marvels of our world (and even some off planet!). The idea that we could access 360, immersive imagery was like science fiction a few years ago, until Google combined the power of VR headsets with gigapixel quality imagery and the Expeditions software which provides detailed background notes in each scene. The possibilities are endless and now we are able to take the whole class on a virtual field trip. Where possible, all VR experiences will be linked to classroom learning, however I think learning will take place regardless due to the experiences the students will have.