

Prep Newsletter

What have we been up to??????

Literacy Time

Our Literacy Unit is called 'Let's Love Listening' and the students are learning how to be good listeners so they can transfer this skill to other areas of learning. It's important that children in the early years have time to establish and build foundational literacy skills, particularly in auditory processing, oral language and phonological and phonemic awareness. This unit will begin to develop the fundamental skills that will then be built on in subsequent units and transformed across subjects through other units and inquiries.

During Literacy time, Prep students have been increasing their sight word knowledge by using new words to make sentences to read to the class. The students are all becoming more confident in creating sentences from sight and having a go at making their own. They practise pointing to each of the words as they read, and listen to see if the words make sense together.

During our spelling focus Letters and Sounds, students are learning the letters s, a, t and p. We have been playing sound games, learning about 'sound buttons', practising to write letters with the correct formation, and identifying sounds in the beginning, middle and end of words. We even ate spaghetti so we could practise the letter 's'!

During the last few weeks the students have been practising their reading skills, with teacher support, and have been working hard to sound out unfamiliar words and to have a go when unsure. This practice, to embed strategies and skills of a good reader at a young age, is imperative. With consistent practice and praise, students are able to develop their skills as part of their natural reading ability.

We have been reading daily stories in Prep and have been learning to listen and identify rhyme. We sing nursery rhymes and play rhyming games to help consolidate this learning.

During Oral Language time the students have been sharing their items from home that begin with the focus letter for that week. They are developing their speaking and listening skills as well as their vocabulary.



Australian Curriculum

Reading

Read decodable and predictable texts, practising phrasing and fluency, and monitor meaning using concepts about print and emerging contextual, semantic, grammatical and phonic knowledge.

Alphabet Practice

Produce some lower case and upper case letters using learned letter formations.

Sharing Books

Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences.

Australian Curriculum

Science as a Human Endeavour

Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses.

Science Understanding

Living things have basic needs, including food and water.

Earth and Space Sciences

Daily and seasonal changes in our environment affect everyday life.

HASS

- The different structures of families and family groups today, and what they have in common
- Who the people in their family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other
- The places people live in and belong to, their familiar features and why they are important to people
- The reasons why some places are special to people, and how they can be looked after.

INQUIRY UNIT - CARING FOR OUR WORLD

Within this unit, the students are learning how to care for themselves, their family, animals and special places. It is important for the students to understand how to care for the world around them, what it means to care and what would happen if we didn't care.

PLAY BASED LEARNING - VET CLINIC

During play-based learning times, Preps have been exploring the different roles within a vet clinic and how to care for animals. They have discovered that organisation is needed within the clinic to ensure that things are put away properly and not lost. In order to do this, we have made some signs and have labelled items.

Prep students are really enjoying playing in a real life play environment.

Numeracy Time

Prep students have been learning about times of the day (day and night), sequencing events, making groups of numbers that are the same and different, counting collections and using ordinal numbers .

At the beginning of the term, Prep students were learning all about the differences between day and night. They practised reading o'clock times and recognising different times of the day. They also looked at the activities that they might do each day at those particular times. We learnt that some students have different bed times to other students and we drew a graph to represent this.

Recently during Numeracy times, students have been ordering numbers from 1 to 20. They have had to recognise the smallest number and order them to the largest. This involves the students having a knowledge of counting strategies and the ability to recognise small and large numbers.

In Prep, we are also learning about making groups of numbers and making one more, and one less. This is helping the students to develop early multiplication, addition and subtraction skills.

During daily warm ups we are continuing to practise writing and recognising numbers up to and beyond twenty, the days of the week, the months of the year, counting to 100, and counting in twos and fives. We do this through song, rhyme and games.

Australian Curriculum

What should the students be learning?

- Establish understanding of the language and processes of counting by naming numbers in sequences, initially to and from 20, moving from any starting point
- Connect number names, numerals and quantities, including zero, initially up to 10 and then beyond
- Subitise small collections of objects
- Compare, order and make correspondences between collections, initially to 20, and explain reasoning
- Represent practical situations to model addition and sharing
- Use direct and indirect comparisons to decide which is longer, heavier or holds more, and explain reasoning in everyday language
- Answer yes/no questions to collect information and make simple inferences



RELIGION

During religion lessons, Prep students have been learning all about Lent which is a time of waiting for Easter. We are also currently learning about Holy Week and the events and significance of each day.

Ash Wednesday was an exciting day this term where the students received a cross on their foreheads to mark the first day of Lent.

We celebrated St Patrick's Day on the 17th March and the students had a wonderful time at our St Brigid's Sports Afternoon. Prep students competed in an 'Irish Yaler' (Irish relay but backwards) where they

had to run a relay backwards with a shamrock in hand. This helped the students to develop team work skills and participate in a fun sporting event. All the students showed great sportsmanship throughout the day and cheered both their classmates and house teams on.

The students have been learning all about prayer and are becoming quite confident at taking on the role of prayer leader. The students have been exposed to the wonders of Godly Play and we have looked at the story of the Good Shepherd.

