

Prep Newsletter

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

Literacy Time

Prep students have been very busy learning about letters, words, learning to read, write and spell.



During Literacy time, Prep students have been making sentences and reading them to the class. They each have a set of cards and use them to form sentences that make sense. They are practising pointing to each word and reading from left to right. Each week we add new words to the sets.

We have also been learning to write the alphabet using the correct letter formation. We have been practising by using whiteboards, chalk boards, pencils and play dough.

During 'Letters and Sounds', which is our spelling focus, students are learning the letters s, a, t and p. The students need to be able to identify the sound through hearing it, reading it, saying the letter name and the letter sound, writing the letter and using/recognising it in and at the start of words. The students have been practising their reading skills in small Guided Reading groups. We discuss the books and are learning that some of the words are repeated from page to page and we need to remember them. We have also been sharing books as a whole class and talking about the characters and their feelings.

Australian Curriculum

Guided 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 learnt 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.

INTEGRATED UNIT - 'OUR PEOPLE, PLACES AND LIVING THINGS'

During our Integrated Unit, Prep students have been learning to use their 5 senses to explore and understand their world. We have been learning about living things and what they need to stay alive. Prep students have discovered that living things need air, water, food and sunlight to survive. They are beginning to understand that observing is an important part of science and that scientists discuss and record their observations. The students are learning that the survival of all living things is reliant on basic needs being met and there are consequences when needs are not met. We have been sharing ideas about some sustainable practices that the students could implement to support and protect their local living things.

We have also been talking about our families and are investigating our own personal stories, including family backgrounds and relationships within our families. Through an appreciation of family stories, the students will develop an understanding of their own history. They will also examine family structures and appreciate that diverse family groups today have commonalities as well as differences.

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.

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

- 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.

Numeracy Time

Prep students have been learning to count collections, make patterns, sequence events and write numbers correctly.

Each student has been working hard to sort collections into things that are the same and different. In order to do this effectively, they must look at the features of objects.

We have also been making repeating patterns using familiar objects. We have learnt that saying the pattern out loud helps us to repeat it.

Students practised in groups and individually to sequence daily events. They had to make sure that the events were in the right order and that the sequence made sense when read from left to right.

Prep have been busily counting collections. We point to each object and say a number to be able to count correctly. Sometimes we have to start counting again if we make a mistake. We are also practising writing our numbers and if they are not correct, we try again. The students have shown great resilience in this area. They seek advice and try their hardest to do their best.

Australian Curriculum

What should the students be learning?

Sorting Objects

Sort and classify familiar objects and explain the basis for these classifications.



Making Patterns

Copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings.

Counting Collections

Compare, order and make correlations between collections, initially to 20, and explain reasoning.

Establish understanding of the language and processes of counting by naming numbers in sequences, initially to and from 20, moving from any starting point.



Sequencing Events

Compare and order duration of events using everyday language of time.

RELIGION

During Religion lessons, Prep students have been learning about prayer and how to pray to God. Each student has been taking a turn at laying out the prayer basket items and placing them in the centre of our prayer circle. They do this in silence and with great reverence.

We have been exploring 'Godly Play' this term and have re-enacted the Good Shepherd story. We are learning that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the children are His sheep. The students are also learning that they can depend on Jesus to watch over them, guide them, care for them and keep them safe.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

We are also learning about Lent and the specific days in Lent and Easter. These are days we need to know and ponder - Ash Wednesday, Passion Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The students participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy and received ashes on their foreheads. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the beginning of a time where we pray, share and are helpful. Prep students have been discussing ways that they can be kind to each other.

