



Prep Unit Newsletter -No 5

July 2008

Welcome back! It is fantastic to see well rested children ready to settle back into school routine.

Deep knowledge:

In our deep knowledge topic this term, **The days of yesterday and the future of tomorrow**, the children will discuss and discover how people use and care for the environment. The children will be asking the question: Our world, Our Future. Can we make a difference?

They will identify, explore, describe and discuss the factors and features which affect them and the natural and built environments in which they live. They begin to suggest ways which they can care for these environments and why they should care for them. Students should be able to explore their feelings towards the environment.

Starting School:

It is great to see so many of the students getting themselves organised in the morning by placing their bag in their bag bay, choosing a take home book and getting themselves ready for the school day on their own! Well done!! **Please ensure your child is ready to begin the school day at 9am. Thank you!**

Saying goodbye to your child in the breezeway is a great way to develop their independence. It also helps to ease congestion in the corridor and children can get ready themselves more easily. By allowing your child to walk into class on their own develops their independence and foster confidence in their own abilities. This will help us consolidate the You Can Do It foundation of confidence which we are addressing this term! Thank you!!

Homework:

Each child is expected to read 5 nights a week and revise wordlists. After the wordlists are completed children will be given 5 words on a regular basis to learn how to spell using a variety of fun activities.

Concert: Thursday 11th September 2008.

Our school concert will be held on Thursday 11th September at the Arena. We are currently practising very hard to make this special night a wonderful spectacle. We will be performing songs about 'A magical kingdom'. We encourage parents to keep costumes very simple and a further note regarding costumes will be sent home soon. More information about tickets and the concert night will also be in the newsletter.

Uniform:

Just a reminder that uniform this Term DOES NOT include summer dresses. Winter Uniform includes: Green track pants or jeans (from uniform shop), Red polo tops - long or short sleeve, red skivvies, Bellaire jumpers, and kilts. Green stockings may be worn. White socks and black shoes complete the correct uniform picture!! Thank you!

Reading Challenge:

Thank you to the parents who have entered their children's books online. If parents have been unable to enter books on the website, then books read will be entered online at school. Each classroom has been keeping a list of books read at school and these will be entered for each child. Shortly a permission form will be sent home for each child, stating that the challenge has been completed and asking for permission to publish each child's name.

Classroom Helpers:

Thank you to the parents who have been helping out in their child's classroom. We understand that not everyone is available during the day so a thank you also goes out to those parents who have offered to help in other ways! We invite you to continue visiting your child's classroom this term at your regular time. If any changes are made to the Prep timetables, we will inform you as soon as possible to arrange a new time for you if necessary. Please remember that any insights gained into all children's learning are to remain strictly confidential. We look forward to your continuing support!

We are looking for a Parent Helper who can spare an hour every couple of weeks to laminate and bind books. If you are able to help could you please contact Jodi Schulz. Thank you

Healthy Eating:

Students are encouraged to have a bottle of water and a container of cut up fruit on their table throughout the day.

You Can Do It:

This term the foundation that we will be learning about is confidence.

Confidence means feeling I can do it and having trust in yourself.

Confidence also means not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new. The information below provides some different examples that demonstrate confident behaviour.

- Use your big voice so people can hear you.
- Make yourself big and tall.
- Look at people who are talking to you
- Try to do hard things be yourself without asking the teacher or parents for help right away.
- Try to do new things without being afraid to make mistakes.
- Talk to and play with many children at school.
- Tell others what you think and what you want to do.

Please encourage and praise your child if they are showing some confident behaviour.

Handwriting:

This Term the Prep students have been learning to write on 'dotted thirds' in our new writing books. Attached to this newsletter is an example of each letter and how it is positioned on 'dotted thirds'. It makes a great reference tool to keep at home!

Communication: If you have a concern or query, please see your child's teacher. If it is a quick question or concern it is best to see your child's teacher before 9am. However please make an appointment if you require a longer discussion. After 9am we are busy beginning our day and would prefer interruptions are kept to a minimum. Diaries are a valuable source of communication between home and school and are checked daily for

messages.

Thank you for your support and if you have any concerns please see your child's teacher.

Carly Fantini, Blanche Cook, Jodi Schulz and Jo Barry