

Prep Teaching and Learning News – Term 1

Welcome to 2017

Welcome to term 1, 2017. For some families, it is a welcome back to Westgarth after the summer holidays, while for other families, it is a welcome to Westgarth Primary School. Term 1 in Prep is all about the students settling into school and learning the routines and what is expected of them at school. It is also about meeting new people and starting to learn to be independent. So far, they seem to have settled in very well.

For the first six weeks, Preps have Wednesdays at home. On Wednesday, the Prep teachers complete one on one testing for all Prep students. Parents selected a time at Prep Transition in December last year and it is important that you attend the chosen time. Prep testing timetables are posted near the door of your child's classroom. Please see your child's class teacher to book a time, if you have not yet booked one. Once all the Prep testing is complete, we will then be able to create a differentiated curriculum – extending the students who require extension and supporting those who may need extra assistance.

In Prep, we love to have parent helpers in the classrooms. Parent helpers may listen to students read, help with small group activities during literacy or maths as well as helping out with odd jobs around the classroom, such as laminating or pencil sharpening (there is an electric pencil sharpener!). Keep an eye on the newsletter or Tiqbiz for information on the parent helper information sessions. To be a parent helper, you will need a 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC) and have attended the parent helper session, where possible.

We hope you and your child have a fantastic term in Prep!

Prep Teaching Team,

Kenji, Terri, Ellie, Winter and Stacey

Important Dates /Upcoming Events

15 February	Prep Testing (Please check Timetable and attend you allocated session)
17 February	Welcome Picnic (Clarke Street Oval - 6:00pm to 8:00pm)
22 February	Prep Testing (Please check Timetable and attend you allocated session)
1 March	Prep Testing (Please check Timetable and attend you allocated session)
8 March	Prep Testing (Please check Timetable and attend you allocated session)
8 March	Prep Information Night – 6:30pm to 7:10pm in Prep Ellie's Room
13 March	Labour Day Public Holiday (No School)
15 March	No Preps
20 March	Preps begin school full time
21 March	School Photographs
31 March	Last day of term – 2:30pm finish

Student expectations

By Term 1 we expect all students to:

- Know and complete morning routines **independently**

How you can help your child at home

- Model a positive attitude towards school and all learning experiences
- Maintain a consistent before and after school routine to help your child to be organised and be responsible for their belongings

What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH

Reading and Viewing

The Preps have started to be involved in various daily reading-related activities. We are continuing to use a new literacy program, which was introduced in 2016, that will teach phonics in a specific order to enable students to begin to decode (read) simple books towards the end of term. Take-home readers will start at the beginning of Term 2. We will also be focusing on a lot of phonemic awareness activities, including rhyme, listening to syllables as well as listening and counting the number of sounds in words. Each week, there is a letter sent home, which accompanies the letter/sound of the week.



This letter has ideas of activities you can do at home with your child, as well as explaining what they will be learning at school that week.



Writing

Writing in Term 1 of Prep is all about students having a go. It will include things like writing the sound of the week from the Little Learners Love Literacy program to making sure students have the correct pencil grip.

Speaking and Listening

There are daily opportunities for students to practise speaking and listening through class discussions and share time.

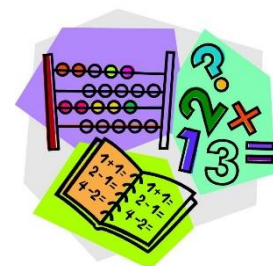
This term's speaking and listening topic is 'Belonging'. Students will be encouraged to share 'belonging' related items with the class when it is their designated day for sharing. A timetable will be sent home shortly. Some of the things that can be shared or talked about might include:

- photos or drawings of your family
- your favourite game or toy
- a special family memory (from a holiday or special occasion)
- something interesting about yourself that you would like the class to know

MATHEMATICS

Number and Algebra

Most of term 1 will be focused on number. We will be doing a lot of counting and representing numbers from 0 to 10, but also extending those students who can already count to 10. We will be explicitly teaching the formation of the numbers 0 to 10 to ensure the students are writing them correctly.



Measurement and Geometry

Later in the term, we will be looking at the days of the week as well as sorting and describing two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.

Statistics and Probability

We will begin to look at data towards the end of term. Our inquiry topic, 'Belonging' will provide opportunities for students to gather data, such as comparing the number of people in families to who belongs to other community groups. We will display results of our data collection in graphs.

INQUIRY

Our inquiry topic is 'How do I belong?' We are looking forward to learning about each other's families and groups that students belong to. Please bring in a small, framed family photo for class display. A timetable will also be coming home which will explain our class news topic, which will also be about 'belonging'.

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

Specialist Timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education	PREP WINTER PREP STACEY	PREP ELLIE PREP KENJI PREP TERRI			
Music	PREP ELLIE	PREP STACEY		PREP WINTER PREP KENJI PREP TERRI	
Science/Spanish	PREP TERRI	PREP ELLIE		PREP STACEY PREP KENJI	PREP WINTER
Art/Spanish	PREP KENJI	PREP TERRI		PREP STACEY	PREP ELLIE PREP WINTER
Computer Lab	PREP TERRI	PREP KENJI		PREP ELLIE	PREP STACEY PREP WINTER
Library	PREP STACEY			PREP KENJI PREP TERRI PREP WINTER	PREP ELLIE

Physical Education

The Physical Education program helps students develop a broad range of fundamental skills and movement patterns, using different sporting equipment in a range of environments. We will be encouraging fair play, good sportsmanship and participation throughout the program. Most importantly we will be having lots of fun while keeping fit and active.



Music

This term in music the prep students will be getting used to getting to and from the music room as well as becoming familiar with the routines and expectations that are in place. We will be exploring the difference between beat and rhythm and using different untuned percussion instruments to help with this. We will be learning some songs requiring the students to create actions to suit the words as well as learning one or two partner dances. We will also be exploring the concept of echo singing and echoing different rhythms using untuned percussion.

Science/Spanish

In term 1, Prep students will be introduced to the Spanish language by observing the patterns of events that occur on Earth such as the appearance of the moon and the stars at night and the weather. Students will be encouraged to make observations using their senses to find out more about the weather. While exploring these concepts, students will learn how to greet in Spanish according to the time of the day and make and answer questions about the weather.

Art/Spanish

In term one students in prep are going to create an artwork to communicate their responses to the books “The Dot” and “Ish” by Peter H. Reynolds, great books to reinforce the values of creativity and resilience. Students are going to explore how primary colours mix to make secondary colours while learning the names for the colours in Spanish. They are going to start experimenting with line, colour, shape, pattern and repetition through drawing and painting. Throughout the term students are going to learn basic Spanish sentences to greet, introduce themselves and to be able to function in the Spanish/art classroom. To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website <http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>.



Performing Arts/Spanish

Performing Arts in Spanish will be delivered in one 50 min session per week in term 3. Students will explore ideas and improvise with ways to represent them, develop an understanding of performing arts practices and share their work through performance.

The Performing Arts program is planned and delivered so that Spanish language introduced in Art and Science is reused, consolidated and extended.

Student Wellbeing



Students will focus on activities to support making friends and co-operation. They will also complete other collaborative tasks under the KidsMatter framework – a mental health initiative, which focuses on building positive communities both between students and families and the school.