



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope that you all had a lovely break and have come back to school fully energised for the final term of Prep!

With only 11 weeks to go until the end of the 2017 school year, it is amazing to look back and reflect on what a great year we have had! We can't believe that the Preps are nearly in Grade 1!

Students have another busy term ahead of them with lots of activities and events to look forward to. The Preps will be visiting the Royal Botanical Gardens, growing their own vegetable garden and participating in transition, in order to be ready for Year 1.

This term, the students will also have Spanish/Performing Arts lessons on top of their other specialist classes.

The prep team would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for their ongoing support and assistance. Your help in classrooms and at home is very much appreciated.

We look forward to another exciting and rewarding term.

Prep Teaching Team,

Ellie, Kenji, Terri, Stacey and Winter

Prep Diary Dates

9 October	First Day of Term 4 – 9:00am
OCTOBER	Walktober – Walk, scoot, bike to school every day during October!
22 October	Whopping Great Big Fete: 10am – 4pm (Clarke Street)
October/November	Excursion to Royal Botanical Gardens (Date to be confirmed)
October/November	School Nurse visiting Preps (Date to be confirmed)
6 November	Curriculum Day (Student-free Day)
7 November	Melbourne Cup Day (Public Holiday)
14 November	Maths Night – 5:30pm to 7:00pm
12 December	Prep to Grade 1 Transition Day
15 December	Reports go home
22 December	Last Day of Term 4 and 2017 – students finish at 1:30pm

2018

January 2018	First day of Term 1, 2018 (Grade 1 to 6 students)
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Prep Students Social Development Term 4

It's great to see the confidence that the preps exhibit both in the playground and within each teaching and learning space. As they become more confident, the social interactions can become trickier for them to manage. This may lead to potential conflict where some students take on natural leadership roles and others may choose to follow or not. Students can become disgruntled if others choose not to engage in the games that they would like to play outside or to follow the rules determined by others.

It is important to remember to reinforce 'be fair, safe, and friendly' as students move through the school and remind them to seek out teachers to help, if they cannot resolve a play-based issue. The school is best placed to deal with any perceived conflict between students.

At Westgarth Primary School, we understand that:

- All children are different and we value diversity
- All children need support when making choices at times
- Children need to be encouraged to ask teachers for help
- Children learn from making mistakes
- Children develop and change over time
- It takes time for school staff to unpack situations
- Bullying will not be tolerated

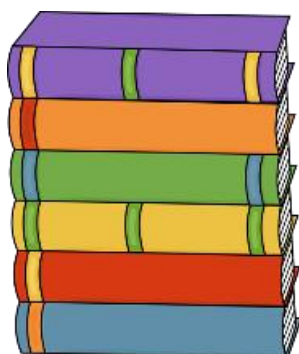
Sexuality Education will also be taught by the classroom teacher in term 4 over a sequence of three lessons. From prep – year 2 this will centre on knowledge areas such as protective behaviours, understanding your body and family systems. The program will be modelled off *Catching on Early*, which is the Department's recommended resource. For more information, please see the Department's [website](#).

We ask parents and carers to:

- Listen to all concerns/issues with an open mind as social interactions can be complex and everyone will have a different perspective about the same event
- Attend school grounds as a positive community member
- Come and speak to us if you have concerns

What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH



Reading and Viewing

The Little Learners Love Literacy program continues to be very successful in the Prep area. In Reading, we are starting to learn about vowel diagraphs (two letters, one sound). Vowels can make short and long sounds and we have already learnt the 'short' vowel sounds so now we are moving on to the 'long' vowel sounds. For example: /ay/ and /ai/ both make the same sound! However, students will learn that 'ay' appears at the end of a word as in **play**, whereas 'ai' occurs in the middle of a word such as snail. Students will be working very hard on their phonemic awareness (listening to sounds) this term!

Writing

Prep students continue to 'have a go' during writing sessions and implement their knowledge of letters and sounds to help them sound out words when writing. This term, we are learning more complex letter combinations, which builds on their knowledge of digraphs (two letters, one sound) from last term. Students will participate in spelling sessions where they need to listen to a word or phrase and write what they hear. We will write a letter to someone about our holiday and a recount about the school fete. We will be writing stories this term and we will also be learning how to write a procedure on how to plant a seedling.



Speaking and Listening

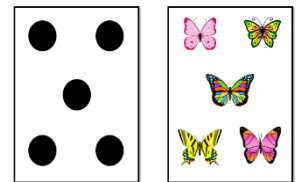
There are daily opportunities for students to practise speaking and listening through class discussions and share time. There will also be another daily news share time – based on our inquiry topic about 'gardening'. A note and timetable will come home shortly. Please make sure your child is sharing something to do with this topic.

MATHEMATICS

Number and Algebra



We start this term off by copying, continuing and creating patterns. We will continue to do a lot of oral counting as revision, often focusing on counting backwards from 20 as well as counting objects. We will be matching number words to numerals and objects. We will be looking at location and how to give directions and as well as how to share items into groups (division). We will also revise ordinal numbers.



Measurement and Geometry

This term we are revising 2D shapes and 3D objects as well as revising length and mass. We will be using vocabulary such as 'heavy' and 'light' and comparing the mass of everyday objects.

INQUIRY

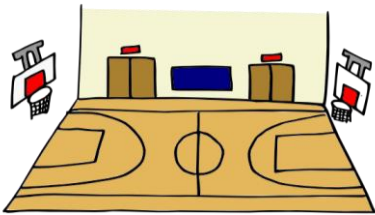
This term, through our 'Gardening' inquiry unit, Preps will be learning about how does a healthy garden grow as well as looking at how is gardening helpful to the environment. We will look at the life cycle of a plant and have the opportunity to grow our own plants as well as contribute to our communal Prep garden. We will also be learning about parts of plant, composting and seasonal planting. A highlight this term will be an excursion to the Royal Botanical Gardens where we will participate in an education session as well as being able to walk around and look at the variety of plants in the gardens.



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
Performing Arts / Spanish	PREP STACEY PREP KENJI PREP TERRI PREP WINTER	PREP ELLIE			
Computer Lab	PREP TERRI	PREP KENJI		PREP ELLIE	PREP STACEY PREP WINTER
Library	PREP STACEY			PREP KENJI PREP TERRI PREP WINTER	PREP ELLIE

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Term 4 will see students jumping horizontally, vertically, hopping and leaping. We will be putting skills we have been developing throughout the year into game situations. Do not be surprised if you see us running around the bases while we play tee ball, scoring goals during soccer, striking with our hockey sticks during scooter hockey and catching the other team's ball during skittles. Being a good sport and team-mate will continue to be a focus.

MUSIC

In term 4, prep students will be consolidating skills in reading and playing simple rhythms as well as using tuned percussion instruments to improvise and create simple melodies to accompany chord patterns. We will be learning about the



musical element "dynamics" and how it is used to communicate musical ideas. We will be experimenting with a wider variety of instruments

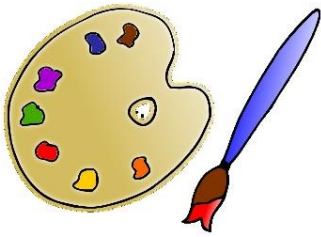
this term to start composing our own music. Building on our repertoire of songs and dances will also be a focus. Listening and responding to music through discussion and movement will also form part of the curriculum.



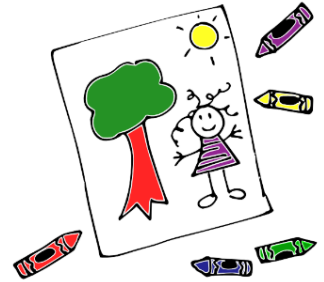
SPANISH / SCIENCE

In term 4, Prep students will explore the use of materials that make up familiar objects. Students will be encouraged to make observations using their senses to identify different materials for particular uses in the world around them. They will be also able to classify these objects according to their observable properties such as colour, texture and flexibility. By the end of this unit, prep students will be able to use Spanish language to identify and describe different objects around them.

SPANISH / VISUAL ARTS



In term four we are going to be very busy in the art room finishing up projects and making a collaborative mural for the entrance of the school. Students in prep are going to continue to explore different materials and techniques including printing with foam. They are going to investigate the art from Spanish artist Miró and make a traditional Spanish fan. Along the way students are going to continue to learn Spanish vocabulary for materials and actions in the art room, colours and shapes, parts of the body and weather vocabulary.



To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website <http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>