

Prep Term Letter, Term 2, 2019

Dear Prep Families,

Welcome to Term 2 of Prep at Our Lady of Dolours. Multiple topics will be covered in each subject area. Units are short and sharp which help students stay engaged throughout the term.

I also welcome Annabella Eaton (Miss Eaton). Annabella is currently a 4th year student at the Australian Catholic University.

Annabella will be completing her final placement at OLD in the Prep classroom until the end of term.

Term 2 Units of Work

Religious Education

In Religious Education, students will listen and respond to the Creation story from the Old Testament of the Bible to develop an understanding of God as Creator and our role as caretakers of the earth. As part of this we will attempt to rejuvenate our class garden and continue with our worm farm development. We are after donations later in the term of 1L bottles to collect 'worm tea'. In the second part of the term we will investigate different ways Catholics pray to develop an understanding that praying helps believers to follow the message of Jesus. We will be involved in a range of prayer experiences including through art, music and meditation. We will also participate in a class mass with our Year 5 buddies in week 4 which everyone is invited to attend.

English

English units follow a context-text approach that embraces the connections between reading, writing, viewing, speaking and listening and encourages authentic learning activities and assessment. This term, with the help of *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss, other Dr Seuss books and also books by Andy Griffiths Prep will truly become readers and writers as we begin to explore strategies to help us read and write such as *Stretchy Snake Sounding Out*. A bookmark of a variety of strategies will be provided for you to refer back to when reading. We will use the books to provide a context for the learning of reading and writing strategies including recognising sight words and also reviewing phonics (the sounds letters make). Students will also learn to retell stories by identifying the main events as well as participating in experiences and activities about these events with a focus on using their imagination.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students will continue to develop their understanding of numbers by investigating numbers to 20. Activities and games will focus on developing counting and ordering skills as well as matching the numerals to pictures to understand the value of teen numbers. Students will have opportunities to investigate the features of familiar 2D shapes and 3D objects and will begin to learn their names. We will also investigate patterns with objects, shapes and colours.

Science and Design Technology

With the focus text of *The Cat in The Hat* by Dr Seuss, students have considered the things that cats love doing, namely, pushing things off tables and pulling things with their claws. Each child will be a cat toy designer. Through a range of fun experiments and experiences, we will investigate push and pull forces, then use this knowledge to plan, design, make and reflect on a cat toy. We will also develop a zoo area where students are encouraged to continue their learning from Term 1 about the features and needs of living things.

The Arts – Media

This term, students will have opportunities to use iPads to record their ideas about and responses to different events in *The Cat in The Hat*. We will use an application to create media artworks involving drawing images, recording their voices and maybe even adding text to different 'I wonder' questions that the class generates from events in the story. For example, I wonder what might come through the door?

Active Learning

As a way to create authentic contexts for learning, various stations have been set up around the classroom with the aim of providing students with real-life, hands-on active learning experiences. The stations for Term 2 are:

Station	Subject	Concept	What students do
O.L.D Zoo	English and Science	Exploring different cats	Read information books about cats, write cat facts, create cat masks, create enclosures for cats, Missing Posters for escaped zoo animals
Toy Shop	Science, Design Technology and Maths	Push and Pull forces Selling items in a shop Designing and creating	Students investigate a range of cat toys, plan and make their own cat toy, sell cat toys to customers
Garden Centre	Science	Needs of plants and animals	Creating and maintaining a garden, worm farm
Numbers Bank	Maths	Numbers to 20 and beyond	Counting items, making patterns, classifying objects, making 2D shapes and 3D objects with craft
Imagination Station	Media and English	Using iPads to create media art	Respond to 'I wonder' questions through the creation of artwork using applications on iPads
Writing Office	English	Letter-sound knowledge, reading and writing strategies	Using fun writing utensils (pens, textas, stamps, stickers, etc) to write notes and letters on cool paper, in books and on windows!
Creation Station	Religion	Creation	Students draw, paint or use craft to illustrate a piece of creation that God made.

Digital Technology – Terry Madden

The Technology curriculum is divided into two subject areas: Digital Technology and Design and Technology. Students will work with Mr Terry Madden in Term 2 on Digital Technology.

Prep children will learn to use our computer network. They will participate in hands-on activities that will help them develop basic computer skills. The students will discover that robots work because humans give instructions to tell them what to do. They will program our Bee-Bots to move in specific patterns. While having fun, the students will design solutions to simple problems using a sequence of steps and decisions.

Physical Education – Anthony Ebbage

- participating in games that require students to be aware of personal safety and game boundaries
- describing their feelings after participating in different physical activities
- introduction to fundamental athletic techniques in readiness for the Athletics Carnival

The Arts – Music – Deanne Johnson

In music, through songs and games, we are continuing to discern between our speaking voices and singing voices. We are developing our memory and musicianship skills through echoing rhythmic patterns and creating our own rhythmic and melodic phrases using our voices and percussion instruments. Students will listen to and respond to a variety of music and will discern reasons for why people create music.

The Arts - Dance

This term we have guest dance teachers from Dance Fever coming in to teach all classes a variety of dances and some elements of dance. There will be a showcase performance in Week 9.

LOTE – Melissa Kurosawa

I hope your child has enjoyed learning Japanese so far this year. You should have received a note from them about joining our Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a great program that allows me to share with you exactly what we are doing in Japanese. As well as our curriculum plan, we will also be talking about the beautiful sakura (cherry blossoms) in April, Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) in May and tsuyu (rainy season) in June. Please don't hesitate to contact me at mkurosawa@bne.catholic.edu.au if you ever have any questions or queries about what we do in Japanese.

Preps will continue working on Unit 1, "A package from Japan". They will learn how to recognise their first words in the Japanese alphabet called Hiragana. Preps will be assessed through classroom observations based on their participation in classroom routines. Students will:

- Use formulaic expressions in everyday interactions
- Use appropriate gestures in everyday interactions
- Demonstrate different ways of addressing friends and teachers

Homework

This term students have been given a 'Sight Words' book. After learning the single letter sounds, students have been given sight words and new phonemes where two letters make one sound e.g. oy.

Please continue to revise new and old letter sounds.

Students are to return their 'Sight Words' book every Friday. They will be tested, and books returned each Monday. If your child reads each sight word confidently, the word will be highlighted by the teacher and then initialled. When competent with one set, your child will move to a new set of words.

Students will continue to receive a Chatting Children pack or a Reader Folder, once per week. Chatting Children will end when students begin taking home readers. Students are tested and observed regularly for reading readiness. All students are to return their Readers or Chatting Children packs on **FRIDAY'S** please.

Morning Routine

A reminder that the classroom door will be opened by myself or another teacher at 8:15am every morning. Students are doing an amazing job unpacking independently so please refrain from coming in to unpack for your child before the classroom is opened.

Upcoming important dates:

- Friday 3rd May 9am – Cross Country Races
- Friday 10th May – Mother's Day Stall 8am; Mother's Day Prep Pamper Morning (all Mum's invited to attend from 9-10am), Mother's Day Assembly 2pm (presented by the Prep class)
- 21-25th May – Under 8s Week (keep an eye out for an email about special events this week)
- Tuesday 21st May – Active Travel Winter Breakfast 7:30am
- Thursday 23rd May – Lunch Day
- Monday 17th June – Lunch Day
- Thursday 20th June – Dance Fever Showcase
- Reports available online, Student Portfolios go home to families
- Friday 28th June – Last day of term

Thank you for your support as we continue our partnerships to give each student the best education opportunities possible.

Regards,

Rachel Stigter
Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener
Principal