

Prep Term Letter, Term 4, 2018

Dear Prep Families,

Welcome to Term 4 of Prep at Our Lady of Dolours. This term is a shorter 9 weeks compared to previous terms but we have plenty of content to cover.

Term 4 Units of Work

Religious Education

In Religious Education this term, the students will identify that the Church is a place where we can go to pray. They will investigate different celebrations the Church has, including Advent and Christmas. The students will listen to the infancy narratives about the birth of Jesus. Students will identify connections between some Old Testament stories and their personal experience. They will listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus' life as a Jew, his mother Mary and his friends and family.

Prep will participate in a class mass with our Year 5 buddies in week 6 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 books like Amelia Ellicott's Garden, students will build on their reading and writing skills as we begin to explore how texts can reflect their own experiences. Students will identify and use rhyme, and continue to orally blend and segment sounds in words.

Students will focus on achieving their writing goals, which include the use of upper- and lower- case letters, full stops, reread their writing and use sight words.

Students will continue to bring home readers and sight words books.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students will continue to develop their understanding of numbers by investigating numbers to 30 and beyond. Activities and games will focus on counting and number sequences going forwards and backwards from any starting point.

Students will answer simple questions to collect information and make simple inferences. They will learn the correct sequence of the days of the week, ordinal numbers and positional language (location and direction).

Science and Design Technology

With Christmas around the corner we have decided to let the students' creative energy flow with the design of a Christmas Letterbox. Collaboratively they will use a range of materials and components to design and build a letterbox, making discoveries about the potential of the materials.

These letterboxes will be constructed as a group project, however, each student will have an individual letterbox that will contain only their items.

The idea is that when students bring in a Christmas card or treat for another student, they will be given the opportunity to 'post' it in their letterbox.

All letterboxes will be completely sealed. Students will then be able to take their letterbox home on the last day of school and enjoy opening it at home with the family to view all their goodies.

Health

Our health unit 'I Am Growing and Changing' will involve the students understanding how different body parts move and function in different ways. They will distinguish between things that grow and don't grow. The students will investigate food that keep them healthy and physical activities that keep them healthy.

The Arts – Media

This term, students will have the opportunity to capture images on an iPad. With the support of their Year 5 buddy, they will capture images of features around the school. Students will make and share their media artworks.

HASS – Humanities and Social Sciences

In our Geography unit, 'What Makes a Place Special?' the students will make observations about two visible features of a place. They will learn about why certain places are special to people and ways that places can be cared for. They will discuss ways in which they can take care of places and identify how they can care for their own special place. features of a place

Digital Technology – Terry Madden

The Prep students will build on concepts and skills developed in the first semester in the area of coding. They will work collaboratively as they learn how to code our new robots. Using colour codes, they will create a set of commands for the 'Ozobots' to follow as they solve problems. On iPads, they will use coding to navigate 'Dot' and 'Dash' (two of our other new robots) in a series of sequential steps. They will relate this practical application of coding to real world situations.

Science

In Term 4, our Science unit 'What's it made of?' will focus on identifying materials and their properties as well as what materials and objects are made from. The students will investigate different materials in our environment, sort objects according to their properties and discuss why we use certain materials.

Physical Education – Anthony Ebbage

- participating in games that require students to be aware of personal safety and game boundaries
- describing body positions when performing a range of different movements
- continued focus on Fundamental Movement Skills

The Arts – Dance – Kirstie Buckley

In term 4 we are learning to use the elements of dance (**space** - levels, **time** - speed and in sync and **relationship** - performing with others safely) to make and perform dance sequences. As a class the students will perform a routine using these dance sequences in the school musical in week 8.

LOTE – Melissa Kurosawa

This term in Japanese, Preps will start a new unit called "Who Am I?" In this unit, students will learn how to greet people and introduce themselves in Japanese. They will continue to discover the significant cultural traditions, festivals and celebrations that occur in Japan each month.

Homework

Readers are due back at school Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's. Please keep reading with your child. As the term progresses and students become more tired, the afternoon reader may become challenging. There is no need to push your child to read to you every single night. They love listening to you read just as much, if not more. So please, take the time to read to your children and make it fun by pointing out what road signs say as you are driving in the car. They may just see one of their sight words!

Sight Words are due back at school on Friday's. Your child will be tested on Friday's and sight words will either be returned to you on the same Friday or the following Monday.

Library

Borrowing and Reading Eggs will occur on Friday's. Students are to return their library book each Friday so they can take a new one home with them. Please bring a library bag along, as communication folders are often used for notes and admin communication.

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. Students will not have a teacher's aide in Year 1 to assist with unpacking bags. We are encouraging all children to complete the morning routine independently now.

Upcoming important dates:

- Tuesday 9th October – Swimming Lesson 1
- Tuesday 16th October – Swimming Lesson 2
- Tuesday 23rd October – Swimming Lesson 3 (last)
- Friday 9th November – Prep 2019 Orientation Day which will see our current Prep class spend some time in the Year 1 classroom for the morning session
- Friday 9th November – Remarkable Moments Day presented at 2pm assembly
- Friday 9th November – OLD Remembrance Day Service
- Sunday 11th November – Remembrance Day Sid Loader/RSL
- Monday 12th November – O.L.D. Remembrance Day
- Friday 16th November – Buddy Mass 9am
- Tuesday 27th November – Active Travel Excursion
- Thursday 29th November – Full Concert Dress Rehearsal
- Friday 30th November – O.L.D. End of Year Concert (St. William's Hall)
- Thursday 6th December – O.L.D.'s Got Talent (student talent quest)
- Friday 7th December – 10am whole school mass and final day of Prep!

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