

IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

PREP NEWSLETTER

TERM 1

February, 2019

Welcome to all of our families to Prep at Iramoo in 2019. We are looking forward to sharing a wonderful year together with you and your child and are very happy with how quickly the Prep children are beginning to settle into our school routines. The Prep teachers for 2019 are Mr Christopher Arnold (OCA), Mrs Tenille Cisternas (OTC), Ms Laura Meehan (OLM), Mr Mitchell Miller (OMM) and Mrs An Nguyen (OAN). Supporting classroom teachers will be Ms Alisha Jessop in her role as the Year Prep, 1 & 2 Learning Improvement Co-ordinator.

Each term you will receive a Prep newsletter to keep you informed about special events and activities within the Prep area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter will be sent home on Wednesdays, on a fortnightly basis, with the eldest child in the family. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

PREP TIMES



Students will be dismissed at **12.45 p.m.** from their *own classroom door* until **Friday, February 22**. When the children commence school full time on **Monday, February 25** they will be dismissed at **3.00 p.m.** Children in Year OTC, OMM, OLM and OCA will be dismissed from the Prep lining up area, which is located near the main entrance to the Prep classrooms. Children in Year OAN will be dismissed from their portable classroom. Please be punctual when dropping children off in the mornings and collecting them at the end of the day.

All Prep children have begun lining up in the morning before school in their grades on the coloured footprints outside the main building. *Children are not to enter the classrooms before 8.50 a.m.* Thank you very much for preparing the children for such a smooth transition with the morning routine.

As of **Monday, March 18** our Prep children will start attending our whole school assemblies, which are held first thing each Monday morning in the courtyard area at the front of the school.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT TASKS

As a part of your child's entry into school, he/she is required to participate in Literacy and Numeracy assessment tasks so that the teacher can assess skill levels and understandings. In order for these assessments to take place, your child will be required to remain at school until **3.00 p.m.** *on one afternoon* rather than be dismissed at **12.45 p.m.** All families have received individual information regarding these assessments. If you have any further questions, please see your child's teacher.

REGULAR SCHOOL TIMES

- **School begins at 8.50 a.m.**
Students need to *arrive by 8.45 a.m.* each morning to assist in an orderly start to their day.
- **Recess:** 10.50 a.m. to 11.10 a.m.
Children have a short play outside.

- **Lunch eating time:** 12.40 p.m. to 12.50 p.m.
Children eat lunch in their rooms. Prep children are always allowed a longer period to eat, usually 12.30 p.m. to 12.50 p.m.
- **Lunch break:** 12.50 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.
Children have an extended play outside.
- **Dismissal:** 3.00 p.m. **(from Monday, February 25)**

HOME READING

The Prep children commenced take home reading on **Monday, February 4**. We ask you to share and help your child to 'read' their book each day and complete the diary entries. The take home books need to be read and returned in the blue bag every day. Home reading allows students to practise and apply the strategies learnt in class. As well as using the diary as a reading record, there are also many pages within the diary that have useful ways for you to become actively involved in home reading. To assist your child you can:



- Regularly read picture storybooks *to* your child to help him/her develop a positive attitude towards reading and a love of books.
- Discuss the book with your child *before it is read*. For example, if the book is about going to the beach, talk about the things you might find or do there. These discussions will help make reading the book a more enjoyable and meaningful experience.
- Help your child to identify frequently used words such as **a**, **I**, and **the**, and find letters of the alphabet within the book. *All children will receive a manilla folder containing an alphabet and word chart. The letters and words that we are studying in class will be highlighted by your child's teacher each week. This manilla folder is to be kept inside your child's take home reading bag, along with the take home book and reading diary.*
- Make reading a positive experience for both you and your child by finding a quiet place to enjoy the story together, away from any distractions. *Turn the television off whilst you and your child are sharing a book.*

SHOW & TELL

'Show & Tell' is an important part of our Literacy program, which helps children develop and enhance their speaking and listening skills. During 'Show & Tell', children are required to share *special news or an item of personal interest* with the rest of the class and respond to questions asked by their peers. *All children* are expected to share *every week* on their designated 'Show & Tell' day. You can help your child prepare for 'Show & Tell' each week by talking with him/her about the news or personal item that he/she plans to share. You can also help prepare your child by discussing and brainstorming 'good questions' to ask classmates about their 'Show & Tell' news/item. 'Show & Tell' will commence the week beginning **Monday, February 25**. You will be notified of your child's 'Show & Tell' day in the coming weeks.

NUMERACY

In Term 1, the children will be learning about the numbers from 0 to 10. This will include recognising digits, matching collections of materials with digits, counting forwards & backwards and ordering numbers. We will support the children in developing their understandings by singing number songs and rhymes and using a variety of hands-on materials, such as counters, teddies and blocks.

To assist your child in learning about numbers you can:

- count objects around your house
- identify numbers in your community such as those on letter boxes
- use playing cards to order numbers from smallest to largest and vice versa.

PARENT HELPERS

Throughout the year, we will require families to support many of our programs, including excursions and classroom helpers. Only those helpers who hold a 'Working With Children Check' are permitted on excursions. A classroom helpers training program is being run this term. The program runs for three sessions and takes place at school. The dates of the program are February 8, 15 and 22 from 9 -10 a.m.

THEMES

In Term 1, students will be studying the theme '**All About Me**'. Children will be involved in a range of learning activities where they will explore what makes them special and unique. Children will also explore how families are an important part of their lives.

LIBRARY

Our school library is a very valuable resource in our school and we expect all children to borrow a book each fortnight. The children will need to remember to bring along a library bag so that they can borrow. The Prep children will begin to borrow books from the library when they commence full time (the week beginning *Monday February 25*). Children will visit the library every second week. Prep library sessions will be held alternate Tuesdays (for children in OCA, OLM, OMM and OTC) and alternate Thursdays (for children in OAN).

During the library sessions children are introduced to new books and learn to recognise some popular authors and illustrators. By listening to new stories and borrowing books to take home, we aim to foster a love of literature and encourage reading for enjoyment.

**CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD, TENILLE CISTERNAS,
LAURA MEEHAN (TEAM LEADER), MITCHELL MILLER & AN NGUYEN
PREP TEACHERS**

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade Prep students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts this term, our Prep students will be exploring the theme of '**All About Me**'. The Victorian Curriculum stipulates that *Prep students make artworks using different materials and techniques that express their ideas, observations and imagination*. Students will enhance these skills and create a bright collage rainbow with a focus on both primary and secondary colours. The students will then move onto learning painting skills with a focus on using and combining primary and secondary colours. There will be a strong focus on colours, collage, design and basic principles of Art for our Prep students this term.

Performing Arts

During Term 1, the Prep students will participate in musical activities that involve listening, singing, moving and then be invited to create music by playing a range of percussion instruments. Through these activities, students will develop skills in a range of musical elements including beat, pitch and dynamics (loud and soft). *The students will explore ideas for characters and situations through dramatic play.* To address these elements of the Victorian Curriculum, students will be involved in performing a musical drama of **'The Three Pigs'** and have the opportunity to play both lead and supporting roles. The students will use the interactive whiteboard to participate in activities from the 'Music Room' computer program and use iPads to create their own music.

Physical Education (P.E.)

During Term 1, Prep students will be introduced to Physical Education in a fun and supportive environment. In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum and with teacher guidance, *students will respond to simple directions, including following simple rules and using their own equipment and personal space safely.* They will be encouraged to follow basic instructions that will consistently be used throughout the year such as starting and stopping, getting together with a partner and working in small groups. Students will be introduced to a range of basic movement skills including running, hopping, skipping, kicking, throwing and catching. They will play a variety of basic and modified games which will incorporate the use of the skills learnt. Students will also be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on Monday, April 1 and parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting some training at home.

****Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

Digital Technologies

Term 1 will be an exciting time for the Prep students beginning their technological journey at Iramoo. We will be focusing on activities that will help them on the road to becoming independent and productive users of technology. Our first tasks will be directed towards learning rules and routines as well as *becoming familiar with the computer hardware* in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. We will then start working on logging into the computers and learning how to manage network accounts and passwords. The main software program we will be using to help with this familiarisation is the Kid Pix drawing program. The students will be introduced to the different Kid Pix drawing tools in order to create simple pictures using a computer mouse or laptop computer trackpad.



Most children haven't developed the skills to be safe in traffic.

They may:

- not notice objects directly in front of them
- have trouble judging the speed of cars
- not behave safely.

If you drive or park near the school take extra care and keep on the lookout for children.

