



## Prep - 2020 Term 1 Overview

A warm welcome to all Prep families!

Throughout the Term, the students will be engaged in contemporary learning experiences that will support them to develop fundamental skills across all areas of learning. A range of visual, kinesthetic, play based and inquiry-based experiences will be provided to challenge each of the students to develop and extend their understanding of the world they live in. The Four Capabilities from the Victorian Curriculum, Personal and Social, Ethical, Intercultural and Critical and Creative Thinking, will be taught explicitly in and through all learning areas as appropriate. Through planned relevant, purposeful and age-appropriate learning experiences, the students will be given opportunities to collaborate, to be creative, to think critically and to communicate effectively.

Beginning this term and continuing throughout the year, the students will investigate the Habits of Mind and the use of a Growth Mindset as part of our school wide approach to learning. The Habits of Mind are a set of 16 problem solving, life related skills which include; ***persisting, thinking flexibly, striving for accuracy, applying past knowledge to new situations and managing impulsivity.***

The Growth Mindset approach enables the students to develop skills that support a positive attitude towards learning and life. In the classroom, a culture is developed that instills in the students an understanding that mistakes can help us learn and that greater effort equates to greater achievement over time.

I look forward to getting to know each of your children and working collaboratively with you in our complementary roles as co-educators.

### **RELIGION**

Daily prayer and regular Christian meditation are an integral part of our Religious Education program.

#### **Praying to Jesus the Good Shepherd**

In this unit, the students will learn that prayer is 'talking to God'.

The understandings for this unit are that:

- Christian meditation is a time to sit together in stillness and silence and open our hearts to God
- daily prayer is a special time for 'talking to God'
- there are behaviours and actions associated with prayer, including making the Sign of the Cross
- objects and symbols can be used to create a special prayer place.

As a class we will visit the Mary Immaculate Church, to become familiar with its interior and to meet our Parish Priest, Fr Bill.

### **INTEGRATED TOPIC**

#### **Me and my School**

The students will explore their personal identity and the ways in which they belong to different groups such as their families, classroom and school. Over the term, the students will explore the three school values, 'I am a friend', 'I am a learner' and 'I am respectful'.

At the conclusion of the unit, the students will be able to:

- identify their likes and dislikes, abilities and strengths
- identify the rules and routines of the school, the classroom and home
- understand that within each group they belong to, they have certain rights and responsibilities
- identify our three school values and demonstrate how these can be enacted.

## **MATHEMATICS**

The Victorian Curriculum outlines four Mathematical Proficiencies: understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning. The development of the skills relating to these proficiencies supports the deep learning of foundational Mathematics concepts.

Developing number sense is an essential component of Mathematics. Every lesson will begin with a short activity that engages the students and tunes them in to the learning and can include, counting, skip counting and purposeful Mathematics games.

The following topics will be covered in Term 1:

### **Number**

Through a variety of whole class, small group, partner and independent games and learning activities the students will:

- connect number names and numerals up to 10 and beyond
- learn to read, write and interpret numbers up to 10 and beyond
- explore ordinal number - first, second, third, fourth, last (up to at least tenth)
- learn to count, initially forwards and backwards by 1s up to 100.



### **Measurement and Geometry**

The students will

- identify, name and sort a variety of regular 2D shapes.

### **Statistics and Probability**

The students will:

- answer yes/no questions to collect information
- organise these answers into simple data displays, e.g. picture graph or table, using objects and drawings
- interpret simple data displays about their questions.

## **ENGLISH**

The Literacy program aims to enhance the students' oral communication, reading, writing and thinking skills.

### **Reading**

Through modelled, shared, guided and independent reading activities, the students will:

- begin to learn effective reading strategies (e.g. picture cues, sounding out, using the context of the story, predicting, reading on)
- develop understandings about the concepts of print (e.g. that text is read from left to right)
- identify and locate headings, punctuation marks, upper and lowercase letters.



Through the focus on phonemic awareness the students will:

- begin to hear and identify the beginning, middle and ending sound in word
- identify the difference between a letter and a word
- identify rhyming words
- identify syllables in words.

Through the focus on phonics the students will:

- explore the letter names and sounds of the letters in the alphabet
- begin to blend known sounds together to read and make words.

### **Writing**

Through modelled, shared, guided and independent writing activities, the students will:

- tell personal stories and respond to literature through pictures
- use their growing knowledge of sounds and words to write letters, words and sentences to accompany their pictures

- begin to develop the identity and skills of a writer and illustrator.
- Throughout the term, the students will:
- participate in a range of fine motor strengthening activities to assist them with their handwriting
  - focus on the mechanics of handwriting including the correct pencil grip and seating posture, the starting and finishing points of letters and the directional movement of the hand
  - learn and practise the correct upper and lowercase letter formation
  - be explicitly taught to write from left to right on the page, forming letters of a uniform size.



### **Speaking & Listening**

The students will be encouraged to develop their oral communication skills to speak clearly and to listen and respond in a variety of formal and informal ways throughout the day.

In addition, each student will:

- participate in 'Show and Tell' once a week where they will speak to the class about a particular topic and use pictures, photos and /or items to support the topic they will be discussing
- be supported to actively and respectfully listen and respond to the presenter through comments or questions.

### **SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL LEARNING - The Resilience Project**

'The Resilience Project' delivers an emotionally engaging program to the students and is based on the concepts of Gratitude, Empathy/Kindness and Mindfulness (GEM). Lessons will be weekly through the term and on a regular basis the students will experience a range of guided mindfulness meditations.



The topics that will be covered this term are:

- 'A Good Friend' - identifying some actions of a good friend
- 'Sharing is Caring' - understanding that problems can be solved by sharing
- 'Feelings' - identifying different feelings
- 'Being a Helper' - reflecting on times when we have helped others.

### **HOME LEARNING**

You can support your child's learning at home by providing opportunities to engage in reading and encouraging them to locate various letters and sounds in words. Ask your child to identify what letters particular words start with and play games such as 'I Spy', in which letters and sounds are the focus.

Take Home Books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. More information will be sent home regarding this program which will commence later in the term.

### **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

The students live in a digital world. Throughout the term, the students will investigate a variety of digital systems that are used in their home and school environments. They will identify the specific features of these and outline how they are used in everyday life.

This term the students will:

- identify specific features of digital systems e.g. hardware and software
- describe how digital systems are used in everyday life
- construct texts using word processing programs.



Maria Delaney

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## ITALIAN

This term the students will be introduced to a few simple Italian greetings, such as:

Ciao - hello

Buongiorno - good day

Arrivederci - goodbye

They will also begin learning how to count to 10 in Italian.

The above concepts form some of the initial building blocks for learning the language.

A wide range of learning experiences has been planned including various craft activities as well as purposeful games, songs and puzzles.

Signor John

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## LIBRARY

This term, in the library the Prep students will:

- explore and become familiar with the library layout and procedures
- identify the picture fiction section of the library
- experience the responsibility and joy of borrowing a library book weekly
- be exposed to a variety of picture books focusing on rhyme and repetition.



**Library Borrowing Day is Thursday and all students are required to have a library bag. Please remember, 'No bag, no borrowing'.**

## PERFORMING ARTS

The students will:

- listen and move to various styles of music and discuss emotional and physical responses
- learn the name of some notes
- learn songs and sing in pitch
- be introduced to percussion instruments and rhythmic elements of music
- compose and improvise music using various percussion instruments.

Simon Lewis

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term in Physical Education the students will:

- learn about the importance of incorporating physical activity into their lives
- further develop their fundamental motor skills of *run* and *catch*
- practise skills needed to participate in the Twilight Sports carnival.



Our school Twilight Sports carnival, will be held at Chelsworthss Park on Wednesday 25 March. Please watch the newsletter for further details.

Janelle Baldwin

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## **SCIENCE**

This term, the students will begin by exploring the questions, 'What is Science?', 'What is a scientist?' and 'Where do scientists work?'. By sharing their previous knowledge and experiences with each other, the students will begin to develop collaborative skills and a shared scientific language and mindset.

The students will continue to use this language and mindset to develop a greater awareness of themselves and their world as they explore this term's focus on Biological Science.

The students will:

- explore and identify the differences between living and non-living things
- name the basic needs of living things, such as food, water and shelter.



Janelle Baldwin

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## **VISUAL ARTS**

Our whole school focus this term will be on Australian animals and the events which have impacted on them, their environments and their survival. The students will be provided with the opportunity to develop their creative and critical thinking skills as they gather knowledge and develop their understanding of the subject matter and will communicate their own ideas, understanding and representations, through different art forms.

The students will:

- experiment with different materials and techniques to make art works
- work independently and collaboratively to create art works using recycled materials along with materials from the natural environment.



## **REMINDERS**

Mondays:

- Classroom sport - sport uniform to be worn on this day

Tuesdays:

- Performing Arts
- Science
- Italian

Thursdays:

- Physical Education - sport uniform to be worn
- Library - library bag required

Monday / Wednesday / Friday

- Take Home Books to be changed on these days (more information to follow)



## **IMPORTANT DATES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Place</u></b>
Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday	25	February		
Ash Wednesday Mass	Wednesday	26	February	9:15am	MI Church
No Preps	Wednesday	26	February		
Nude Food/ Zero Waste Day	Friday	28	February		
Lenten Liturgy Led by Years 5&6	Monday	2	March	11:45am	MI Church
Cyber Safety Parent Night	Monday	2	March	7pm	School Hall
Labour Day Holiday	Monday	9	March		
Celebration of Learning	Wednesday	11	March	9:15-11am 2-3pm, 3:30-4pm, 5-6pm	Classrooms
Lenten Liturgy Led by Years 2/3 & 3/4	Friday	13	March	11:45am	MI Church
Ride to School Day	Friday	13	March		
National Anti-Bullying Day/Harmony Day	Friday	20	March		
Twilight Sports Students dismissed @ 1pm	Wednesday	25	March	4-7pm	Chelsworth Park
Holy Week Liturgy	Friday	27	March	11:45am	MI Church
End Term 1	Friday	27	March	3:30pm	

### **CLASSROOM TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime throughout the school year with any concerns, questions or information. If you would prefer to meet with me, please email to arrange a mutually convenient time.

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