**Prep Bulletin**

If you are reading this you have made a great start! Please make it a weekly practise to read the Bulletin. The purpose of our Prep Bulletin is to communicate things specific to the Preps. We strongly recommend that you also read the weekly school newsletter as this will keep you informed with news about the whole school. You will find the Prep Bulletin in a link in our school newsletter.

Congratulations to all our wonderful Prep parents for 2016. We would like to thank you for the smooth start we have had to the school year. The students are adapting very well to a new learning environment and are enjoying getting to know each other and their teachers. They are familiarising themselves with school routines, learning to organise themselves and re-connecting and making new connections with their peers.

For safety reasons, we ask that you to give us space as our students enter the building. Please stand on the grass area whilst your child lines up on his/her coloured dots. We will bring our classes into the building. Your support in encouraging your child to carry his/her own bag and enter the building will set the stage for the development of independent and confident learners. Some children have found that bringing something small from home (e.g. a soft toy) has helped them to cope with anxiety and we encourage this if it supports them to transition into school life.

**Consent Forms and Levy Form**

You will have received a consent form for Local Walking Excursions and a consent form for Photography of Students. Please sign both forms and return to school. The green Excursion Levy Term 1 form that was attached to the Information Night notes will also need to be signed and returned to school by the due date – **Monday 8th February**. It is important that the slip is signed and returned to the teacher for consent to be given for your child to participate in activities.

We also require you to send back the information sheet regarding your child given out at last week’s family interviews.

**Communication**

As we cannot check emails regularly during the day it is important that you contact the **office** if you need to arrange for your child to be collected by another adult. Email us directly if you need to arrange a time to talk about your child.

**Red Bags and Art smocks:**

Please send the red bag and an art smock to school. Thank you if you have already done so. The students will attend Library once a week with Mrs Pearse. They will be allowed to borrow one or two books. The Preps will attend Library every **Monday**. You will have received your child’s weekly timetable. Please ensure that your child wears runners for Phys. Ed. and that the red bag is returned every Monday for book borrowing. The red bag will also be used for notices, so it is important that you check the bag regularly.
**Food**
Starting school is ‘hard work’ and we have noticed that the children need more fuel than usual. Packing something a little extra for lunch might help with some of the stomach rumbles. We ask you to be mindful of the fact that we have anaphylactic children at this school. For birthdays, treats are acceptable (e.g. cup cakes) as long as they do not contain nuts. If your child is anaphylactic, it is a good idea to bring in some treats for him/her that can be left at school when birthdays are celebrated.

**2:00 pm finishing time**
As children transition into school life we strongly believe that an early finishing time is crucial to this process. Thank you for making arrangements to have children collected at 2:00pm. If your child has an English assessment, he/she will remain at school until 3:00pm. We greatly recommend rest time after school and limit after school activities whilst your child settles into school.

Once the children have left school the teachers will continue to conduct English Interviews with students from 2:15pm until 3:45pm. We would appreciate it if you can email us if you have any concerns or issues as we are conducting interviews and find it difficult to talk with you at that time.

**Enduring Understanding**
An *enduring understanding* is an idea that is continuously ‘unpacked’ and allows students to explore concepts and think critically about the world around them. Our enduring understanding this term is ‘*I am unique and I belong to different communities*’. We encourage the children to bring a photo or an item that we could display as we unravel the complexities of ‘me’. Examples: Photos of family, pets and celebrations, cultural artefacts and costumes.

**Friends**
Making good friends is instrumental in developing a child’s sense of belonging. Having friends is a top priority for children and it is one of the main reasons they come to school. We encourage you to talk about ‘making friends’ at home and support the need to be fair, respectful and tolerant.

**Integration Aides**
We have two Integration Aides working in the Prep this year. Pina is in Prep S and Maria is in Prep E. The Integration Aides’ roles are to support teachers in the classroom.

Have a great week!

Prep Team
Connie, Angela, Steph, Nikita and Amanda