I am unique and I belong to different communities

We have been exploring this idea with students and unpacking what this statement means through a variety of learning experiences culminating in the creation of the ‘The Belonging Tree’ which will be unveiled on Friday. Developing a sense of identity and belonging in our children is crucial and the below excerpt provides some insight into why that is.

From birth, children develop a sense of who they are. Relationships with family members, other adults and children, friends and members of their community play a key role in building their identities. Children’s sense of who they are is shaped by their characteristics, their behaviour, and their understanding of themselves, their family and others. Belonging is about having a secure relationship with or a connection with a particular group of people. When children feel a sense of belonging and sense of pride in their families, their peers, and their communities, they can be emotionally strong, self-assured, and able to deal with challenges and difficulties. This creates an important foundation for their learning and development.

Giving children messages of respect, love, approval, and encouragement enables them to develop a positive sense of who they are and a feeling that they have an important contribution to make wherever they are. Positive messages about their families, backgrounds, cultures, beliefs, and languages help children to develop pride in who they are. These messages also give them confidence to voice their views and opinions, to make choices, and to help shape their own learning.

Parent Helpers
We are looking for volunteers to help out with an excursion we have to the National Gallery on the 19th of May. Prep E and Prep S will be departing at 9am sharp and Prep C and Prep N will be departing at 10. All classes will return before the end of school. Parent helpers will be expected to be there for the duration of the excursion for their class. If you would like to come along and help out you need to have attended the family helpers information session, have a current Working with Children Check. Siblings are not to accompany us on the excursion.

Drop off and supervision
If your child is at school before 8:45 it is important that you stay to supervise them, a yard duty teacher does not come outside until that time. It is also important to walk your child into school, especially if they are late as we may not always be in our classrooms, we may be in assembly or even have some other activity on.

Reading
Just a reminder that the little books do not have to be read all in one night. It is important to read these over many nights many times and share the valuable reading experience. The books are only required back on the following Monday for them to be swapped over. We would like you to try to change the language you use when referring to the little books. We hear a lot of parents refer to these books as ‘readers’. As discussed at the reading information session we do not refer to these as ‘readers’. The child is the reader and the little books are to be read.

Mother’s Day Stall Money
The children have put a lot of time and effort into decorating their Mother’s Day mugs so please ensure your child brings their $10 for the purchasing of the Mother’s Day mugs on Friday the 6th.
Upcoming Events
The celebration for the unit of inquiry will be held on Friday the 6th from 2:30 – 3:30. An invitation your child has made for you has been sent home containing more information.

REMINDEERS
From May 4th students will be given the option of wearing their hats outside in the yard. It is important to still keep your child’s hat at school in case the UV level reaches a point where they need to wear them.

We are changing our Investigation areas to correlate with our new unit of inquiry and we are seeking some donations. We are looking for donations of any AFL paraphernalia such as jumpers, scarves and beanies you no longer need as well as toys that your children no longer play with.

If your child has long hair please ensure that it is tied up, this is a school rule aimed at preventing the spread of head lice.

The Prep Team
Angela, Connie, Nikita, Steph and Amanda