Mathematics:
Developmentally, the best methods for encouraging young children to develop math skills include:

- Using hands-on or concrete materials
- Promoting discovery through exploration
- Posing questions that spark intellectual and verbal involvement
- Promoting problem solving skills

Using concrete materials, e.g. counters, cubes, pattern blocks and beads, to develop mathematical understandings and adopting a hands-on approach, is crucial in the Early Years. It allows students to represent their thinking about a mathematical concept in varied ways and apply their learning to problem solving situations. Having students use concrete materials assists them with moving from the concrete to the abstract, promotes discussion and provides a visual support for students to explain their thinking. It also allows students the flexibility to make, test and improve their estimations. These experiences are crucial to enabling children to develop the basics. At home, encourage your child to use manipulatives when exploring mathematical concepts.

Ideas to use with Lego: Create patterns (numerical and colour), create a symmetrical picture, represent a number, make a shape, create a simple graph, measure the length of objects and solve addition problems.

Thank you Cameron Legg:
A huge thank you to Cameron for coming in and sharing his very interesting, very relevant hobby of bee keeping with all the Prep students on Monday. The students were highly engaged throughout the presentation and came away with some fantastic wonderings about bees. They also came away with some valuable new knowledge to help understand how bees affect the seasons and how seasons affect bees.

Italian Day:
On Thursday 17 September, students will participate in various cultural activities (refer to posters displayed around the school). Your child will be in a multi age group with his/her buddy on this day. Groups will rotate around different activities during the day. We encourage your child to come dressed up in one or more colours of the Italian flag – green, white and red.

Buddy Picture Story Books:
The books that the Grade 6 students made for their buddies have been on display in the Library. The books will be sent home with your child today (Thursday 8th September). Please take the time to read your child’s book with him/her. You may like to include the book in your child’s Reading Log.

Leaving the school grounds:
We ask that all parents leave promptly after the bell rings and your children have entered their classroom every day, including at the conclusion of our weekly assemblies. Please say goodbye to your children before they enter the MPC for assembly and make your way out when asked to leave. During the hours of 9am and 3:30pm our school grounds are an extension of our learning environments and we ask that you do not occupy any of these areas until pick up at
the end of the day. We often use the playground for various reasons and if there are families around this can be very disruptive for our students.

**Changes with kinder visits:**
Over the coming weeks, all Prep teachers will be out at various times due to visiting local kinders and our Prep students for next year. We will discuss this with the children and make them aware when their classroom teacher will be out of the classroom to ensure that they are aware and experience as little disruption and possible. Please speak with your children about the fact that this will be happening. It would be great to speak about when the teachers came out to visit them last year and how this made them feel. If a teacher did not make it out to see them last year, discuss how meeting a teacher may have helped them when they began their transition sessions at school.

**Upcoming dates:**
Monash University Science Incursion: ‘Mixing Matter’ – **Thursday 8th September**
The Arts Excursion: Snugglepot and Cuddlepie; Arts Centre – **Tuesday 13th September**
Italian Day: **Thursday 15th September**
Last day of Term 3: 2:30pm finish – **Friday 16th September**

Have a wonderful week!

*Angela, Connie, Nikita, Steph and Amanda*