



Week 1 Term 3, 2016

Prep Group News

Dear Prep Parents and Families,

Welcome back to another exciting term of learning and play! It has been wonderful to catch up with the children and hear all about their holiday experiences. From the snowfields of Victoria, to New Zealand, Fiji, Bali, Hawaii, England and Ireland - many of the children have enjoyed exciting adventures abroad! The Preps have now settled back into the school routines feeling refreshed and with a noticeable sense of calm and focus.

This term, we welcome new student Jasmine Cook (see right) and her family to Prep at Penbank. We have also farewelled Louis Hart, as he will be spending the term ahead with his family at Mt. Buller and attending the local school up there.



A warm welcome to Jasmine Cook and her family to Prep at Penbank!

On the last day of Term 2, the children were fortunate to be involved in a 'Coach Approach' incursion that saw them participate in some wonderful sports activities including Hip-Hop Dancing, Taekwondo and Circus Skills.

Over the coming weeks, we look forward to following the Australian team at the Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil. On **Friday 12th August**, all Penbank students will be participating in a Penbank & Minimbah Olympics Day!

Beanie Day this week at Penbank!

Warm your head and your heart and wear a beanie to school on Friday! Bring a gold coin donation to support the Woodleigh Beanie Festival which is on THIS SATURDAY 23rd July from 11am to 3pm at the Woodleigh campus. All funds raised will support the Indigenous Exchange Programs.



Sophia practising her plate spinning skills and Julian testing out some Taekwondo punches!



English

This week, we have been busy writing recounts of our holiday experiences. We are using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces between our words. Over the next fortnight we will be learning about the features of a letter and having a go at writing our own letters to send at the 'Penbank Post Office'. Following on from this, the children will be introduced to procedural writing and will learn to sequence a task into simple steps e.g. 'How to Brush Your Teeth'.

To assist with this writing, the children have each been given their own 'Writing Book', which uses dotted thirds (lined paper) to help produce consistently sized handwriting. Formal spelling has also begun this week and the children will be bringing home a list of words to practice at the end of the fortnight. When reading, the children will be encouraged to automatically recognise their new spelling words, to read for comprehension and to develop their fluency and use of expression.



Noah and Abigail investigating the 'Penbank Post Office'

Maths

This fortnight, the Preps will be exploring the measurement of length. They will be estimating, measuring and comparing the length of everyday objects using informal units of measurement such as unifix cubes, hands or feet. During the term, the following Maths concepts will be explored through a myriad of hands-on, practical investigations and workbook activities:

- Mass
- Subtraction
- Ordinal number (1st – 10th)
- Counting forwards and backwards
- 3D Shapes
- Capacity
- Division – equal shares

If working on these concepts with your child at home, please encourage your child to see that Maths is all around us and use real world examples to ignite a spark of practical interest!



Ben and Harry comparing the length of two objects

Lydia ordering objects from shortest to longest



Teaching Responsibility

This fortnight, our developmental learning intention is for the children to: 'Develop a sense of responsibility and take on a Prep Classroom Job'. Giving children manageable chores can help foster responsibility and a sense of involvement and self-worth. As the children are becoming more independent, it is important that they learn to be responsible for their belongings, their actions, their environment and that they contribute to the duties of the classroom. You might like to ask your child what their job is at school and see what chores they could do to help at home. At this time of the Prep year, it is also good to see children able to walk into the classroom independently without the assistance of their parents.

"The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence"
- Denis Waitley



Sam the 'Plant Waterer' & Chanelle the 'Super Sweeper'

Important Diary Dates

Please mark the following dates into your diary:

- Prep Excursion to Chesterfield Farm - Thursday 21st July
- "Wear your Beanie to School day" gold coin donation - Friday 22nd July
- Beanie Festival Saturday 23rd July 11am - 2pm at Woodleigh Senior Campus
- Penbank Book Fair - Monday 25th July to Thursday 28th July
- PFG Meeting - Wednesday 27th July 2.30pm
- Life Education - Thursday 28th July to Tuesday 2nd August
- Olympic Games Begin - Friday 5th August
- Penbank & Minimbah Olympics Day - Friday 12th August
- Woodleigh School Comedy Night - Saturday 13th August

Please remember to regularly check your emails and the Prep Communication Board (in the foyer) for further information.

Prep Excursion

Next **Thursday the 21st of July**, as part of an immersion into farm life and to coincide with the children's interests, we will visit Chesterfield Farm in Scoresby. The excursion will provide the children with a 'hands-on' experience of working farm life. Upon return, it is expected that the children will have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of various farm animals and farm produce. They will use this information to inspire their investigations and to form a comparison with our own farm here at Penbank.



Will and Jemima enjoy exploring 'The Farm'

Warm regards,
Sophie & Britt

