March 17th

Dear Parents,

Wow hasn’t this term just flown by, we only have one short week left! Remember Friday is a public holiday so school finishes on Thursday at 2:30pm.

Picnic and Information Night

It’s a shame the weather was too wet for the picnic but we thank you so much for your support by attending the information evening. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to spend an hour finding out how you can help your child’s first year at school. The children loved being entertained by Squirt the Clown. Here are some helpful websites that we talked about at the meeting.

Literacy / Numeracy Support:

Working with children’s check:
http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

For those who couldn’t make it to the information evening here is some of the information covered:

- Everyone would have seen the navy blue take home reader bags which have been brought home every night. We will be using them EVERYDAY at school so please return them. Students will have a new book every day which they will be practising both at school and home.

- The YELLOW library bags are for students to borrow books from the library. Your classroom teacher will give the students an opportunity to visit the school library on a weekly or fortnightly visit. This gives the students a chance to take home a book of choice and interest. This is exciting; however, books will not be allowed to be taken home without these bags.

- We have been encouraging the preps to develop their independence and sense of responsibility. Small things such as carrying, packing, unpacking and zipping up their bags at every opportunity will help them develop these skills. Please encourage your child to be aware of their own belongings.

- Classrooms are open from 8:30 and this is an appropriate time to be at school. Students are welcome to spend time on the Prep playground, however, no teachers will be on yard duty until 8:30am, so please make sure they are supervised until this time.
Reading

- We want to stress the importance of your child being comfortable and confident with their book. We are looking for them to tell a story and understand the context of the book from the pictures. So please don’t cover the pictures up as your child will rely on them to be successful. We will be asking your child to point to each word and hopefully start looking at the first sounds of words so they learn to predict the text. If they do get stuck, and they will, we would ask you to point to the word and say it. Then ask your child to repeat it and have another go.

- The process of nightly reading is meant to be an enjoyable one for both you and your child. If they bring a book home more than once, this is ok. Repetition and confidence in reading is what we are striving for in the early weeks.

- We will hear your child on a regular fortnightly basis. This is when we will make achievable reading goals for your child which they should be able to articulate to you. We will endeavour to record these goals in their reading diary. It is important that the reading diary gets filled in on a regular basis and is brought back to school so we can record the progress your child is making.

Please remember the following dates:

*Thursday 24th March* is the last day of term 1, school finishes at 2:30pm.

*Thursday 24th March*** We have an Easter hat parade in the morning***

*Friday 25th March* Good Friday Public Holiday

**Term 2**

*Monday 11th April* Curriculum Day - children do not attend school.

*Tuesday 12th April* first day term 2.

We hope you have a lovely, restful Easter holiday.

The Prep Team

Michelle, Renae, Zoe, Bec C, Bec P, Adele, Bethan, Andrea and Tiff