A Community of Faith; Learning for Life.

Faith
A vibrant faith community living like Jesus, in the spirit of the Good News.

Learning
Confident life-long learners who embrace challenges and experience success.

Life
Active, informed and courageous members of a global community.

TEACHERS:

EITHNE KING
CHANTELLE JACKSON
KAREN WILLIAMS
Dear Parents,

Term Two has begun and the students in Prep were eager to see their friends and share their holiday stories with their teachers. The Prep students have eased back into the routine of the school, playing confidently out on the yard and enthusiastically sharing their learning. They have come back well rested and ready to participate in new learning activities.

We enjoyed a great day at the Melbourne Zoo on Wednesday, which has sparked great enthusiasm with the children and their learning about animals!

This term we keep the Grade Four children in our prayers as they celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

We encourage all parents to read through our term overviews and check the reminder section and date so that you are aware of all events at Holy Family. We welcome all parents to our class Masses this term.

Yours sincerely,

The Prep Team:

Chantelle Jackson, Eithne King and Karen Williams

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Religious Education

Religious Education is integrated into the daily conversations and learning experiences that we have and plan for with all of our students. Through our school values and the Gospels of Jesus, we endeavour to be active Christians in today’s world. Students at this level participate in parish daily mass, whole school masses, classroom liturgies and focus lessons based on the Good Shepherd Experience as outlined in the Catholic Education text, ‘To Know, Worship and Love’.

This term we began by completing our Easter unit, by exploring the story of ‘Jesus’ Resurrection’. We will then continue with our unit ‘Who is Jesus?’ We will be looking at stories and miracles from His journey through life. The students will be listening, retelling and responding to stories from the Bible through various activities, including song, Godly Play and art. We will also explore, “Belonging to God’s Family”. This unit focuses on the Church and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Preps will learn that the Church is the family of God and that the Mass is a special celebration when the Church remembers and relives the words and actions of Jesus. We are looking forward to welcoming Father Laurence/Deacon Malcolm into our classes this term, strengthening the bond between our school and parish.

During this time we will also celebrate with the students in Grade Four who will be receiving their First Holy Communion.

We warmly invite you to attend whole school and class masses that will occur throughout the term. (Please see dates below) The Prep students will usually attend school masses with their buddy or a senior/middle class who will assist them with routines and behaviours expected at Mass.

Dates for Class Masses
Tuesday 11th May 9:15am Prep J
Tuesday 18th May 9:15am Prep KW and 3/4GA

INQUIRY

We have commenced our new unit “Cool Creatures” and had a great day at the Melbourne Zoo to inspire our questions and thinking. We aim to investigate our focus question-

“Why are animals so important in our world?”

We will work through the following understandings:

- There are different groups of animals
- Animals have specific needs to help them survive (food, shelter, water, features)
- Animals can help humans in their everyday lives
- Some animals can be kept as pets
- Humans can help the survival of living things.
**Literacy**

In Reading and Writing this term, the students are continually immersed in Language Experience opportunities. They become involved in more formalised group reading and writing activities which are structured to their individual needs. We will focus on concepts about print, further the students understanding of alliterations and rhyming words and build upon their knowledge of Oral Language structures and comprehension within the literacy block.

In Writing, the students will focus on structuring a sentence and spelling their sight words to include in their written work. Throughout the writing hour, the students will practise writing left to right across the page, making a return sweep to the next line, leaving spaces between words and simple punctuation (capital letters and full stops). We are continually building the students’ self-esteem and skills to become an independent and confident writer. We are encouraging students to write words by recording the letter to match the sounds they hear, attempting to write initial, middle and end sounds in unfamiliar words. They will also experiment with some different writing types- e.g. letters, recount. Handwriting and developing fine motor skills will continue to be a focus. Students will learn the correct formation and size of letters along with the difference and purpose of lower case and capital letters.

**Let’s Read!**

We encourage students to continue with regular reading at home at least five nights a week. Before and after reading to/with your child it is beneficial to ask questions about the text to support their comprehension. We thank all parents for their continued support and appreciate the assistance of those who help in the classrooms. If you would like to assist but have not participated in the classroom helpers program please talk to our Literacy Leader, Mrs Rena Walsh.

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read favorite stories to you every day.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help them talk and write about what they read.

**WELLBEING**

**Better Buddies**

During this term, the Prep students will continue to meet with their buddy; completing activities and building on social skills. This term we will continue to focus on building friendships within the Prep level and how to be a good friend. They will also have lunch with their buddies and attend a school Mass at the end of term.
MATHS

In Number and Algebra, students will continue to investigate numbers through sequencing numbers up to 20 and beyond. They will experiment and develop simple addition strategies and problems, describe and place objects in order such as first, second and third, and investigate patterns (copying, creating and continuing).

In Measurement and Geometry the students will investigate Length and compare everyday objects as taller, longer and shorter. They will also learn about Mass and compare objects by hefting and using balance scales, describing objects as heavier and lighter. The students will continue to be asked, ‘How do you know?’ to explain their reasoning in everyday language. Students will continue to revise the days of the week, focusing on sequencing and ordering.

In Statistics and Probability the students will create class pictographs and interpret the data, identifying and comparing results.

Classroom Helpers

Literacy Block
Parental/extended family support is greatly encouraged in the classrooms and at the end of last year we had our first Classroom Helper Session. Classroom helpers in the morning block are an essential part of presenting the best possible curriculum to your children. It is a 2 hour session that you can attend for an hour or two depending on the timetable in your child’s classroom. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate toddlers during this time.
A roster for Term 2 has been sent home and some helpers have begun working with the children. We are still encouraging more parent helpers in the Prep classrooms during this time. Please see your child’s teacher if you can assist at any time throughout the term. Please ensure you have an up to date Working with Children Check, in order to help in your child’s classroom.

Excursion/Incursion
During the year there will be a variety of opportunities for parents to assist in different ways. Please keep your eye out for opportunities such as; excursions, incursions, cooking etc.

Parent/Teacher Contact
Parents are urged to contact the class teacher if they have any queries regarding the progress of their child. All that is required is a telephone call, email or note to arrange a mutually convenient appointment time. Discussions before the morning bell may not be suitable if the teacher is in a meeting or preparing for the day. We, too, will contact you if we feel there is a need.

Communication Folders
All children have a green communication bag that holds newsletters, notes and important information. We ask that you check this each night even if you child is the youngest at the school as there are always bits of information to send out, especially at the beginning of each term. Students are then to check for notices each morning upon their arrival at school.
School Attendance and Punctuality: helping your child make the best start.
Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early years will be more likely to continue them throughout their schooling. When your child attends school on a regular basis, they take an important step towards reaching their full potential, and are given the greatest opportunity to learn new things and develop their skills. We cannot stress enough the importance of your child’s regular attendance at school to ensure a complete education.

Students who are frequently absent or arrive late consistently miss carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions. They are more likely to feel apprehensive and less confident in class due to the disrupted start to the day.

- School gates open at 8.30 am.
- Classroom doors are open from 8.45am. Students are not to enter the room if a teacher is not present.
- Students then unpack, check their mail bags, change readers and attend to any other classroom routines. When the 8:55am bell rings students are ready to start their day at school.

ALLERGIES

We Are Allergy Aware!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. We have children in our school who are allergic to poppy seeds, nuts (peanuts, cashews, pistachios, hazlenuts), legumes(beans), eggs, potato and eggplant. We ask that you refrain from sending any foods containing the listed foods (nut products such as: peanut butter, nutella, bean products such as chickpeas, hommus dip, lentil burgers, baked beans or breads containing poppy seeds etc).

*We want to do our best to keep those at risk, as safe as possible! Please help us to keep EVERYONE safe!*

Reminders

- Sports uniform is to be worn on the designated sports day only.
- Please keep your child at home if they are unwell. Upon returning to school, it is essential to provide a written note/email for our records.
- Should students be absent through illness, or for any other reason, a brief note must be forwarded to the class teacher explaining the reason for non-attendance.
- Students are reminded to bring a water bottle (preferably a pop-top) to school, which they are able to access throughout the day.
- Toys and electronic equipment should not be brought to school.
PREP SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>PREP J</td>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Sport*</td>
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* Please note: Children are to wear their sports uniform on these days.

Our library is almost open and we can’t wait until library lessons and borrowing begins. Preps will borrow on a weekly basis, and will have a session with our librarian, Mrs Adrienne Morris each fortnight. We ask that all library books and bags are returned each week by Friday.

Classroom Teachers

Prep KW
Eithne - Monday – Wednesday until 12:30pm
Karen - Wednesday from 12:30pm – Friday

Prep J
Chantelle - Monday – Friday

Dates and Newsletters

Please remember to read the school and Prep newsletter each week to check important dates and upcoming events. They are the main communication between home and school. The school newsletter is uploaded to the website each Thursday in case you misplace your paper copy. A school calendar is available on the school website on the “News and Events” page and is updated regularly.

May
Friday 8th
Tuesday 11th
Tuesday 18th
Friday 22nd
Sat/Sun 30th

 Mothers’ Day Stall & Prep Mothers’ Day Event
9:15am Prep J
9:15am Prep KW and 3/4GA
Walk Safely to School Day
First Holy Communion Weekend (Grade 4 students)

June
Friday 5th
Monday 8th
Tuesday 23rd
Wednesday 24th
Friday 26th

 School Closure Day
Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday
Parent-Teacher Interviews
Parent-Teacher Interviews
Term 2 Concludes 1.30pm

We look forward to another great term of learning together!