What’s Happening in the Classroom?

English
We will begin teaching the children to recognise, say and write letter sounds and names. However we don’t do this in alphabetical order, but in a way that best suits the children’s needs. Students will be introduced to reading through the use of shared big books, word games, small group directed activities, books made by the children in class and other published materials. Writing will be based on personal experiences and class work. Lists of frequently used words may be sent home later in the term for the children to enjoy reading and writing. Emphasis will be placed on understanding basic word, letter and punctuation conventions. Students are grouped across the Prep Unit according to their learning needs so they can be supported and extended appropriately according to their current level.

Mathematics
This term we will focus on: identifying, describing, drawing and naming common shapes, identifying shapes in our environment; counting forwards to 20; counting backwards from 10; accurately counting and making sets of at least 10 objects; recognising that zero is a number; estimating the size of collections of objects; using the terms first, second…….tenth to order objects and events; creating and correcting simple repeating patterns; sorting and classifying objects according to at least two attributes. In Mathematics students are grouped across the Prep Unit according to their learning needs so they can be supported and extended appropriately according to their current level.

Integrated Studies
This term’s first Integrated Inquiry Unit is: ‘What’s Special About School’. Students learn the rules and values of our school with a strong emphasis on important social skills such as how to make friends and how to be a good friend and cooperate with others. Our second unit is called ‘Fun Games’. We will look at a variety of indoor and outdoor games and the skills they promote.

Art
The students will be introduced to a variety of activities in the Art room this term. They will develop some basic skills in the areas of collage, construction, modelling, painting, drawing, threads and textiles. Topics will be related to the classroom Integrated Inquiry Units where relevant.

Indonesian
In Term 1 students will familiarise themselves with Indonesian culture and will play Indonesian games.

Music
Students will be introduced to Music by participating in activities like: singing, playing un-tuned percussion instruments, dancing, moving and listening. We will be concentrating on contrasts in sound: fast and slow, high and low, starting and stopping, loud and soft. The children will start to learn solfa actions and singing and will be introduced to taa and ti ti rhythm note values.
Physical Education
Term 1 will introduce the Preps to how PE classes run, focussing on the commands and safety requirements to ensure a happy and fun environment. We will be working on the basic movement skills, including various forms of locomotion, balance, rotations and the sequencing of different movement skills. These PE classes will also be a foundation to the developmental activities in PMP, due to commence in the middle of Term 1.

Information Technology
The children will use computers in both the classroom and the library to become familiar with keyboard use and educational programs which promote leaning.

Parent Helpers
Parent Helpers in Numeracy and Literacy commences on Monday 19th February for those parents who attended the training in 2006. If you did not attend the training there are still many useful ways you can assist in the classroom. Such things as sharpening pencils, laminating etc. Please discuss this with your child’s teacher. We look forward to your assistance in the classroom.

Supplies:
Books, pencils, textas, crayons etc have been distributed to students. These will be kept at school and sent home at the end of the year.
Tissues- It would be great appreciated if you could please send along a box of tissues for classroom use.

Dates to Remember

- **Friday 9th February**                               New Families Welcome Barbecue (6pm – 7:30pm)
- **Monday 19th February**                             Information Evening for all Levels
- **Monday 26th February**                             “Getting to Know You” Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **Thursday 8th March**                               School Photos
- **Monday 12th March**                                Labour Day Holiday
- **Friday 16th March**                                Brave Hearts-School Values Incursion
- **Friday 30th March**                                End of Term 1 2:30pm dismissal

Level One Team
**Prep and Prepkins Teachers:**
Mrs Anne Davies, Miss Tracey O’Brien, Mrs Natasha Chidgey, Mrs Michelle Stone, Mrs Sandie Jackson and Mrs Liz Clow