What’s happening in the classroom?

**Literacy**
All children have been placed in flexible, focused Guided Reading and Writing groups. By working together, we can cater for a wider range of Reading and Writing levels and so better meet the children’s changing needs. We will introduce a new letter each week and the children will complete related activities at a variety of levels. We don’t introduce the letters in alphabetical order, but in a way that best suits the children’s needs. The children 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.

**Numeracy**
Like Literacy, we will group the children across all Prep Classes for Numeracy each day, again this allows us to better cater for the children’s needs. 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……tenths to order objects and events; creating and correcting simple repeating patterns; sorting and classifying objects according to at least two attributes.

**Integrated Studies**
This term’s first Integrated Inquiry Unit is: ‘My Family and I’. We will look at the differences and similarities between ourselves and our families, why each of us is special in our own way and some of our responsibilities within our families. This is followed by a short unit called “Up in the Air”, where we will focus on things that fly. The children will learn about man made objects that fly and things that fly naturally.

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

**Music**
Preps and Prepkins 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 first week of Term 2.

Information Technology
The children will use computers in both the classroom and the Library to become familiar with keyboard use and educational programs, such as Baileys Book House, Millies Maths House and Kid Pix. They will also be introduced to Microsoft Word.

Parent Helpers
Trained Classroom Helpers participate in the classrooms during Literacy and Numeracy sessions. For those who have completed the training program we will be sending out a note in the coming weeks for you to select a preferred time to help. Parents also help with excursions, book covering, laminating and word processing etc. Level 1 teachers welcome offers of classroom help, which will begin later in February. The school requests that all parents wishing to regularly help in the classroom or attend excursions obtain a Working with Children Check from any Post Office. This check is free and lasts for 5 years.

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

Dates to Remember

- Thursday 7th February  First Newsletter
- Friday 8th February  New Families Welcome Barbecue (6pm – 7:30pm)
- Monday 18th February  VELS Information Evening 6:00pm
- Monday 18th February  Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Training (2 – 3:30)
- Monday 25th February  “Getting to Know You” Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Monday 10th March  Labour Day Public Holiday
- Tuesday 11th March  Mandarin Activity Day
- Thursday 20th March  End of Term 1- 2:30 dismissal

Level One Team
Prep Teachers:
Mrs Michelle Stone, Mrs Tracey Dring, Miss Rebecca Davy & Mr Andrew Cassidy