WELCOME TO PREP TP

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Watsonia Primary School and Prep TP. I hope you and your child enjoy becoming a part of our school community.

A reminder about the school hours for Preps. School starts at 9:00am each day, so arriving by 8:50am ensures your child is on time, allows them a short chance to socialise with their peers before they start the school day and they are ready to line up when the music begins to play. If you arrive later than 9:00am, students must visit the office first to sign in and receive a late pass which they give to their classroom teacher.

For this week and next week, Preps attend school on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and finish school at 2:30pm.** From Monday 16th February, Preps attend four days but finish at the regular school time of 3:30pm. **From Monday 2nd March, Preps attend five days a week, 9:00am – 3:30pm.**

If your child is absent, please contact the school to let us know. A note sent with your child before the day (if absence is planned) or a phone call to the school office is sufficient. Absences are officially recorded as **school-approved** if notification is received, and **unexplained** if we receive no notification from parents.

On the Wednesdays that your child is not at school, I will be conducting interviews with families, as well as literacy and numeracy assessments with each Prep. You should have received a letter last Friday with your scheduled interview day and time. If this time is not convenient, please speak to me as soon as possible to arrange another appointment. It is essential that I have this time to get to know you and your child.

For the first two weeks of the year we will be implementing the Quality Start Up program known as “I am, You are, We are Watsonia” which develops confidence, respect and a positive learning environment for all. Our Primary Welfare Officer, Carmel Devitt will be joining in with some classroom activities to provide additional support to all Prep students. This program will be an introduction to our Term 1 Integrated Unit which is titled “Me and my School”. This program will be an introduction to our Term 1 Integrated Unit which is titled “Me and my School”.

Special Religious Instruction (SRI) sessions will begin in March. The Prep SRI program is presented in a half hour per week session, by a trained volunteer, Mrs Elsie Storr from ACCESS ministries. If you would like your child to participate in these sessions, you will be required to complete and return a permission form.

To encourage the responsible use of technology, each child at Watsonia Primary School is asked to adhere to our **Student Acceptable Use Agreement for Learning Technologies.** To ensure your child can use the school ICT equipment, please discuss the agreement with your child and sign and return the form by Friday 6th February. If your child can write their name, they may also sign the form. If you have any questions about this form, please come and see me.

So that your child can come to school prepared each day, below is an outline of the days they will have specialist classes.

Music lessons are on **Mondays** with Miss Collette Dane.

Library sessions are on **Tuesdays** (beginning Tues 11th Feb). To borrow books from our library, students must have a library bag. Your child will receive a yellow library bag with their booklist which they can use for borrowing books. Other library bags are accepted as well.

Art lessons are on **Thursdays** with Miss Collette Dane. All students **must** have an art smock to protect their uniform. Students without an art smock are not able to use all the paints and materials in the art room, so to ensure your child can participate fully, please send a named art smock to school before next Thursday. You can purchase art smocks from some shops but an old shirt will work just as well. Ensure the smock covers the front of their uniform completely and has **long sleeves.** Art smocks are kept in the classroom and come home at the end of the year for a wash!
LOTE Italian lessons are with Mrs Nancy Berardone on Thursdays.

Physical Education (PE) sessions will be held on Wednesdays, once the Preps are attending school full time. These sessions will be run by Mr James Moio. On Fridays Preps will also participate in the Perceptual Motor Program or PMP. PMP develops motor skills, co-ordination and the perception of self & space. PMP sessions require more adult assistance and will be run by Mr Moio and myself. It is essential that your child wears appropriate shoes and a hat and has their water bottle for all P.E. and PMP sessions.

As we are a Sunsmart school, a school hat is required in the playground during terms 1 and 4. If students do not have their school hat they cannot participate in outside activities, which include playtimes. Students without a hat sit in a designated shaded area at playtimes - No Hat, No Play!

Monday morning is our whole school assembly, 9:00 – 9:30am in the Hall. At this assembly, weekly awards are presented, various announcements are made and our school choir often performs. Parents are always welcome to attend.

Next week, the Parent Information Sessions will be held for Prep parents on Wednesday 11th February at 6pm or alternatively Thursday 12th February at 9am. You need only attend one session. The purpose of this session is to inform you about the learning, expectations and activities your child will be involved in as well as school procedures.

On Thursday 5th March, we will be having a Prep Learning Showcase. All families are invited to visit the classrooms between 9:15 – 10:00am to join in learning activities with the students. This is a terrific opportunity to see what and how we learn at school.

Attached to this letter is a calendar of events for Term 1. Please refer to this document to find out what activities students and families will be involved in this term.

The Home Learning program for Prep students consists of reading and practising high frequency words, the Magic Words. Your child will receive their own personal home reader and a Magic Words folder which is expected to be practised every night. Home Learning will officially begin once all assessments have been finalised and more information will come home then.

All students are also asked to provide 1 box of tissues for the year. Thank you to the families who have already sent a box to school.

Students are encouraged to have a bottle of water on their table to sip from regularly, clearly labelled with their name. Bottles need to be of the ‘pop-top’ style so they don’t need to remove the whole lid to drink – this will minimise spills on tables. Please ensure that only water is provided for the classroom. Cordial and juice are for lunch or snack and will not be allowed during class time.

Watsonia PS also encourages healthy eating and healthy lunches and snacks are always best. Please ensure that your child can (or is learning to) open their own lunch, including unwrapping plastic wrap, opening packets and containers. While I will always assist them, Prep is also about fostering independence.

If at any time during the year you have a query regarding your child, please feel free to make a time to see me. I am sometimes available before or after school to discuss urgent matters, otherwise please make an appointment time with me. During school hours, Mrs Sue Fenech in the school office is available to assist you and pass on messages.

I look forward to a wonderful and productive year.

Regards,

Tania Patten
Prep TP Classroom Teacher
Email: patten.tania.t@edumail.vic.gov.au

Attachments:
- Prep Events Planner, Term 1 2013
- Parent Information Session reply slip
- Student Acceptable Use Agreement for Learning Technologies
- Specialist newsletter
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<th>Preps Events Planner Term 1 2015</th>
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<tr>
<th>Excursion/Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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| **Parent information session**  
An outline of your child's learning and expectations for 2015 will be provided. | Room 5 | Wednesday, February 11th 6.00-7.00pm  
OR  
Thursday, February 12th 9.00am-10.00am  
Select only one of these | No | Yes |
| **Pupil free day.**  
Students not to attend on this day | Students not to attend on this day | Friday, February 27th | No | No |
| **Labour Day**  
Public holiday, students not required at school. | Students not to attend on this day | Monday, March 9th | No | No |
| **Twilight Sports and Parents and Friends BBQ** | Watsonia Primary School | Wednesday, March 11th 5.00-7.00pm | No | No |
| **Grade Prep – 2 Showcase of work**  
Parents will receive an invitation from their children closer to the date. | Room 5 | Tuesday, March 5th 9.15-10.00 | No | No |
| **Out of school uniform day for P-6. Grade 6 Graduation fundraiser.** | Watsonia Primary School | Tuesday 3rd March | Gold Coin Donation | No |
| **Ride/Walk 2 School day.**  
Students are encouraged to ride or walk to school. Riders must wear a helmet. | Watsonia Primary School | Thursday 19th March 9.15-9.45am | No | No |
| **Harmony Day**  
Sharing and celebrating our multicultural country and all its diversity. | Watsonia PS | Friday 20th March | No | No |