Dear Families,

Wow! We are now into Week 3 of Term 2 already! Where has the time gone?

**Home Reading Folders/ Green Bags:** It is absolutely fantastic to have all students reading on a daily basis. Congratulations parents on your fabulous support for your children!

- Repeat reads are essential at this stage to develop reading confidence, good fluency and phrasing.
- Please remember to chat about the storyline and ask them to predict which word would come next if they are stuck, rather than telling them, as a first strategy.
- Early on they rely on the repetition of the text for reading so point out the pattern if they haven’t worked it out to help them, eg ’I am climbing. I like climbing. I am running. I like running,’ and so on.
- When children are first learning to read they tend to read from memory and gradually they start to recognise the words they are reading in other contexts.
- Encourage them to track with their finger until they confidently have word by word matching achieved.

Please continue to help your child practise reading the High Frequency Words contained in their folder. They are not required to spell them at this stage. We introduce new words each week in Literacy lessons and carry out activities on these words. Point out the words in the books that they read or get them to find all the ‘to’ words in their book, for example. Daily practise, or every second day, on their small collection of words, is the best way for them to start to learn them. Just keep on trying and they will get there.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge:** We are steadily reading lots of the books on the list for the Premier’s Reading Challenge and will easily make the minimum number required to meet the challenge. At Prep/1 level the students don’t need to have read the books themselves – we can read to them. The challenge ends in August and certificates of achievement are presented in Assembly later in the year.

**Inquiry Unit: Our Family Histories.** Thank you for the wonderful family photos that you have sent in. Each child is sharing these photos with the rest of the class and we are marking on a map of the world where our extended families are from. We are investigating the different structures of families and the children have made a simple family tree. Linking into our science unit we are also looking at inventions and will compare the toys and transport of today with those of their grandparents/elders when they were the same age.
Science Talent Quest: We are fortunate to have a secondary science teacher, Manju, working with us on our science investigation. The topic for this year's Science Talent Quest is "A Century of Australian Inventions". We have been discussing some of the inventions Australia is famous for and have settled on the ute as our primary topic for investigation as it is an Australian invention from the 1930's. We will be completing a class project on this topic and will hopefully be able to enter into this year's Victorian Science Quest as a whole class.

Maths: Please help your child to practise counting and writing numbers 0-10 for Preps and 0-30 for Grade 1. We have been making collections of these numbers, recognizing the symbols on dice and recording these numbers. Playing games such as Uno and Snakes and Ladders with your child is lots of fun and great practise for them.

Our specialist classes have changed this term. We are now following a two week rotation for Phys Ed, Auslan and ICT/Digital Art, and so the following timetable now applies:

Odd weeks (eg Week 1, 3, 5,...)
- Monday: Phys Ed - Tim Hemsworth
- Wednesday: ICT/Digital Art- Steve Hallam

Even weeks (eg Week 2, 4, 6...)
- Tuesday: Auslan- Karen Somers

Every week:
- Tuesday: Library- Catherine James
- Wednesday: Art – Janette Cook
- Thursday: Music- Catherine James
- Friday: Sustainability Studies- Karen Faulwetter

Coats, hats and boots: Please send your child with wet weather shoes, a coat and warm hat through Terms 2 and 3. We are doing lots of work in the garden in Sustainability classes on Fridays so boots for Fridays are a must. The children play outside unless it is raining so they need some warm clothes and dry feet for our colder weather.

ART: We have been focussing on self-portraits and colour. We have been making lots of backgrounds with warm and cool colours and are about to utilise them to make more wonderful pieces of art. Janette.

Tissues: Just a reminder, if you haven't already, to please send in a box of tissues for classroom use.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please come and see me straight away to chat about it or we can make a time for a longer chat.

Thank you, Regards Karen Faulwetter