



## Prep AH Newsletter – Term 1, 2019

February 2019

Dear Parents and families,

Welcome to Watsonia Primary School and Prep AH! I hope that 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 that 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. When the music is playing, this is your chance to say goodbye to your child. 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 the first two weeks, Preps attend school on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and finish school at 2:30pm**. From **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February**, Preps attend four days but finish at the regular school time of 3:30pm. From **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, Preps attend **five days a week, 9:00am – 3:30pm**.

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 will receive a letter 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.

Watsonia Primary School uses the online Parent Communication Portal called **Compass**. Compass is used in many schools across Victoria and is available as an iPhone, iPad application, and also available to use through a standard web browser. This system helps streamline communication between parents and teachers by allowing online bookings for Parent Teacher Conferences, digital newsletters and easy access for student reports online and other feedback as required. Parents will receive individual details of how to log on and set up an account early in the term and we aim for all parents to be signed up by **the end of February**.

If your child is **absent**, please contact the school either by logging your child's absence on Compass 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.

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.

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (as of Week 6 when they are present 5 days a week):

Music lessons are on **Wednesdays** with Miss Emily Viney.

Library sessions are on **Mondays**. To borrow books from our library, students must have a library bag. Your child will receive a library bag with their booklist which they can use for borrowing books. Other library bags are accepted as well.

Art lessons are on **Tuesdays** with Miss Emily Viney. 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 by **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February**. 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 Rina Nanos on **Wednesdays**.

Physical Education (PE) sessions will be held on **Mondays** and will be run by Mr Nicholas Lindsay. 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 Lindsay 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.

A **Prep Information Session** will be held for Prep parents on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 6-6:30pm**. 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 **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** we will be having a **Prep AH Showcase**. All families are invited to visit the Prep classroom between 9:05 – 9.45am to join in learning activities with the students. The focus of the showcase will be a morning in Prep where you will participate in Literacy activities with your child.

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, practising the *Magic Words* and counting on the 100's chart. Your child will receive their own personal home reader and a Magic Words folder which is expected to be practised every night.

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.

**Show and Tell** will begin in **Week 6** when the Preps are attending school 5 days a week. See below for the day that your child has their Show and Tell.

**Monday** – Isotta, Evie and Lexi

**Tuesday** – Elijah, Dakota and Aaliyah

**Wednesday** – Christian, Chloe, Tamyin

**Thursday** – Jeffrey, Abhi and Leevi

**Friday** – Eric, Georgi and Paige

## Suggested items that could be brought along to 'show and tell':

- a special toy
- a drawing
- a favourite item of clothing or jewellery
- a book
- a photo
- a craft or construction they made at home
- brochures from a family holiday
- tell about visiting grandparents, cousins, etc.
- awards or trophies
- tell about a holiday/special event to come

Expensive or breakable items should not be brought for show and tell.

I ask parents to assist this learning by ensuring your child has **one** item or story to share on their day. A practise the night before in front of the family 'audience' will also prepare them and improve their speaking ability.

I look forward to a wonderful and productive year!

Regards,

Annie Hunt

Prep AH Classroom Teacher

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Attachments:

- Prep Specialist Class Timetable
- Prep Events Planner, Term 1 2019
- Specialist newsletter

## Prep Specialist Class Timetable

Specialist Class	Day & Time	Specific items required
PE	MONDAY 10:00 – 11:00	School hat, water bottle and suitable shoes for exercise.
LIBRARY	MONDAY 1:30 – 2:30	Library books and library bag.
DIGITAL INVESTIGATION	MONDAY 2:30 – 3.30	–
ART	TUESDAY 1:30 – 2:30	Named art smock which we will keep at school for the year.
MUSIC	THURSDAY 1:30 – 2:30	–
LOTE ITALIAN	THURSDAY 2:30 – 3:30	–
PMP	FRIDAY 11.30 – 12.30	Water bottle and suitable shoes for exercise.



## Prep Events Planner, Term 1 2018

Excursion/Event	Venue	Date/Time	Cost	Permission note required
<b>Prep Entry Interviews</b> , interviews with families, as well as literacy and numeracy assessments with each Prep	Room 6	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , and 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> February	No	Yes
<b>Prep Information session</b> An outline of your child's learning and expectations for 2017.	Hall	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February, 6:00 – 6:30pm	No	Yes, a reply slip to confirm attendance
<b>School Finish Time</b> Preps finish at 3.30 instead of 2.30.	Watsonia Primary School	As of Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	No	No
<b>Student leadership badge presentations</b> to be held during assembly.	Hall	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 9:00am	No	No
<b>Out of Uniform Day</b> – Grade 6 Graduation fundraiser	Watsonia PS	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Gold coin donation	No
<b>Preps start attending school 5 days a week</b>	Watsonia Primary School	As of Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	No	No
<b>Labour Day public holiday</b>	Students not to attend school on this day	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	No	No
<b>Prep Learning Showcase</b> - Come and celebrate our students' learning.	Prep room	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 9:05 – 9.45am	No	No
<b>School Fair and Open Morning</b>	Watsonia PS	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am	Market stalls selling wares	No
<b>Harmony Day</b> Sharing and celebrating our multicultural country and all its diversity.	Watsonia PS	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	No	No
<b>Lunchtime Movie in the Hall</b> - Grade 6 Graduation fundraiser	Hall	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	50c entry	No
<b>Twilight Sports and Parents &amp; Friends BBQ</b>	Oval	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 5.00-7.00pm	No	No
<b>Last day of Term 1</b>	Watsonia PS	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April, early dismissal 2.30pm	No	No