Prep Newsletter - Week 8 – 17th - 21st March

Literacy – Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening
This week we will introduce the final three letters of the alphabet, x, y and z. We have been looking at initial sounds in words. We have also been enjoying reading big books with both classes, talking about the punctuation we can see, the sight words and the phonograms we can identify. You may like to ask your child to identify talking marks, full stops and question marks in books. Our main ‘Speaking and Listening’ focus each week is Show and Tell. This week’s Show and Tell topic is ‘Your favourite place’. We ask that students bring in photos, a picture or a souvenir to show to the class. When presenting Show and Tell, students begin by saying either ‘Good morning Prep M/Prep P or Good afternoon Prep M/Prep P,’ depending on the time of day. The class then responds by saying good afternoon/morning back to the students presenting. During Show and Tell, teachers provide support by prompting students with what to say and asking questions to get more information. We ask, that where possible, each student brings something from home to share, as this gives students something to refer to and also makes their presentation engaging for the audience. At the end of their Show and Tell, students ask, ‘Are there any questions?’ They then respond to a question from another student. You may like to ask your child to practise their Show and Tell at home for the family and give them some suggestions of what they might like to say. Where possible, we like to give students the opportunity to bring something to share, so we will offer for them to bring something the next day. If they have not brought anything in by Friday, then we will ask them to just talk about their Show and Tell. If we have days that are particularly busy and we do not have time to fit in Show and Tell, we will ensure that students get to present the next day. Show and Tell allows students to develop skills such as speaking clearly and at an appropriate volume, gaining confidence to talk in front of a group, listening carefully to what others are saying and comprehending information by answering and asking questions. We are extremely proud of all students efforts so far.

Numeracy
In Numeracy, we will be introducing the students to addition. We will look at adding pictures and objects up to ten. One of our focuses this term has been on ‘one to one correspondence.’ This is simply where students touch each object as they count. Your child may like to practise this at home, by counting groups of objects. This skill is particularly helpful as we begin to work with higher numbers.

Reminders
School Disco - and money need to be returned to the classroom teacher or the office by Thursday 20th March.

Career Day – On the 4th April, students have the opportunity to come to school dressed as what they would like to be when they grow up. You may like to have a look at our ‘When I Grow Up’ displays for some ideas.

Easter Hat Parade
The Junior School will participate in an Easter Hat Parade on Wednesday 2nd April. We ask that students come to school wearing an Easter Hat. Here are some ideas for designs, made by previous students and their families. Parents are invited to attend the Easter Hat Parade. It is usually begins at approximately 9:10am and runs for approximately 45 minutes.

Caterpillars
We had a wonderful time in Science making our caterpillars. Mr Rhyder asked some students to assist him to break up the mulch in big tubs of water. We then were each given a chux cloth and had to place the mulch in a line down the middle of our cloths. It was very wet and gooey on our hands!! Mr Rhyder then sprinkled grass seeds onto our pile of mulch and we wrapped up our caterpillars as if we were wrapping a burrito! We placed them next to the windows in our classrooms and our trustworthy monitors watered them each day. The result was wonderful, hairy caterpillars! We hope that they have found a comfy place in your home and that they continue to grow!