Prep dates to remember:

- 2nd March - Prep students attending Wednesdays
- Fri 4th - Free Dress Day
- Fri 11th - Show & Tell (A picture you have drawn or painted at home)
- 15th - Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion
- 20th - Parkdale PS Fair
- Thursday 24th - Show & Tell (Free choice)
- 24th - Last Day of term 1: 2:30pm dismissal
- 11th April - Term 2 starts
- 27th - School Photos
- 28th - Grandparents Day
- 2nd to 13th May - Prep Swimming (days and times TBC)

WELL DONE!
A big thank you to all parents who have supported their child with a smooth transition into primary school. It is wonderful to see so many students come into class smiling and following our ‘morning processes’ showing responsibility by putting away their own bag, organising notices and putting fruit and drink bottles on the table. Well done everyone!

MATHLETICS
Your child now has their Mathletics username and password. It is stuck on the reader cover. However, we also encourage you to copy it down and keep next to the home computer for quick access. This is a fantastic site that helps students practise concepts they are learning at school. More information can be found at http://au.mathletics.com/#/home

WWCC
All helpers of corridor reading, Literacy groups, excursions etc. require a current Working With Children Check. Please show this to your child’s teacher so they can mark it off. A photocopy is also required at the Office.

WRITING HELPERS (MONDAYS)
We love helpers in the classroom! On Monday mornings we run a writing session from 9:30—10:45. We would appreciate the assistance! Please add your name to the list outside your child’s classroom. Unfortunately we can’t accommodate pre schoolers and babies. Sessions begin Monday 7th March.

MATHEMATICS
We have now completed our Prep Testing. The Wednesday interview times are a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child working out what they do know and need to know. As a level we are now looking at the Mathematics results and will begin working out Maths Groups. Four times a week your child will visit their Maths teacher (the 5 prep teachers) who will assess, plan and report on their progress. This is also a great opportunity for your child to get to know students from other classes and work in like ability groups.

We start each concept with a pre test so we can work out the starting point for students in our groups. Each concept ends with a post test and then we can review and go over any ‘misconceptions’. During our level meetings we look through results and move any students to other groups, if necessary.

PLANNING WEEK
At the end of each term the teachers in each grade level are assigned a ‘Planning Day’ in which to develop and plan programs for the following term. On this day the children spend the whole day in sessions with the specialist teachers. We will see the children first thing in the morning but they will spend the rest of the day with the specialist teachers. There will be no corridor reading on this day. Due to planning days for other levels there will be some disruption to the specialist timetable for the remainder of the week. Planning Day dates will be announced soon!

SCHOOL FAIR
The school fair is nearly here (Sunday 20th March!) Look out in the coming weeks for the classroom roster for the stall designated to your child’s class. Please make sure you put your name down for a time to help out.

REMINDERS

Blue Notice Bags/Readers
Please return to school each day. Please check each evening for any notices.

Fruit / Vegetable Snack
Please supply your child with two serves of fresh fruit and/or vegetables a day. We stop for a break mid morning. It is great if you could have this snack in a separate container from their snack/lunch. Students place their fruit snack on their table on arrival each morning.

Please ensure you send a note or email to your class teacher if your child has been away or intends to be away (e.g. an appointment)
READING

Preps are not allocated homework but we do expect them to read their take home book every night and to spend some time practising the list words that are inside their reader covers. On their designated ‘reading to the teacher day’ they will be tested on these words to see if they are ready for the next list. Please note that we do not test the words in order so the children cannot simply memorise the list, and we do expect them to be able to recognise the words instantly (not to sound them out and then read them).

As mentioned in an earlier note, the book boxes are organized into coloured bands, each colour covering 2 or 3 reading levels. When we feel that a child is reaching a high level of competence with the coloured books they are reading we will do a ‘benchmark’ reading test with them to determine their level of proficiency and this will help us to decide whether they need to move up to the next coloured box. This test does not simply assess a child’s ability to read the words in the book but also determines their level of understanding. We also take reading fluency into account. It is completely normal therefore for a child to spend a few months on one coloured box, particularly at the beginning of the year when they are still building a basic sight vocabulary.

READING HELP

We have a collection of helpful hints in a purple magazine folder outside Ms Sell’s room. Please help yourself! If you can’t collect send an email to your teacher and they will send home in the reader bag.

In the event of an emergency we now require all Classroom Helpers to sign in. Sign in sheets are located outside the classrooms.

REMINDERS FOR SCHOOL DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

To ensure our students get the most out of our valuable specialist classes please take note of the following:

Monday afternoon PS will be coming back from Library and will be dismissed on the side of the Junior Playground.

On Thursdays mornings PB and Fridays PD & PT come in a few minutes before 9am and do their “Start of Day Process”. They then line up outside the specialist’s room, where the teacher will be waiting.

CONGRATULATIONS

A massive congratulations to our lovely Miss Clare Benns who on the 20th February became Mrs Tyers!

END OF TERM

The term has certainly rushed by but we are so proud of all the wonderful 2016 Preps! Our last day of term is Thursday 24th with a dismissal time of 2:30pm. The whole school will meet for an assembly at the end of the day and the children will be dismissed from here at 2.30.

Many thanks,

Jackie, Caz, Clare, Brianna and Ash