From Miss Mitchell

Welcome to the first edition of our class newsletter. It has been a fantastic, but extremely busy start to the year..... and just a little hot!! But the students have coped extremely well.

The children are starting to settle into the routines at Pre-Primary and establish an understanding of the expectations of the 'Wattle Grove Way'. Establishing familiar routines early on will help to create a safe, happy and positive learning environment for all. The students spent the first week learning about the Wattle Grove Way and we practised some of the routines such as lining up, wearing the Wattle Grove Sun Smart Hat.

We have started the year with the theme 'All About Me', which has been a great way for us to get to know our students, their interests and their families. Children have a natural curiosity to explore concepts about themselves and the world that they live in.

A big part of Pre-primary is working together as a whole class and in small groups. This term, a large emphasis will be placed on developing appropriate and positive social skills to work together cooperatively. We will be doing lots of class and team building activities to help foster a cohesive learning environment. The ability to cooperate and communicate effectively is an important life skill. The students are grouped into small teams. This will rotate every 5 weeks so that they have an opportunity to work with all members of our classroom.

Early Literacy Skills

A strong curriculum focus at Wattle Grove is our Literacy program.

The development of strong phonological awareness skills is essential at this young age, as it is a vital tool for children if they are to experience success when reading and writing. It is the awareness of syllables, words in sentences, word segments (c/at) and individual letter sounds (phonemes).

During our daily literacy blocks, many of the activities will be based on:

- Syllables (beats in words = el/e/phant)
- Rhyme (house/mouse)
- Alliteration (words that start with the same sound - pretty pink pigs painting pictures)
- Segmenting the first sound and rime patterns (c/at)
- Blending and separating words (j-u-g = jug)
- Manipulating words (change the m in mat for h = hat)

The letter sounds that we have currently been learning are S, A, T, P, I, N. With these letter sounds the students are able to manipulate the sounds and start to create and sound out three letter words and start to recognise word families an example is the 'at' words : at, sat, pat, pin, in, tin, sit, it, pit.
Parent Information Night

A big thank you to all the parents who took the time to come to the Parent Information Evening, I hope you found it very informative and please don’t hesitate to come and ask questions if you have any queries. I hope it was insightful and provided you with a snap shot of where we are heading in 2016.

Library

We visit the school Library on Mondays. Each child may borrow a library book of their choice and exchange it for another book the following Monday. Please ensure your child has a bag to take their library book home in. This is a wonderful opportunity to stimulate a love of reading with your child. It may be nice to share some time together in the evenings or on the weekend reading the story. Reading to your child will help them to develop their language and listening skills and motivate them to improve their own reading ability.

Special Events.

Wattle Grove has many events throughout the year. Our recent one was the Australia Day dress up and fundraiser for the Yarloop Bushfire Appeal. It was great to see so many students in Room 3 take part in this. As a school we raised a significant amount of money and I was very grateful for all the students bringing in a donation. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

Canteen

Canteen days are Wednesday and Thursdays. Please make sure you have written on the checklist in the classroom whether your child is getting a recess and lunch order, even if ordered online. This enables me to follow up any misplaced orders or confusion.