



Wednesday Weekly

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The newsletter of Preston Primary School, 08 September, 2021

Website: www.preston-ps.vic.edu.au

Diary Dates and upcoming events

Term 3 ends on Friday 17 September – 2.30 pm log off

From the Principal....

I'm sure like me, that although you anticipated last week's announcement would be that the lockdown would be extended, it was difficult to actually hear. The thought of another two weeks of remote learning was hard to contemplate. How can we all keep doing this?

These thoughts are not restricted to parents and children, teachers are feeling the same way. All they want is to be back on site with a grade of noisy, excited happy children all working and learning together. We are all feeling fatigued and some days it is difficult to be positive. We need to dig deep and find some happiness and joy in the day. I know that when the sun is out it gives me renewed energy.

We are mindful the families are finding the ongoing remote learning challenging. Some of our students are struggling with motivation, they're tired and at times are feeling anxious. These feelings are being seen in all schools. I know as parents you may be concerned not only about their wellbeing but also a regression in their learning. When we do return to school, we will identify where they are at, and we will progress from there. We have done it before, and we will do it again. My advice at present is to prioritise their wellbeing.

Throughout my many years as a teacher and principal I always knew that as the term wound down so did the children's stamina. Parents will be experiencing this at the moment. Your children will be tired. They have worked hard throughout the term and they are winding down towards the end of the term and looking forward to a break. As we work through the last days of the term, please be mindful your child is getting tired. Make the most of the lovely sunny days.

Regards,
Janet Paterson,
Principal.

Artists of the Week



Xuan L, 1AD



Anastasia T, 3AB

Grade Prep Report

Preps make Choc Bliss Balls!

On Friday, the Prep students were busy making Choc Bliss Balls during their morning WebEx meeting. It was wonderful to see so many children and their siblings joining in and getting their hands dirty for our Junior MasterChef class.

We thank all the parents for their help and for sending through these amazing photos.

I wonder what the Preps will be making this Friday. Stay tuned everyone!



Grade 2 Report

It's Spring and despite our current situation I think the warmer days and sunshine are lifting the spirits of everyone in Grade 2.

The teachers have been enormously impressed with the resilience and independence the students have shown towards learning from home. Everyone is hanging in there and we have been seeing some great work being produced by the children.

Each week one of the Grade 2 teachers is hosting a whole year level science experiment on WebEx which the students have really enjoyed. Thanks to Ms Carden for kicking this off and being brave enough to host a WebEx meeting with so many children involved. Our lava lamps were amazing!

All of the teachers are working hard to engage their classes in creative ways and in 2AB, Mrs Woodford hosts an afternoon book club each day. Mr Adams (2AC) has given a Webex tour of his classroom for his students to let them see that it is still there and Ms Carden and Lauren (2AD) have mastered the art of "breakout" sessions to give students the opportunity to work in small groups. Over in 2AA we have dusted off our passports and taken some "virtual fieldtrips" to exotic locales such as the Pyramids of Giza, the Grand Canyon and the Acropolis. Thanks to **Ioanna and Zoe in 2AA**, for helping Bev out with that tricky Greek pronunciation!

Over the next week we are planning on dropping in to see the Queen's digs over at Buckingham Palace. I wonder if we will get to have tea with her? We might also check out the Mona Lisa at the Louvre.

If you are interested in sharing some of these experiences with your children, you can find a great selection at

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/a32403098/virtual-field-trips-for-kids/> or

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/about/treks/#/grid>.



Grade 5 Report

Hello from the Grade 5 team and students!

We have been working hard at building our knowledge and understanding of this year's NAIDOC theme "Heal Country." Over the past few weeks the children have been digging deep, thinking hard and unpacking that term "Heal Country." What does it mean to indigenous people and what can we do to help heal country? We have been learning about the traditional owners of Darebin, the Wurundjeri WoiWurrung people and will be taking part in the "Darebin Schools Yarning Conference", where we will walk in "The Little Long Walk", make posters and work with the NARRUP team of Wurundjeri rangers, to plant indigenous shrubs and flowers at the School to help "re-wild" Darebin with native plant species.

Some thoughts from the Grade 5 kids on "Heal Country":

"Country only speaks at a spoken time; when we wish to speak to it and Country speaks back. It should be treated like a living person and should be defined more than just land. A deep connection runs through it when it talks, and we should respect it like that."

"The connection indigenous people have to country, makes me want to have a stronger connection to it"

"It is important to listen and learn from the land because then you begin to realise how to look after country and how to respect it"

"Country speaks to us by giving"

"We need to pay attention to what our land tells us or else we might unintentionally destroy it for an example if we chop down too many trees we might kill off our plants and animals"

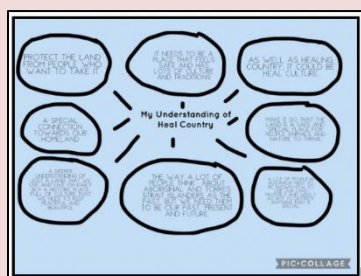
"It's important to listen to country because it makes us understand and open our eyes realising what's right in front of us that seemed as if it was never there before."

"I'm amazed by country. It provides all these things for us like fresh water, food, trees, oxygen, shelter and so many other things. Country deserves respect. It is like a person that provides everything natural that we need. We take from country but don't give much back. This has to change"



HEAL COUNTRY

Country isn't something you shouldn't pay attention to
Country is a person
It shouldn't even be 'it'
Country should be treated to
Country should be something to 'be'
Country is alive
And is not merely land
Country is part of us
And what we do,
How we live,
And how we will die,
Country makes sure for us not to die in vain
Country lets us die in peace knowing that we have lived
on Country
And wants to thank us
We say 'You're Welcome'
And we leave Country
Knowing that we have shared knowledge and love in life
And we go



News from the Music Program

Hi all!

After a fantastic start to the term at school our music program has returned to remote learning over the last few weeks. During this remote learning period we have continued to focus on the instruments we planned to learn and play at school.

Our **Grade Prep and One** students have looked at how to find and play some of the different chords on the Ukulele using a virtual Ukulele as well as learning about the 'Open' strings (strings we play without having to press down between any frets) and how to remember what each open string note is (G, C, E, A) by using a silly sentence for each note.

Our **Grade Two and Three** students have been using the virtual guitar to help with their knowledge of the acoustic guitar. The **Grade Two** students have been learning how to play the introduction to 'Smoke on the Water' using the Tablature (TAB) method and matching this style of learning with the traditional notes in our musical alphabet. **Grade Three** students have been learning how to play some chords on the guitar including knowing what notes make up each chord. Both grade levels have also had the opportunity to make up their short songs using the skills they have acquired and create their own silly sentence to help remember the open strings on the guitar which are E, A, D, G, B and E.

Whilst it hasn't been the hands-on type of unit of work we would have completed at school, the students who have completed this work have done a wonderful job. It has been great to see photos and videos of students playing instruments that they have at home.

Thank you also to all the parents and guardians who have assisted their child in completing these tasks when needed – it is greatly appreciated!

Til next time and hopefully back at school – rock on!

Jason

