Prep Newsletter
February 2016

A few reminders…

This year we have decided to call the grades Asparagus and Beans. Prep A: Asparagus and Prep B: Beans.

Reader Bags-
Each day your child will bring home their blue ‘Reader Bag’. Please check it as it may contain notes from the school about upcoming events. If notes are small they will be sent home in your child’s lunchbox. Your child will bring home a reading book to share with you. We may also send home one that we make together in the classroom. Hand-made books can be kept at home. Please fill out the yellow Reading Journal each time your child shares a book with you.

PLEASE RETURN READER BAGS TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Library Bag-
Each week we visit our school library and choose a book to borrow for the week and share with our family. In order to borrow a book your child must have a ‘Library Bag’. Please note that this is different to the blue ‘Reader Bag’. The Library bag is the bag that students were given at their Prep interviews. Please ensure this bag is returned to school this week. We visit the Library on Fridays. Each Friday your child must have their library bag and return their old book before they can select a new one to take home. Students can bring their Library book back to school on Thursdays and keep in their drawer to reduce the chance of forgetting.

Food Allergies
Please remember that we have students who have severe food allergies in our school. The following food types have the potential to cause an anaphylactic reaction:
- Dairy, eggs, nuts and wheat.
Please remind your children that sharing food is not allowed at school.

Lunches -
If your child does not like eating their sandwich crusts and you are happy for them not to be eaten, we ask that you remove the crusts at home. We aim to minimize food wastage and uneaten food scraps will be sent home so that parents know what exactly their children are eating or not eating. Also don’t forget to pack at least two pieces of fruit or vegetables in your child’s lunchbox. One will be eaten at snack or lunch time and the other will be eaten during our afternoon ‘Fruit & Story’.
Please also remember that we have a Waste-Free lunch policy and any rubbish will be returned home.

School’s Mobile App
The school’s mobile app is available for download in the Apple App store and via Google Play for Android devices. This mobile app is part of our website so you will be able to stay up to date with all the latest school information on your IOS and Android smartphones. You can access the app by searching for the school name: St Michaels Traralgon.

Important Dates:
16th & 17th February – Parent Teacher Interviews
18th February – 2.30pm Cuppa and Conversation
Friday 19th – Whole School Closure day
Friday 4th March - School Athletics carnival.
Wednesday 16th March- Preps first Wednesday at school.
24th March – Last day of term 12.30 finish
• Tuesday 12th April- School photos.
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Mr Hunt-
We are lucky to have a 4th year teaching student with us this year. Mr Jacob Hunt will be working with us in the Prep room throughout the year.

Icy-poles-
The Grade 6 students will be selling icy-poles at lunchtimes. They are 50c each. If your child would like to purchase one please put the money in a zip-lock bag with their name on it and leave it in their lunchbox. Students do not need an icy-pole every day so you might like to save them for a hot day or as a special treat.

Wednesday Assessments-
During the Wednesdays that the Preps do not attend school, the teachers will continue to conduct assessments that will assist us in tailoring a program that will best meet the needs of your children. Again, these will be informal observations and a chance for us to get to know your children on a one-to-one basis. Each assessment will be approx. 30 minutes long and your child will only need to attend one session over the next three Wednesdays. If you haven’t yet booked your Assessment time can you please do so.

Red Post Box –
We have a Red letter box at the classroom door this is where any notes or money that you bring to school needs to go. The teachers will then empty the letter box sometime during the day.

News Bag-
Once a fortnight your child will bring home a ‘News Bag’ and have the opportunity to share something with the class. Attached to each bag will be a tag specifying the type of item we would like your child to bring to school. For the first few weeks we ask that students bring a family photograph. In the coming weeks we will be asking for them to bring their favourite toy to talk about. As we know how difficult it can be to find these types of things at the last minute, it may be a good idea to start getting one organised over the next week or so.

Arriving at school early-
Please note that students are not permitted in the classroom prior to 8.30am. If your child needs to be dropped off earlier then they must wait inside near the Office/Deputy Principal’s Office to ensure they are adequately supervised.

Classroom Helpers-
We are starting our Reading in the mornings to orientate the children to the book they will take home. If you are available to help between 8.30 – 8.55am please return the note to school.

We will begin our Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) in the coming weeks. This program is designed to improve basic motor skills such as throwing, catching, jumping etc. We will require help to run these sessions and a note requesting volunteers will be sent home as soon as we feel that the students have settled in well enough.

Beginning of Year Learning Goals:
- Socialising & making new friends
- Learning how to be part of a team
- Following routines in the Prep room
- Organising our own belongings
- Reading, writing & counting to ten
- Correctly forming and identifying the letters in our names

Welcome to St Michael’s Primary School.
If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to ask either of us. We look forward to working with you,
Sharon, Michelle & Angela

You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss