We would like to welcome the prep students and their families to our school.

At Newport Gardens Primary School, your child is a member of a learning community with the children and teachers from 4 grades sharing the open plan learning space.

**The teachers in the Prep Learning Community are:**

Virginia Thompson Prep A (Red A) *Team Leader*

Piera Marzella Prep B (Blue B)

Lauren Masters Prep C (Yellow C)

Maxine Beckman / Tracey Thain (Friday) Prep D (Green D)

We all welcome your child into our learning community, and we look forward to finding out about your child’s learning style, interests, strengths, hopes and dreams. Although each student has ‘a teacher’, you can speak to anyone of us if you have a question or message about your child. More personal matters can be dealt with directly by your child’s ‘home group’ teacher. We encourage you to be a part of your child’s education by helping out in various ways both at school and at home. More details will follow in Term Two about ways you might like to be involved at a classroom and school level. You will need a Working with Children Card. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OR YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE.

**The term ahead….**

**Holidays to remember:**

Labour Day: Monday 14th of March

Curriculum day: Tuesday 15th of March

Last day of term: Thursday 24th of March

**Dates to remember:**

Prep Information Night: Monday 22nd March

Japanese Cultural Day: Thursday 3rd March

**Prep Coffee & Chat afternoons:** selected afternoons from Monday 29th of February (*please make a time with your child’s homeroom teacher)

**Just a reminder that school begins at 8.50 am.** It is very important that all children are at school before 8.50 am to begin the day with their peers. Our literacy program begins as soon as we enter the room. Children who arrive late miss out on important teaching time and can also distract others from their learning.
**THIS TERM WE ARE LEARNING…..**

This term the preps are learning the routines and rules of our learning community as well as the school rules when playing outside. Our inquiry is ‘Belonging to the School Community’ and we will be investigating what a community is and comparing different communities such as our classroom and school community. We will be sharing information about our families through discussions, writing and drawing. We will be looking at the qualities of a good friend and how to make friends and treat them nicely.

In literacy we will be learning to read and write. We will be focusing on the alphabet, High Frequency Words, reading strategies and comprehension. We will be teaching the children about ‘Just Right’ books and helping them select their own ‘Just Right’ books for their independent reading folders. In writing we will be looking at capital letters at the start of sentences, spaces between words, full stops at the end of sentences and hearing and recording the sounds in words. We will also be working on our fine-motor and handwriting skills. The children will also be encouraged to improve their oral language skills through class discussions and share/reflection times.

In numeracy we will be naming 2D shapes and identifying their features as well as sorting objects by shape. We will be making colour and shape patterns. We will be learning about time by looking at the different parts of the day and naming the days of the week. We will be making a class graph to show our birthdays. We will also be reading, writing and recording numbers and developing our problem solving strategies through open-ended problems.

**Specialist classes timetable:**

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<th>THE ARTS</th>
<th>PHYS. ED.</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>Science</th>
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<td>Marielle Caruana</td>
<td>Kate MacCubbin</td>
<td>Daniel Jerabek</td>
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<td>Prep A - Virginia</td>
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<td>Prep B - Piera</td>
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<td>Prep C - Lauren</td>
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<td>Prep D - Maxine</td>
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**Classroom supplies...** All classroom supplies will be kept at school and distributed throughout the year. We find that by sharing the materials everyone has access to everything they need and the year’s supplies last as long as we need them too. Children do not need to bring along any textas or pencils to school. The teacher will label all of your child’s books for them.

**COFFEE & CHAT afternoons...** On selected days throughout this term, the prep teachers will be available after school for an ‘informal chat’ about your child. This is a great opportunity for you to let us know about your child’s strengths, interests and any concerns you may have. Dates will be sent home soon.

**ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BRING AN ART SMOCK FOR THEIR ART LESSON. A PVC ARTSMOCK IS IDEAL, HOWEVER AN OLD SHIRT IS FINE.**
Food Allergies

We do have some children in our learning community who have allergies. For this reason please be mindful when you are preparing your child’s lunch. Children will not be allowed to share any food from their lunchbox.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays with the children! If your child is celebrating a birthday and you would like to bring in some treats, you can bring in something for your child’s class (24 children). It is much easier to manage individual items like cupcakes or some treat rather than a large cake to cut and serve.

Please do not feel like you have to bring anything along!

Are you able to donate a box of tissues to our classroom? They certainly help when the sniffle season starts……AH CHOO!

Fresh Fruit Friday

Every Friday the Parent’s Club provide fresh fruit for all students. Students are encouraged to eat the fruit before having their own snack.

NOTES

Please make sure that all notes and money that come to school are clearly labelled and safely sealed in an envelope or plastic bag. Each teacher has a ‘letter box’ where children can leave the notes/money. Please label envelopes with your child’s name, what the money is for and their grade.

Eg. Virginia Thompson
Prep A (Red)

Athletics day

After School Care

If your child attends After School Care, please ensure they are aware if they are attending on a given day. It may be helpful to establish a routine with your child such as a visual clue to remind them if they are attending on a given day. This could include something such as a ribbon or tag put on their school bag on the days they are attending After School Care.

We kindly ask that parents avoid coming into the classroom and corridor area unnecessarily. This is due to the fact that we are all working together in the open space and it can be distracting to other people working in the room. The children can say goodbye to their parents when they line up in the morning. We encourage the children to be independent by carrying their own bag and walking in with the teachers. If your child is late or needs to leave early they can be signed in/out at the office and collected from there.

If there is something you need to speak to your child’s teacher about please feel free to pop in and check a suitable time.
Homework

For Term One, homework for Grade Prep students is to develop a regular home reading routine. One of the aims of our home reading routine is to develop reading stamina and so we recommend that students spend around 5-10 minutes (or more) reading the books they bring home from school. This time will gradually increase over the year to around 20-25 mins each night. Included with books will be some high frequency words to practise reading with your child each night, these will be changed on a regular basis, as your child can successfully read them. Please remember to return the reading folder to school each day as these are used in the classroom reading program every morning.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This year we would prefer if prep students ordered a lunch order on a Friday. We understand this may not be convenient, but please consider ordering on a Friday to ensure your child’s lunch is delivered in a timely manner, is hot, and is exactly what they ordered.

Please ensure that orders include your child’s name, grade (Prep A, B, C or D) and the correct money. The menu can be found on the school website.

”Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted.”

- Dr. Seuss

LOST PROPERTY… If your child has lost an item of uniform the first place you should check is the sick bay via the office. If it’s not there please come in and ask one of the teachers’ after school. Please label all of your child’s clothing and belongings clearly.

A Spare Change of Clothes

It is advisable to put a spare change of underwear in your child’s bag in case they have an accident.

NO HAT? NO PLAY!

Terms 1 & 4

The rule for terms 1 & 4 is ‘No hat? No Play!’ We ask that children leave their hat at school so that it is on hand for recess and lunchtimes every day.