Welcome to Prep 2016 at Glen Iris Primary School!

We hope the children have enjoyed their first days at school and have had many wonderful stories to share about their time in the classroom. It has been great to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classroom surroundings. They have been eager to take part in many different activities and have developed some new friendships along the way.

In this newsletter you will find information regarding your child’s weekly timetable, upcoming events at GIPS and a brief overview of our classroom focus for the coming term.

During the beginning of Term One, Prep children will spend their playtimes in a designated ‘Prep Play Area’. This allows children the time to get used to their new surroundings and feel comfortable in the yard. In addition to staff on yard duty, the children will be supervised by us, the Prep Teachers. This will provide children with a familiar face in the yard. Please be aware that children are not to play on the Grade 1/2 playground during or after school.

In the coming weeks, children will be introduced to their Grade 6 ‘Buddy’. The children always love getting to know their new ‘big’ friend. This also provides another outlet of support during outside play.

The Prep Classroom Visits are already underway. Children enjoy the chance to have some one-on-one time with their class teacher while it provides us with valuable information regarding each child’s learning needs. If you are yet to make an appointment time, please see the relevant information on the Prep noticeboard.

We will be holding a Prep Information Evening on Tuesday 16th February. This will be one of the many upcoming events providing information regarding both Prep and school routines. ‘Meet the Teacher Interviews’ will be held on Wednesday 24th February. The interviews are a chance for parents to share any information they feel is valuable in regard to their child’s transition to school and learning needs. Information regarding these events will be sent home shortly. However, if there is anything you would like to discuss at any time throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher to make an appointment time.

Looking forward to a terrific year ahead,

The Prep Team

Brodee Goldman, Barb Maclarn and Claire Sutherland
Term One is a very busy time in Prep. While we spend a lot of time developing classroom routines and expectations, we are also busy throughout the school. Read on to find out some of the things we will be doing during the term.

As you are probably aware, Friday is icy-pole day. On Friday 5th February all children will receive a free icy-pole. For all other weeks where your child would like an icy-pole they must bring a 50c coin which will be collected by the classroom teacher.

**Literacy** – During Term One, children will explore books, strategies for reading and the alphabet with letter/sound relationships. Take Home Reading will begin when students start full weeks of school in March. In writing, the main focus will be on developing a correct pencil grip, encouraging children to begin recording their own ideas and introducing correct letter formation. We will also develop students’ oral language skills through developmental play, rhymes, songs and class presentations.

**Numeracy** – We will begin Term One by looking at basic number concepts. There will be a strong focus on counting small groups of objects accurately, and reading and recording the numbers to ten. Children will also explore shape and look at different forms of measurement. Numeracy activities are very hands-on and children will be encouraged to use a range of different materials to build their understandings.

**Integrated Studies** – We will begin the year with the topics ‘It’s All About Me’. Children will explore their surroundings and the people that make up our school community. They will build on understandings of how we change over time, the role of family and how we can keep safe and happy.

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**SPECIALIST PROGRAM**

**Sport**— Children will attend weekly sports sessions with Mr Gilliland. Children will need to wear shoes suitable for sport and remember their hats and drink bottles during outside sport sessions.

**Performing Arts**—The Prep children will enjoy their introduction to the school arts program with Mrs Judd. Children will have Performing Arts sessions once a week throughout the year.

**Art**— Children will be getting very creative in Art with Mrs Freeland-Small. Your child’s art smock will be kept at school during the school year. If you haven’t already please bring an art smock to your child’s classroom.

**French**—The Prep children will have an introduction to the French language, learning greetings, how to count and colours. Children will have weekly sessions with Madame Barre.

**Library**— Children will attend weekly Library sessions with their class teacher. They will have the opportunity to borrow from the Library each week. Earlier this week, each child was supplied with a Library Bag. Please empty the bag and return it to school on, or prior to, their Library day.

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**WEEKLY TIMETABLE**

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<td>French</td>
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