**Literacy Time**

Prep students have been very busy practising their Magic Words, learning new digraphs, looking for patterns in books and reading and viewing imaginative and informative texts.

During Literacy time, Prep students have been searching for patterns in books. We have discovered that there are a lot of patterns including:

- capital letters and repeated words or phrases
- alliteration
- rhymes and rhythms

The students have also viewed and listened to the book called ‘For All Creatures’ and have learned another new word………… alliteration, which is a series of words that start with the same sound. For example, Lottie’s Lovely Lion! Many authors use alliteration to engage the reader and to create literary patterns in text. Prep students have been practising to find their own alliteration using their names and their friends names. They have been writing lots of words that begin with the same sound and have put them into silly sentences.

During ‘Letters and Sounds’, which is our spelling focus, the students are learning new digraphs and trigraphs. These include ai, ee, oa and igh. We have been engaging in activities such as brainstorming, sentence writing, word finding, online interactive games and handwriting practice. It is exciting for the Preps to learn new sounds, recognise them when reading and use them in their writing.

**Think, Pair, Share**

During Prep learning times, I am trying to make a shift during closed and open-ended question time, from a traditional ‘hands up’ approach towards a ‘think, pair, share’ environment. The reason for this is that it creates an environment where students become thinkers and learn to communicate with each other through the safe and monitored classroom culture.

Prep students have learnt yet another new word, ‘metacognition,’ which means thinking about thinking. That is wondering, noticing, comparing, contrasting, picturing and figuring things out. Knowing how to think and come up with ideas, suggestions and learning to problem solve helps the students to use metacognition and respond with depth and complexity.

‘Think, Pair, Share’ is a wonderful teaching tool because it allows every student to think, every student to talk and every student to share if they wish to. It allows them to feel safe to have an opinion, add to ideas, disagree or agree, to be wrong, to make mistakes and ultimately………to have a voice.
Numeracy Time

During numeracy, the Prep students have also been looking at patterns and learning about how patterns repeat themselves. They have been making patterns with a number of concrete materials including blocks, leaves, twigs, flowers, modelling clay, counters and writing.

Prep have learnt about patterns with letters, including:

- AB, AB, AB, AB
- ABBC, ABBC, ABBC
- ABC, ABC, ABC

...and many more. They are required to make patterns and explain their patterns using the letters ABC and concrete materials. Recognising patterns and their relationships forms the foundation of mathematical reasoning and algebraic thinking. By creating, interpreting, extending and translating patterns using a wide range of materials and modalities, Prep students are able to explore and appreciate the important role that patterns play in everyday life.

The students are learning that patterns arise naturally in the real world and they are learning to make predictions based on their own experiences. They know, for instance, the sequence of events and the changes that take place in any one given day. Noticing patterns and how they change is something the Prep students have been working very hard towards and it is becoming a natural extension of their knowledge and understanding.

Book Week was Fantastic!!!!!!

The Prep students had a wonderful time dressing up, watching other students parade in their costumes and listening and viewing the Book Week staff performance. It was such a wonderful day where we celebrated our love of books and the characters that we the students hold dear to our hearts. Please enjoy these gorgeous photos and thank you so much to parents, friends and grandparents for your hard work and effort producing such wonderful costumes. You are all amazing and so are the children!!!! Look at how beautiful they are......