



CARLTON NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PREP SEMESTER OVERVIEW

2016 - Semester 1

The Semester Overview is a snapshot of what we will be learning in Prep this semester. It is intended as a guide to help you discuss with your child what they are learning in class. We aim to indicate, via the Konnective app, each time we move to a new topic.

<i>Inquiry</i>	Our inquiry topics are 'Me' and 'Me and my community'. With the focus on getting to know each other, we will first look at classroom and school rules and norms, and familiarise students with the school and the people in it. We will then explore our local community and get to know some of the organisations, places and people that make up our community, such as the Police, Fire Brigade, local shops, parks, and health workers. We will visit Kew Traffic School, and have several hands-on and engaging workshops at school - paediatricians from the Royal Children's Hospital will run a Teddy Bear Hospital, and scientists from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute will run science experiments with the students. Activities stemming from our Inquiry units will be embedded across the program, such as writing about a visit from the Fire Brigade, or reinforcing counting and addition by visiting a local shop.
<i>Maths</i>	Our main focus will be on Number, learning and reinforcing counting to 100 by 1s, 5s and 10s, and learning to write the numerals and recognise the written word. Each morning we will set the classroom calendar, revise the days of the week, months, weather and seasons, and use the language of time such as yesterday, today and tomorrow. We will be counting the number of days we have been at school each day, which will culminate in a special '100 Days of School' celebration in Term 3.
<i>Reading & Viewing</i>	Our focus will be on a letter and sound of the week – explicitly teaching how to write it, what sound/s it makes, and spelling words beginning with that letter. We will read quality picture books that feature the weekly letter, and reinforce learning with craft, fine motor, and cooking activities. We will start to look at high frequency words, identifying them in texts, and teach basic reading skills and strategies at students' point of need. Our aim is to foster a love of good books and getting students excited about learning to read.
<i>Writing</i>	Beginning with their name and the letter of the week, we will teach students to form upper and lower case letters, focussing on pencil grip and posture. Students will create literature by sharing in writing and illustrating class books, which they will take in turns to bring home and share with their families. We will provide experiences for them to write about, such as cooking pancakes, and begin to start writing in a diary. We will explicitly model and teach good writing practises, and celebrate their work by sharing it with their peers and families.
<i>Speaking & Listening</i>	We will encourage the Preps to speak in front of their peers each day during circle time, following the conventions of putting their hand up and waiting before speaking, and listening respectfully when others are talking. Students will take it in turns to speak about their 'Treasure Bag', where they bring in a special item to share with the class. We will also have some themed circle time, usually tied to our letter of the week, such as 'Bring in something yellow'. Students will be explicitly taught and encouraged to give positive feedback to their peers, using sentence starters such as 'I like the way you...' and to ask open ended questions, rather than those requiring a yes/no response.
<i>Science</i>	Throughout the semester, we will gradually introduce scientific language, knowledge and skills, such as predict/observe/explain.