INQUIRY

“Happy Healthy Me: Learning to Learn”

This term the preps will be investigating the concepts around what helps them become good learners. The aim of this unit is to help students settle into the school environment and develop an understanding of the principles which lead to being an active, healthy person, both mentally and physically. Some of our key questions include: Which foods are healthy? Which foods are ‘sometimes’ foods? How can we stay physically fit? What values and rules help to build a healthy learning environment? This unit of work is also closely tied to the introduction of the Bounce Back program, where students will work through the Learning and Playing Together booklet and develop classroom expectations and rules.

READING

This term in reading we begin with looking at the most common phonetic sounds in the English language at the same time covering the letters of the alphabet. We will also look at concepts about print, reading left to right with a return sweep and identifying the difference between words and letters. The comprehension strategy we will be covering this term is predicting. Prediction can assist with plot comprehension through directed questioning such as, what do you think is going to happen next? Predicting can also be used at a sentence and word level, through using grammatical and letter clues to make informed guesses of the correct word.

WRITING

The beginning of writing is to understand that written symbols convey a message. Often beginner writers will display a collection of some known letters and squiggles to display their intended meaning. To assist students in developing a more formal understanding of writing, we will cover the basic conventions of writing through simple sentence structure and the mechanics of writing. Forming the letters of the alphabet correctly will be the main focus in handwriting along with holding the pencil correctly and correctly writing their name. As students develop their sound and letter knowledge, they
will be encouraged to use these in making more plausible attempts at writing actual words and leaving spaces in between them.

**NUMERACY**

Topics covered in term four include patterns, number and counting. Recognising patterns is an important developmental stage of understanding the number system. Before we move onto actual number patterns, students will explore identifying, comparing and making patterns from various materials. In number we will look at how to write the digits correctly and ordering. Students will explore the number sequence through number lines, tens frames and hundreds charts. In counting we will focus on counting collections, using ‘clever counting’, which involves touching and arranging items so as not to double count. Students will link this skill with ordering, connecting the counting sequence to a given amount of objects.