Foundation Newsletter Term 4
16th October 2013.

Dear Foundation Families,

A warm welcome back to school for all students and families as we enter our final term of Foundation 2013. Students have returned well rested and happy to share holiday adventures with their class and teachers. The year has been jam packed with wonderful learning opportunities and Term 4 will be no different. The Foundation students are displaying growing independence and are ready to take on the responsibilities of Year 1. We are very proud of how far they have come and look forward to celebrating the final weeks in Foundation with them. Term 4 is always a busy term at Wattle Park Primary School as we fit in Grandparent’s Day, School Concert, Teddy Maths Night, excursions, assessments and reports, swimming lessons and of course Christmas Celebrations. We are looking forward to a Fairy tale fun filled Term 4 where Children will make investigations about plot lines, character traits, settings and messages in our Fairy Tale unit.

With the current timetable children can enter the building from 8.50am to put their bags away, take-home books and notice folders in the tub and then they may head back outside to play or stay inside. If children remain in the classroom at this time they should put the chairs down, sit on the mat and follow the teacher’s instructions. When the bell rings at 9:00am they are to head straight inside ready to start their learning for the day. We ask parents to give their child the opportunity to attend to their reader folders and bags independently and to say goodbye before the bell.

*Parents and siblings are requested to leave the classroom when the music starts so that the daily program can begin when the bell rings.

*If you arrive at school after the 9:00am bell you need a late pass from the office.

REMINDERS!
- Children must walk while indoors.
- Children remain outside at play times (unless wet/hot day timetable prevails)
- Children must bring their hat for outside play and P.E.
- Bring a named water bottle as the weather is warming up.
- Please remind your child to return library books so that they can borrow again.

Important Dates
Foundation Teddy Bear Maths Night 24th October
Whole School Concert 30th October 7.00pm
Curriculum Day 4th November (children do not attend school)
Cup Day 5th November
Twilight Fun Run 15th November
Swimming lessons 5th – 18th December
Carols Night 12th December
Reports Home 17th December
Final Day of School 20th December. Early finish 1.30pm

Literacy
We have seen great improvements in reading for all students and they are enjoying more challenging activities in the Literacy block. Please continue to encourage your child reads their take home reader every night along with a range of reading material at home with you. This should be an enjoyable time where you can share your child’s reading successes and offer support. Remember the books your child is bringing home should be easy for them to read as they have spent a long day working hard with us at school and it is an opportunity for them to “show off” to you their great skills and build confidence. These readers are selected as part of a whole program planned to specifically meet the needs of the children. Please ensure your child continues learning the word lists in their book covers.
We are still using the word rings every day and children have completed the full 100 words now. The word rings have been extremely valuable for all students as they learn sight words and begin to spell. We appreciate the amount of work involved in preparing the word rings and thank the parents who helped us make them.

In Literacy this term our focus includes:
- reading strategies
- comprehension
- high frequency words
- narrative, retell, recount and procedural writing
- story structure eg beginning, middle and end.
- spelling blends and vowels
- punctuation
- handwriting

In the Mathematics curriculum this term we will cover the following areas:
- Numbers to 20 and beyond
- Addition/subtraction
- Time (days of week, months, seasons and o'clock)
- Measurement (long, short, heavy, light, full, empty)
- Multiplication and division (sharing and groups of)

Some activities you can do at home to support your child’s learning are board games, snakes and ladders, card or dice games and reading house numbers/car number plates. You are able to access Mathletics using your child's username and password. There are many websites and applications which are helpful including www.coolmath.com.au www.reinforestmaths.com www.mathcat.com.au

Integrated Curriculum
Our topic for this term is “Fairytales”. We are planning exciting incursions to support the learning in this topic. The understandings in this unit include:

- Basic elements of a fairytales for example: evil versus good, magic.
- Fairytale language
- Lessons/Values/morals built into stories
- Actions and consequences
- Plot, settings and characters: the predictable sequence in structure- intro, problem, resolution, conclusion.

Developmental Curriculum
Developmental Curriculum, ‘Investigations’, focuses on the emotional, social, cognitive, language and physical development of each individual child. This will be achieved through different centres of open ended tasks that will be set up in the classroom. These experiences promote skills such as reflective thinking, problem solving, decision making, enquiring, risk taking, thinking, planning, team work, interacting, and socialising.

Timetable
For Term 4 the Foundation students having the following specialist:

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Thank you to all parents and family who have helped with our program. We appreciate your time and assistance greatly.

Gayle Cope
Principal

Julie Gledhill   Drew Baxter   Tracy McPhee Lam

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