In the full-day Pre-Prep program, Teachers and Early Childhood Educators structure play to create learning moments.

What is Play-Based Learning?

It has long been known that there is a strong link between play and learning. Children are full of natural curiosity and they explore this curiosity through play. When kids are playing, it’s the perfect time to learn.

Play teaches kids how to problem solve, how to make friends, how to express themselves, how to enjoy the world around them, and how to recognise letters and numbers.

All of these skills form the foundation of a love of learning.

In the full-day Pre-Prep program, Teachers and Early Childhood Educators structure play to create learning moments.

While children play, they’ll chat with their friends, and figure out how to stop their block tower from falling. They’ll draw pictures and role play. And they’ll tell stories, and sit quietly to listen to others. All of these activities help children develop, learn, and eventually acquire the skills that they will need in Prep and beyond.

Mrs Cornelie Johnson
Director
Pre-Prep Learning Centre
Learning Through Play

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other’s thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can:

• Ask questions
• Solve problems
• Engage in critical thinking

Play can expand children’s thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children immersed in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.

Early childhood educators take on many roles in play with children and use a range of strategies to support learning.

• They engage in sustained shared conversations with children to extend their thinking.
• They provide a balance between child led, child initiated and educator supported learning.
• They create learning environments that encourage children to explore, solve problems, create and construct.
• Educators interact with children to build attachment.
• They use routines and play experiences to do this.
• They also recognise spontaneous teachable moments as they occur, and use them to build on children’s learning.
• Early Childhood Educators work with young children to promote and model positive ways to relate to others.
• They actively support the inclusion of all children in play, help children to recognise when play is unfair and offer constructive ways to build a caring, fair and inclusive learning community.

Wombats

We are looking at the first people that inhabit Australia - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, by reading stories, singing songs and doing art work. We learnt that the Torres Strait Islands are made up of 100 little islands. We counted out 100 counters and looked at the number 100.

We also enjoyed looking at different houses from around the world - flats, caravans, and tents, wood houses, houses on stilts, houses in rocks and many more.

We loved our first visit to the Library. We met Mrs Robyn Hopper and she read us 2 stories. We learnt about an author and an illustrator. We then had a tour of the Library. There are lots of different books - fact books, chapter books and picture books. We will soon be taking books out of the Library to our class.

Housekeeping

Are you spring cleaning? Remember Pre-Prep and feel free to donate lost treasures: handbags, hats, scarfs, wallets, shoes, Tupperware, cooking utensils, pots, pans etc.

Please keep on saving all your CLEAN junk for us: bottles, boxes, bottle tops, etc.

If for any reason you want to withdraw from Pre-Prep you will need to complete a College Withdrawal Form and provide 4 weeks notice. A Withdrawal Form can be obtained from the College Office or Junior School Reception. You will continue to be billed until 4 weeks notice is received in writing.

Have you moved? Is your telephone number still the same? Please ask for an MCC Family Details Update Form from the College Office or Junior School Reception.

Drop Off

We are having more and more families arriving late. Please ensure that you drop your child off no later than 8:30am to ensure they have enough time to settle in, catch up with their friends and teachers, explore the outdoors and start learning!

It may look like we are ‘just playing,’ but remember we are learning through our play. We don’t want any of our children to miss out. During drop off, please be aware of siblings curiosity with our inside resources.

We encourage that all children and sibling go straight outside and find an activity to do: eg. painting, drawing, play dough, etc.
**Five Key Areas of Learning**

Remember, every child is different. If your child is not meeting expectations, don’t worry. These are guidelines and it is not a benchmark to see if the child will fail or pass. Pre-Prep is so much more than just learning ‘ABC’ and ‘1,2,3.’ Here we prepare them for a holistic learning throughout their school journey.

**Identity**

Children come into the school system with a broad range of experiences. Some come from Day Care and are used to being around children while others come from the home and have never had to share their toys before. By the end of Pre-Prep, children should be able to:

- Give compliments and accept different points of view.
- Wait their turn, share, and listen to what others have to say.
- Recognise when someone else is upset and show empathy. For example, tell an adult when another child is hurt or role-play emotions with toys.
- Problem-solve to help themselves and others.
- Play and work with other children. For example, offering to help others, listening to their friends.
- Show that they are beginning to understand that there are consequences to actions.
- Know some things about the world around them. For example, that farmers live on farms, that some children live in the country and some live in apartments.
- Talk about their heritage or cultural background.
- Know their likes and dislikes, express their thoughts, and recognise their own accomplishments.

**Communicating**

Listening, speaking, reading and writing are all connected. Knowing how to use words to express themselves helps children build the vocabulary they will need to read and write. By the end of Pre-Prep, children should be able to:

- Talk and listen to you, their teacher and their friends.
- Use facial expressions and gestures that match what they are saying.
- Talk about what they think and feel.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Retell stories or talk about events in proper order.
- Show that they understand books that are read to them by retelling the stories and reading aloud.

**Active Learning**

Pre-Prep children will not be expected to use protractors or solve pi. Instead, they will learn how to count, take measurements, and problem-solve in an age-appropriate and fun way. By the end of Pre-Prep, children should be able to:

- Show that they understand that numbers are used for counting and measuring and that numbers and quantities can get bigger or smaller.
- Show the use of information and communication technologies for a range of purposes.
- Can apply and reflect on learning.
- Show problem solving skills and investigation.
- Show enthusiasm for learning and curiosity.

**Connectedness**

Since children have a natural sense of wonder, Pre-Prep is the time to build on that curiosity. Children discover that asking questions and seeking answers is the key to learning. By the end of Pre-Prep, children should be able to:

- Show that they are curious about the natural and human-made.
- Show ways to respond to others with respect.
- Show that they care about the natural world.
- Talk about the differences in materials. For example, they know you can see through glad wrap but not alfoil. They can also talk about different properties of materials. For example, they know sand can be wet or dry.
- Understand how to use materials and tools safely. For example, they know not to run with scissors.

**Wellbeing**

All children need time to create and feel like an artist, dancer, actor or musician. It helps them flex their imagination. They need time to explore ways to promote their physical wellbeing. By the end of Pre-Prep, children should be able to:

- Show they can draw pictures and be able to describe their drawings.
- Show courage and resilience to manage change and challenges.
- Show different ideas in their art.
- Be aware of different types of art from different cultures.
- Show ways to manage personal hygiene and self-care.
- Show control and strength for manipulation objects, tools and equipment.
- Show large movement skills, movement control, coordination and strength.
- Show confidence to engage in movement challenges.
**Ice Cream**

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!

Last week, PP2B learnt about ‘Impy Ink’ in Letterland. So, since it’s winter and strawberries are in season, we decided to make Strawberry Ice Cream!

This tied in well as several of the children had also communicated in our yarning circle that they had been to the Strawberry Farm at Cameron’s Pocket to pick strawberries during the Semester Break.

The children took turns at putting the ingredients in the food processor and enjoyed pressing the button to blend it together. There was much speculation as to the colour the mixture would change to as the different ingredients were added.

Finally the mixture was ready to be poured into cups and set. One child estimated that the cups would take 120 weeks to freeze! She was relieved when we put her concern to rest. Another child was curious to know ‘Will this ice cream be for the kids?’

The following day we sampled our wares. I am pleased to report that the general consensus was ‘Yummy!’ Some mums requested the recipe so I have attached it below. You may like to make this together at home.

**Strawberry Ice Cream**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 x 250g punnet of strawberries
- 1 x tin of Nestles sweetened condensed milk
- 600mls of thickened cream

**Method:**
1. Blend strawberries.
2. Add thickened cream and process until the mixture resembles whipped cream
3. Add condensed milk and process until combined
4. Pour into a container and place in the freezer overnight.

Eat and Enjoy!

---

**Veggie Garden**

It was a lovely sight to see our Pre-Prep garden flourishing as we returned from the Semester Break.

The children love to look at the plants growing, especially the ones they have brought in and planted themselves, and they are learning to care for living things by watering them, keeping them in the ground and watching out for bugs. We can already see some small carrot tops poking through the soil and some sugar snaps on the vine. The corn is growing high and the marigolds are keeping the creepy crawlies at bay.

The children are also very excited to see our bunch of bananas getting bigger on our tree and thinking of what we can make with them once they are ready to harvest.

Thanks to all the families that bought seedlings for our garden and to Bunnings for providing our beautiful raised garden beds. We look forward to seeing the garden continue to thrive and produce wonderful things just like our blossoming Pre-Preppies!
### Save the Date - Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 8th August</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24th - Friday 28th August</td>
<td>Book Week - Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th September</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Father’s Day Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th September</td>
<td>Grandparent’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th September</td>
<td>Missions Market Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th September</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>