What's happening in Foundation in Term 4, 2014?

A warm welcome back everyone!

Time flies when you are having fun! It is the start of Term 4 and once again we have stimulating, interesting, inspirational and fun packed experiences planned for the Foundation students. We are kick starting the Term with learning experiences to celebrate the beautiful season of spring where the days are getting warmer and the blossoms in trees make the environment look magical. In the second week of Term ‘Andiamo in Italia’ which translates to ‘Let’s go to Italy.’ After we go to Italy we will have fun with a ‘Toy’ theme. The ‘Toy’ theme will take us into a “Christmas’ theme to complete the year. The students should have their Santa wish lists ready by then.

Integrated Studies

We will be integrating our ‘Spring’, ‘Andiamo in Italia’, ‘Toys’ and ‘Christmas’ in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Maths, Science, Technology, Art and ICT. It will be fun exploring our Bellbrae environment for our spring learning experiences. We will be learning about different cities in Italy and the famous Pinocchio when we go to Italy. We will also be learning to speak Italian. Our ‘Toy’ theme will be directly related to child’s play, fun, creativity and imagination. The students will love our magical Christmas experiences.

As part of the students’ oral language development it is important to tune the students into what they are investigating and exploring. To reinforce the home school partnerships talk to your child about these topics. Maybe you could provide experiences, read books or research information on the internet. Keep fostering that love of learning.

We have some special events this term related to our topics -

In Week 2 we will be having a special day with a visiting Italian performer. James will be entertaining us with ‘Le vacanze’ which means holidays.

In week 9 we will be having a Toy expo to show case the students learning.

Other great experiences -

Foundation and Grade 1 Swimming Program- 17th November- 28th November

F-2 Athletic sports on the 2nd of December.
A great day will be on the 10\textsuperscript{th} of December when the Foundation and Grade 1 students are having “A day at the beach”. What a fun time!

\textit{Reading}

Our young readers are developing their reading strategies and comprehension. They are developing into confident little readers. We will be reading texts related to our topics, interests and needs based. The students will read in small focused groups at their reading stage of development. We explore their thinking with various comprehension tasks such thinking hats, cloze exercises, retelling events and story maps. We also provide fun tasks on learning to read their ‘magic words’. We incorporate ICT programs and iPad apps in our programs.

Reading ‘magic words’ is an essential part of reading and we encourage students to learn their ‘magic words’ at home. Continue listening to your child read every day.

\textit{Writing}

Our young writers are writing a variety of texts. We have some talented, creative authors in Foundation!! We will be continuing with our Writer’s Workshop and students sharing and writing about their ‘seeds’ each week. Your child will have received a weekly topic list for Term 4. Encourage your child to write at home.

Handwriting- We will be focusing on correctly writing upper and lower case letters this Term. We will be writing on dotted thirds paper like the big kids! How exciting!

\textit{Maths}

The children have so much fun investigating maths problems. This Term we will be focusing on counting, ordinal number, addition, shapes, time, measurement and pictographs. Our maths activities are related to real life experiences. The students record their work and articulate strategies they use to solve problems. We incorporate ICT and iPads apps. Please continue providing opportunities for your child to practise their maths with Mathletics.

\textit{Reports}

The students will receive their end of the year reports on Monday 8\textsuperscript{th} December.

There will be 3 way interviews on Thursday 11\textsuperscript{th} December.

\textit{Hats are compulsory in Term 4!}

\textit{Thank-you}

A big thank you for all the parental support and cooperation!

The Foundation Team- Rosa, Jenna, Nicole and Vera