



Watsonia Heights Primary School



Grade 1/2 Newsletter Term 3

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a great holiday and look forward to an exciting term 3.

Reading

Thank you to parents and friends who have helped support our Home Reading program in semester one and who are continuing to do so this semester. If you are available at the beginning or end of the day it would be great to see you for reading from 9:00am or 2:30pm. Please see your classroom teacher if you are able to help.

We ask parents to share their children's take home readers each night for at least 15-20 minutes and complete the record booklet. This term could you please help your children to focus on 'Reading aloud.' This means reading with a fluent and confident reading voice as if you were having a conversation. As students read they are encouraged to read the punctuation and change their voices accordingly. When your child makes a mistake in reading, give them a moment to realise or correct themselves as this is an important skill in becoming an independent reader. In support, remember to give them plenty of praise and encouragement for problem solving independently.

Homework

This year we have changed our approach to homework as we target the students' reading and exposure to text. This is why we strongly encourage students to read at least 15-20 minutes each night. In addition, we also have provided students with high frequency words that can also be practiced at home. This greatly supports the school literacy program. As for other homework tasks, research or specific activities, may be requested throughout the term. Another homework task will be preparing for Show and Tell timetable. We appreciate your cooperation.

Spelling

The 1/2 spelling program has an allocated time in the classroom. Each week we have three sessions specifically focused on spelling patterns, high frequency words and grammar rules. These sessions are designed around the students' specific needs. We ask that the high frequency words on the inside of their reader covers are practiced at home using activities such as, writing selected words in sentences, making flashcards, finding them in books they read, finding smaller words in bigger words and look, cover, say, write, check.

Show and Tell

A new timetable for show and tell has been sent home on specific topics for each week. When students come prepared they are more enthusiastic and confident about sharing in front of the class. This may include writing notes or bringing in certain items to share with the class.

Integrated Theme

This term our Unit is called 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie.' Our main focus will be on the 2012 London Olympics where children will be required to research a bit of the history of the games, sports and the athletes. We will look at the values and symbolism behind the Olympics as well. Students are investigating the states and capital cities of Australia and have been involved in activities linking family members to different parts of Australia and other countries. To support our literacy and health and fitness unit students will be able to write letters to some of the athletes and have the opportunity to participate in our own Prep to 2 mini Olympics later in the term. We anticipate an exciting and informative time ahead.

Specialist Timetable

Please note there have been a couple of changes made to the specialist timetable.

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 - 10:00			1/2N Sport 1/2S Sport		
10:00 - 11:00		1/2N Science 1/2S Art			
RECESS					
11:30 - 12:30					
12:30 - 1:30				1/2N Italian	1/2S Library
LUNCHTIME					
2:30 - 3:30		1/2S Science 1/2N Library	1/2 Religious education	1/2N Art 1/2S Italian	

Visual Arts

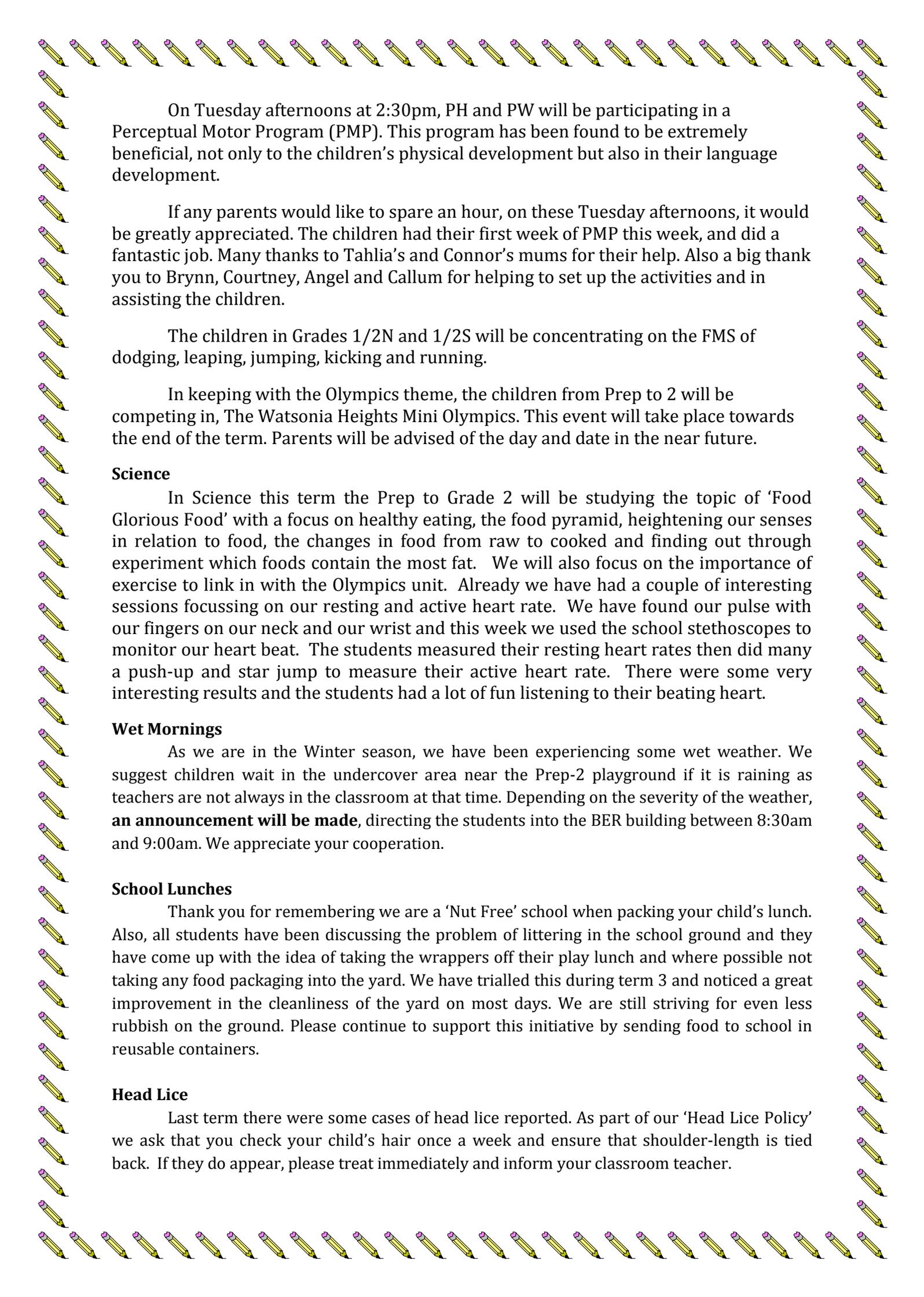
This term is another exciting and busy time for us in the art room. Students are going to begin the term with some artworks based on the Olympics. Then they are going to investigate the artworks of Indigenous Australians and create their own map using dot painting techniques. Finally, students will have the opportunity to develop their modelling skills and create some ceramic works.

Italian

For Italian in term three the children will be doing a short focus on the Olympics and looking at the different sports participating in the Olympic Games 'Le Olimpiadi Londra 2012'. The children will be able to express their likes and dislikes, 'Mi piace giocare' and 'Non mi piace giocare'. The children will learn some Italian board games, too. I have iPod touches and various other technologies that the children will be engaged in using many fun and interactive Italian software to enjoy!

Physical Education

During Term 3 the children in Prep will be concentrating on the Fundamental Motor Skills (FMS) of kicking, leaping, running and jumping.



On Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm, PH and PW will be participating in a Perceptual Motor Program (PMP). This program has been found to be extremely beneficial, not only to the children's physical development but also in their language development.

If any parents would like to spare an hour, on these Tuesday afternoons, it would be greatly appreciated. The children had their first week of PMP this week, and did a fantastic job. Many thanks to Tahlia's and Connor's mums for their help. Also a big thank you to Brynn, Courtney, Angel and Callum for helping to set up the activities and in assisting the children.

The children in Grades 1/2N and 1/2S will be concentrating on the FMS of dodging, leaping, jumping, kicking and running.

In keeping with the Olympics theme, the children from Prep to 2 will be competing in, The Watsonia Heights Mini Olympics. This event will take place towards the end of the term. Parents will be advised of the day and date in the near future.

Science

In Science this term the Prep to Grade 2 will be studying the topic of 'Food Glorious Food' with a focus on healthy eating, the food pyramid, heightening our senses in relation to food, the changes in food from raw to cooked and finding out through experiment which foods contain the most fat. We will also focus on the importance of exercise to link in with the Olympics unit. Already we have had a couple of interesting sessions focussing on our resting and active heart rate. We have found our pulse with our fingers on our neck and our wrist and this week we used the school stethoscopes to monitor our heart beat. The students measured their resting heart rates then did many a push-up and star jump to measure their active heart rate. There were some very interesting results and the students had a lot of fun listening to their beating heart.

Wet Mornings

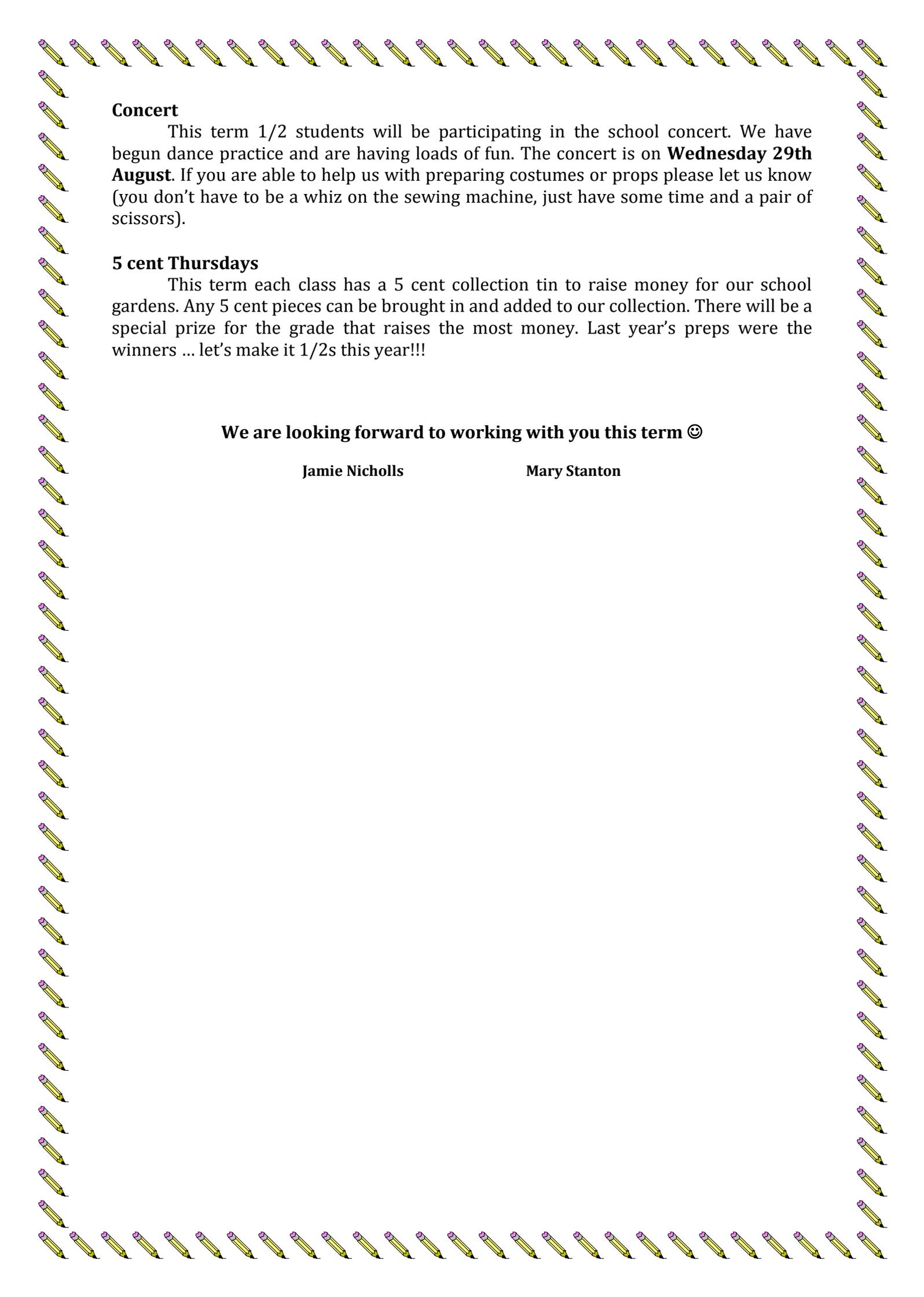
As we are in the Winter season, we have been experiencing some wet weather. We suggest children wait in the undercover area near the Prep-2 playground if it is raining as teachers are not always in the classroom at that time. Depending on the severity of the weather, **an announcement will be made**, directing the students into the BER building between 8:30am and 9:00am. We appreciate your cooperation.

School Lunches

Thank you for remembering we are a 'Nut Free' school when packing your child's lunch. Also, all students have been discussing the problem of littering in the school ground and they have come up with the idea of taking the wrappers off their play lunch and where possible not taking any food packaging into the yard. We have trialled this during term 3 and noticed a great improvement in the cleanliness of the yard on most days. We are still striving for even less rubbish on the ground. Please continue to support this initiative by sending food to school in reusable containers.

Head Lice

Last term there were some cases of head lice reported. As part of our 'Head Lice Policy' we ask that you check your child's hair once a week and ensure that shoulder-length is tied back. If they do appear, please treat immediately and inform your classroom teacher.



Concert

This term 1/2 students will be participating in the school concert. We have begun dance practice and are having loads of fun. The concert is on **Wednesday 29th August**. If you are able to help us with preparing costumes or props please let us know (you don't have to be a whiz on the sewing machine, just have some time and a pair of scissors).

5 cent Thursdays

This term each class has a 5 cent collection tin to raise money for our school gardens. Any 5 cent pieces can be brought in and added to our collection. There will be a special prize for the grade that raises the most money. Last year's preps were the winners ... let's make it 1/2s this year!!!

We are looking forward to working with you this term ☺

Jamie Nicholls

Mary Stanton