

10 February 2020

Dear Prep Parents and Caregivers,

I am the Library Teacher for the Junior Campus and am located in the Resource Centre (Library) which is above our Music and Year 6 classrooms.

I am extremely passionate about books, especially children's books! I am also convinced that God created each one of us to respond to stories, especially when they are shared amongst people who love and care for one another. I count it a huge privilege to welcome children to the library and aim to make their visit a relaxed and enjoyable experience for all.



During Prep Library lessons, students listen to a story relating to our term's theme before participating in follow-up discussions or activities about the book. All students are encouraged to form their own opinions and to express these with growing confidence. To this end, I strongly encourage children to listen respectfully and show tolerance towards each other, especially when their friends share opinions that may differ from their own.

Prep students are encouraged to borrow one book during each library lesson. These books are due back the following week and students will not be permitted to borrow another book until previously borrowed books are returned.

In the week of their birthday, all students on our Junior Campus are given the opportunity to choose a pre-loved book from the *Birthday Books*. The *Birthday Book* program relies on the generous support of our school community and is basically a book-recycling initiative that has blessed thousands of children over many years. Our Prep children may need help to understand that they are allowed to keep their 'birthday book' but must return their library book each week.

Finally, I must tell you about *POPEYE*, our Prince of Peace Library Mascot. Popeye is a much-loved bear who likes to 'choose' someone new to sit with during the story-telling part of our lessons. Each week, one of our Prep students is designated as the 'Library Leader'. This title comes with privileges and responsibilities. Of course, Popeye sits on the Library Leader's lap for stories! As well, the Library Leader leads the rest of the class in the borrowing line to browse the books that are available for borrowing each week, then chooses their book first. They explain to the class why they chose this

particular book and what they think it might be about. Then they demonstrate correct library borrowing procedures to their watching peers.

So, being the 'Library Leader' is a BIG deal in Prep! I promise you that every student WILL get their turn, but for some this won't be until Term 3 (which seems 'forever' away right now).

I look forward to journeying with you on this wonderful pathway of reading adventures. Please enjoy reading the book your child chooses independently. It is a precious opportunity for us to encourage our children's love of books ... an investment that will pay rich dividends for their entire life!

Please feel free to can contact me anytime via email: jmeulen@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au. I am in the library every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Kind regards

Janette Meulen