Hi Prep parents and carers.
This is our fourth and final Prep occasional newsletter to inform you of happenings in the Prep classes.
We are now on the home stretch and are busy preparing all Preps socially, emotionally and academically for Year 1.
The Inquiry Unit we will be studying this term is: **Why do we go shopping?** and we will be looking at concepts like: How do you shop?, What are goods and what are services?, What do we need and what do we want? And how can we look after ourselves?
The topic kicked off with the local shops walk and builds to events including a parents and friends Café, a special lunch and an excursion.
There will also be other key events this term, including Asia week, the big music performance and MAD Day. Keep an eye on Quaynotes.
Once again, if you have expertise in any of these areas and would like to help provide some learning opportunities, please let your classroom teacher know.
Have a terrific term.

**Transition**
Events ranging from the Prep-2 concert and junior sports day to whole school transition day help students to make a smooth transition into Year 1. Please contact your classroom teacher if you have any concerns.

Glen Wise is the team leader of Year 1/2.
He had this to say when asked about 2013:
"The junior team looks forward to this year’s preps coming up to the 1/2 area. Our philosophy is that we aim to foster and develop student independence, resilience and self motivation. Have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to working with your child in 2013."

**iPads**
The iPads are proving to be as popular with the teachers as they are with the students. They certainly are a valuable tool in Literacy and Numeracy. Ask your child about any programs that they like using at school.

**Homework**
As well as daily home reading and practising the Magic Words, why not support your child’s learning by involving them in your shopping. This would tie in nicely with our Inquiry unit and help reinforce the Maths work we’re doing with money.
What have students liked about their classes?
Here we have asked a student from each class about their class in 2012.

Bonnie in C8
C8 is a good class and we are a team. We are nice to each other. We do Maths to help us learn and I’m happy to be in this class.

Lani in C9
We do Maths and iPads. Maths is good because we play “Around the World.” I like my friends and Miss Mac.

Ashlee in C10
I like learning about shopping. Everyone is nice because they let me play. Ms Polwarth is nice because she always is helping me.

Noah in C11
We do fun stuff like playing on computers. Everyone is fun and nice. Mrs Galbraith lets us play lots of games.

Jett in C12
I like my friends because I like them. I like doing writing. Mrs Martin is nice. I like CAFÉ reading.

Lola in C13
I like my friends and they love me because I am kind to them. I like learning to do writing and Ms McLennan helps us write.

We also asked a Year 1 student about what Preps should expect in 2013.

In reading we do partner reading and we give feedback to the person you sit next to. There’s more sums like take-away. I like being with my friends in grade 1 and 2 and we play chasey and gang-up at play time.

Bailey (B2)

Home Activity
Ask your child about what they like about their class and Torquay College.

Also, ask them about what they think it will be like in Year 1.
COMING EVENTS:

Music Concert  All the preps will be involved in a play based on the book 'The Biography of Gilbert Alexander Pig,' which is an adaptation of the well-loved fairy tale 'The Three Little Pigs.' The performance will be on Thursday 1st November at 2pm in the Stadium. Invitations have gone home and a reply slip is needed to organise seating.

P-2 Athletics  This is always an enjoyable day for all students in years Prep, 1 & 2, where they are involved in a variety of fun and energetic events. Keep your fingers crossed for nice weather on Friday 9th November. All families are invited to come and have a great day.

PREP Cafe  This is often a highlight of the year for Prep students and parents and a great chance for a chat over a hot drink and piece of cake. Two of the prep rooms will be set up as a café and your child will act as your waiter during your visit. Put it in your diary for Friday the 30th November.

MAD Day  Don’t worry, it’s just a name. It’s actually MAD morning for the preps. MAD stands for Mini Activities Day and is run by the Year 5/6’s with all money raised going towards a gift from the graduating 6’s to the school. Year 5/6’s plan and run stalls with face painting, food and other activities and students are invited to pay for the stalls with silver coins. Perhaps your child could start earning coins at home by helping with chores. MAD Day is on Thursday 25th October.

Lots more information on these events is to come. Keep an eye on your child’s bag and Quaynotes.

HINTS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD

Support that you provide your child will be invaluable for making connections between what is learnt at school and how it can be used in their world. Here are some tips for how to help your child:

Literacy

- Play sound games
  Practise blending sounds into words. Ask “Can you guess what this word is? m–o–p”. Hold each sound longer than normal.

- Say silly tongue twisters
  Sing songs, read rhyming books and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

- Play with puppets
  Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, “My name is Mark. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does park rhyme with Mark? Does ball rhyme with Mark?”

- Read it again and again
  Go ahead and read your child’s favourite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

Numeracy

I have $2.00 in my pocket. What coins might I have in my pocket?
Saving money is a great way to teach kids about skip counting. It’s time to add up those 5 or 10 cent pieces. Treat every trip to the shops as a learning opportunity.

ICT

Computers are a great way of reinforcing classroom topics.
Ask your child or teacher about these valuable online resources you could use at home:
- Reading Eggs
- Spelldrome
- Mathletics

Living and Learning by the Sea
Use this grid to practise:

1. Reading the numbers
2. Writing the numbers
3. Counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
4. Identifying the odd and even numbers
5. Playing games like rolling a dice to add on, or bingo

Fun with numbers