

Prep students at FVHS are involved in a variety of learning activities to improve oral language, gross motor skills (eg climbing, skipping, ball skills) and fine motor skills (eg threading, cutting, painting). The children engage in play experiences which focus on high levels of problem solving and communication skills.

Prep students attend a specialist Music and Physical Education Lesson once a week. Our Prep students learn computer skills and are engaged in Digital Technology learning experiences. They borrow from the school library.

### The Casey Caterpillar Program

has been adopted at Fairview Heights as our way of teaching Handwriting. It is a program that uses a story about a caterpillar called Casey and her adventures on the branch of a tree. It is a process through which students, from the time they begin to write, are taught to form letters correctly using simple shapes drawn from the illustrated story. Through this process, students will not simply make the letters look correct, but learn to make the strokes of letters correctly and in the correct order.

Features of the program include:

- Aural: consistent, familiar language is used to describe letter-stroke shapes eg. The Caterpillar’s wide open mouth and the possum tail.
- Visual: visual cues are used to enhance visual perception of shape and differences in shape of letter strokes.
- Oral: use of verbalisation of letter strokes using consistent familiar language.
- Kinaesthetic: the bringing to automaticity of the writing of letter strokes and letters whilst verbalising the sequence of formation.
- Letter strokes: these are taught and mastered before letters are introduced



**The program is introduced and mastered in the Prep year and revised and consolidated in Year 1.**

*(Adapted from The Magic Caterpillar Story, Teacher’s Manual. Barbara Brann 2011)*

**Jolly Phonics** - Jolly Phonics uses actions to teach each of the 42 letter sounds.

**Magic 100 Sight Words** - Prep students learn sight words to improve their ability to read and write. Designed and developed by Marcella Reiter, an experienced Classroom Teacher, Education Consultant and Psychologist, the **Magic 100 Words** (1-100 words), **Magic 200 Words** (101-200 words) and **Magic 300 Words** (201-300 words) make up an average of 70% of the words used in reading and writing. Learning the most frequently used words rapidly improves reading, increases fluency and develops comprehension.

Dates	Activity	Cost (approx)	Comments
TERM 1	School Photos – Basic Pack	\$27min	
TERM 2	Cobb & Co	\$12.00	
	Under 8 Day (incursion)	\$2.00	Lots of fun on the oval – visit from fire brigade, police, games, craft and lots more.
	Life Education	\$10.00	Learn about living a healthy lifestyle with Harold the giraffe.
TERM 3	Swimming – Learn to Swim	\$75.00	9 swimming lessons at Glennie Pool. Students are bussed to and from the venue.
	School Musical Matinee	\$10.00	Prep - Yr 3 travel to Highfields Cultural Centre to watch the Year 4-6 musical performance
	Poetry Visit	\$8.00	
TERM 4	Amaroo	\$20.00	Travel to Amaroo outdoor education centre to learn about our natural bush environment