Hello to all of the parents and carers of our 2014 prep students! My name is Leo Damnics and I will be taking your children for computer classes this year. There are no official assessments made on the students' abilities in Prep as students are still establishing their understanding of how to use a computer. I am working with the children on their basic understanding of computer parts and in particular safety (sitting posture etc.) I am teaching them to turn computers on and off correctly in our networked system.

In term one our focus will be to make the students feel at ease using computers and teaching them to correctly identify the different parts that make up our Classroom stand alone computers and our new Laptops e.g. screen, mouse, computer and keyboard. We will also concentrate on teaching the children the important keys on a keyboard such as the 'enter', delete and shift functions. Students will be encouraged to practice logging on and shutting down their computer correctly by themselves, or with the help of their classmates. This is known as peer scaffolding. As students increase their understanding of the basics e.g. using the laptops (mouse) and mousepad correctly and selecting and right clicking to move the cursor, they will be shown how to open and start exploring, creating and saving work in a program called Kids Pix Deluxe 4. Kids Pix lets the students to practice and improve their control of the computer mouse and teaches them to use simple animation tools to create colourful and creative individual artworks.

If you have any queries, suggestions or computer skills that you feel might help the students please have no hesitation in contacting me. I would be very happy to have as much feedback and creative input from parents as possible. If you wish, feel free to arrange a time to come and see me to discuss our Prep Elearning program. Each term I will continue to outline the next steps in your child's information technology education according to their needs and abilities.

Regards Leo Damnics

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