



18 May 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) Parent Information – Term 2 2009

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you enjoyed the school holidays with your children. Term 2 will be filled with quality learning programs and experiences for your children. The Kindergarten teachers are: KT – Mr Ta and Ms Van Zanten, KF- Mrs Felton and Mrs Tingle, KP - Mrs Philip, KL - Mrs Kitto and Mrs Bellamy, KD - Miss Duncan, KM – Mrs Myers, KH- Ms Tulloch. The ESL teacher is Mrs Wojciechowski. Mrs Pickett is the RFF teacher. Should you have any questions or concerns please make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

English

English is taught in three main strands:

- Talking & Listening – is vital to learning and is incorporated in all lessons. Teachers help children develop language skills through class discussions. They encourage the children to talk about the interesting and wide range of experiences they bring to the classroom. Speech is essential in classroom communications and students' oral skills are carefully monitored. Listening skills are equally important and impact on student's progress dramatically. Please take time at home to observe your child's listening skills and give them opportunities to listen and respond to instructions or conversations. Do not underestimate the value of teaching your child conventions of conversation.
- Reading – When children are reading we need to develop comprehension as a priority. To develop literal comprehension teachers pose questions to which answers are obvious and easily found in the text. These questions usually start with when, what, who or where. More probing questions require the student to consider the context. These questions are often framed with Why or How. Inferential comprehension requires more skill and is developed when teachers ask the children to predict what is going to happen next or what they think about concepts in the book (voice their opinion). They may extend this further by asking the students to compare the text to other texts that they are familiar with. This term students are reading and developing comprehension by using traditional fairytales. If you have traditional fairytales in your own language we would love to share these with your children and they can re-tell them to their class.
- Writing – Students will develop handwriting, spelling, grammar and writing skills through daily lessons. In Early Stage 1 we have a strong focus on correct pencil grip, posture and letter formation in handwriting. Students will be taught when capital and lower case letters should be used in their writing. When teaching writing, teachers will draw on the children's experiences and general knowledge to form ideas for topics to write about. We encourage all students to try to put their thoughts into words.

Mathematics

The Mathematics strands Early Stage 1 will be developing this term are (not in order):

Whole Numbers, Time (tell time on the hour analogue and digital), 2D Shapes, Addition, Area and Subtraction. Teachers will teach these strands by linking them to other subject areas. A variety of strategies will be used to teach these strands.

Connected Outcomes Groups (COGS)

The units we are focusing on change each term. The COGS units help to integrate Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Science and Technology, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Our unit this term is "Changes", in this unit students will develop an understanding of how things change. It is a very broad area as we explore the human and environment changes. Students will be participating in the "Living Eggs program." This is a program in which chicken eggs are brought to our school and are hatched. Students will be able to see the life cycle of the chicken. They will have a chance to touch and feel the chicks. Our excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park will give students experiences and allow them connections to understanding "Change".

Cognitive Groups: Group work helps to build social skills and greater self-esteem. Children learn best when they interact with each other. They feel more comfortable when taking risks and making decisions. This learning session also helps to develop language, fine and gross motor skills. Activities cover a range of areas such as reading, construction, drama, writing, Mathematics, home corner, painting, play dough, craft, computers and science. Play is an important part of these sessions because it motivates the children while minimizing anxiety.

Social Skills: A large part of your child's first year at school will involve learning appropriate social skills. Listening to others, taking turns, sharing materials, helping others, speaking nicely and manners and rules will be reinforced daily to ensure all students are happy, safe and learning to their full potential. We ask that you help in encouraging your child become more independent.

Students should by now be able to:

- carry their bags.
- deliver any notes to their teacher by themselves.
- tie their shoelaces.

- **play without your supervision before school (8.30 am – drop & go).** I understand the urge to observe our children playing in a social setting. However, your presence in the playground does not help children to develop independence. Parents are required to drop their children off and go. Thank you to those parents who are supporting us in this matter. Visitors to our school are required to check in at the school office and receive permission to be on the school grounds. Parents must Kiss and Drop or go to the office for permission to be on school grounds.

Additional Information:

- **Homework** – Homework is given fortnightly. It helps students to develop a study routine. However, **remember – play, exercise and rest are also vital for 4 and 5 year olds.**
- **Assembly is on Friday** – your child will tell you when his/her class is running assembly. We encourage all parents to come and watch their children receive awards.

Jennifer Simmonds
Relieving Principal
Principal

Thanh Ta
Relieving Deputy Principal

Lyn Bellamy
Relieving Assistant