Prep Information Evening 2015

Good Counsel Primary School
Welcome to our Prep Information Evening for 2015.

**Prep team**

**Teachers**
- Jenny Fey
- Lisa de Buck
- Amanda Cardillo

**Teacher Aides**
- Deb Castles
- Anna Bruschi
- Kellie Parakas
- Gillian Mamara
Introduction

We will be covering many aspects of your child’s Prep year at our school.

These areas will include

- Respect issues
- Timetables
- Curriculum
- Homework
- Assessment
- Behaviour management
- Social and Emotional Learning
Beatitudes for Parents

Blessed are the parents who make their peace with spilled milk and with mud, for such is the kingdom of childhood.

Blessed is the parent who engages not in comparison of her child with others, for precious unto each is the rhythm of his own individually and growth.

Blessed are the fathers and the mothers who have learnt laughter, for it is the music of the child’s world.

Blessed and mature are they who without anger cay say ‘no’, for comforting to the child is the security of firm decisions.

Blessed is the gift of consistency, for it is heart’s ease in childhood.

Blessed and wise are those parents who understand the passage of time, for they make it not a sword that kills growth, but a shield to protect the growing one.

Blessed are the teachable, for knowledge brings understanding, and understanding brings love.

Blessed are the men and women who in the midst of everyday routine give love to their children and – ever widening – to others as well.

Author Unknown
Parents and teachers need to work together on this general courtesy issue.

- **Daily Greeting** - eye contact, waiting politely for their turn, using a clear voice. Observing the listener/speaker conventions.

- **Other children and their space** - hands and feet in their own personal space.

- **When they are spoken to** - Stop, Look, Listen

- **Equipment** - handling gently and with care

- **Helping to tidy away** - Everyone works together.
Timetables

**Prep C**
- **Music** – Tuesday 12:20
- **PE** – Wednesday 8:40
  
  Friday 11:40

**Prep FD**
- **PE** – Monday 1:40
  
  Thursday 8:40

**Music** – Thursday 12:20

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<tr>
<th>8:35 – 9:00</th>
<th>Morning Session</th>
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<td>(Roll, Greeting, Prayer, Jobs, etc.)</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>English Block</td>
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<td>• Big book</td>
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<td>• Phoneme of the week</td>
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<td>• English rotations</td>
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<td>• Writing Session</td>
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<td>10:40 – 11:20</td>
<td>Big Lunch/Morning Tea and Playtime</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:50</td>
<td>Maths</td>
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<td>• Maths Rotations</td>
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<td>• Explicit Maths lesson</td>
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<td>1:00 – 1:20</td>
<td>Little Lunch/Lunch</td>
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<td>1:20 – 1:40</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>1:40 – 2:00</td>
<td>Free Reading/YCDI Lesson</td>
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<td>2:00 – 3:00</td>
<td>Science/History/Health/Religion/Free Choice</td>
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Curriculum

This year Prep children will be following the Australian Curriculum.

Curriculum areas that will be covered are

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Health and PE
- History
- Geography
- Religion; as well as
- Social and Emotional Learning / Circle Solutions
English

English will include Reading and Viewing, Writing and Shaping, Speaking and Listening

- **Reading and Viewing** - Letter names (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes), colour words, concepts about print (how a book works), Reading Eggs (computer) reading groups based on ability (later on reading groups are combined over the two grades)

- **Writing and Shaping** - encourage children to use the conventions of writing as well as their sight words when writing. Also begin to use capital letters and full stops.

- **Speaking and Listening** - They will be encouraged to listen to and use appropriate language features to respond to others in a familiar environment.
Mathematics

The content strands and sub strands for the Foundation Year are:

Number and Algebra
- Number and place value
- Patterns and algebra

Measurement and Geometry
- Using units of Measurement
- Shape
- Location and transformation

Statistics and Probability
- Data representation and interpretation
Mathematics (continued)

Our program is a “hands on” approach, based around the MAGs program, using concrete materials, games, rhymes and the IWB in whole group instruction and small group rotating activities.

What are some simple everyday activities I can do at home with my child?

- Any meaningful counting situations...forwards and backwards
- Recognising numerals to 20 plus and groupings to 10
- Looking for environmental patterns and identifying the repeat pattern, growing pattern and making patterns forwards and backwards
- Identifying simple shapes and solids and their properties
- Sorting and classifying objects
- What is the day today? What happens today? Sequence of events
- Positional language and placement
Science

Science Understanding
- Biological Sciences - Living things have basic needs
- Chemical Sciences - What’s it made of?
- Physical Sciences - The way objects move depends on a variety of factors, including their size and shape
- Earth and Space Sciences - Weather

Science as a Human Endeavour
- Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses.

Science Inquiry Skills
- Respond to questions about familiar objects and events
- Explore and make observations by using the senses
- Engage in discussions about observations and use methods such as drawing to represent ideas
- Share observations and ideas
HPE (Health and Physical Education)

- The PHYSICAL EDUCATION program is covered by Miss Bowie’s 2 x 40 minute lessons.

- Our “BRAIN EXERCISES” program consists of 2 x 15 minutes sessions per week. Neuropsychologist Carla Hannaford tells us that “movement activates the neural wiring throughout the body, making the whole body the instrument for learning.”

- This program is based on the “Learning Connections” program which is a SENSORY MOTOR PROGRAM where children learn through their senses particularly vision, hearing and touch. The core activities are the floor exercises: brain boosters, creeping and commando crawl. Also included are cross over walking, step and point, tracking...

- The PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM (PMP) is a component that consists of carefully planned gross body movement experiences which allow children to think and concentrate. Children learn to be more efficient users of their bodies using repetition where skills are mastered through practise e.g. balance beam, skipping with a rope, hopping, balancing on one leg...

ALL OF THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS SUCH AS READING, WRITING, SPEECH AND GESTURING ARE MOTOR BASED.

The HEALTH COMPONENT this term is looking at:

- Safety issues, rules and relevant community helpers.
- Our differences and similarities and how we are growing and changing.
- Identifying and developing relationships with family, friends, classmates and others.
History

Personal and Family Histories

The children will:

- learn about their own history and that of their family using stories
- identify similarities and differences between families
- recognise how important family events are commemorated
- sequence familiar events in order
- pose questions about their past
- relate a story about their past using a range of texts
Geography

**People live in places**

The children will

- Explore the place they live in and belong to
- Learn to observe and describe its features
- Form a sense of identity and belonging to their place
- Develop an understanding of why and how they should look after places.
Homework
Prep homework consists of:

- **Children writing their names.** Please be aware that names start with a capital letters and all other letters are lowercase, e.g. Michael. Please encourage correct pencil grip and formation of letters.

- **Reading a book to your child at home each night.** This can be any book in your child’s collection. Record the title in the Home Diary so that your child receives a colour point for each book. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THE HOMEWORK FOLDER BEFORE FRIDAY SO THAT YOU CAN READ YOUR CHILD AS MANY BOOKS AS POSSIBLE.** The clear wallet needs to be returned each day for any notes or correspondence.

- **“Grapheme(letter)/Phoneme(sound) of the Week worksheet”.** Pay particular attention to the correct pencil and scissor grips and the correct formation of the letters when your child is writing. Please allow your child to find the words and to cut and paste on their own. Encourage neatness and pride in a job well done. All homework completed and the number of books read are recorded each Friday.

- **Home reading book:** A special Reading Folder enclosed in the Reading Wallet will keep a record of all Home Readers read as well as keeping these books safe and clean. All children will commence with the alphabet books and as they gain letter/sound recognition and a bank of sight words (colour words), they will move on to simple language experience books. Home readers allow success and practise.

- **Colour words:** Over the next few weeks, your child will commence bringing home colour words to practise and learn. Please help your child to find these words in reading books and other reading and environmental material. Play games with the words e.g. “Snap”, “Bingo”... and as each set is learnt, another set will be sent home.
Monitoring and Assessment

Your child’s progress is monitored throughout the year and progress will be conveyed to you by various means.

- Term 1 - Oral interviews (Date to be advised)
- Term 2 - Written report
- Term 4 - Written report

Written reports are in the form of VH, H,S, D, SR with accompanying comments for certain subjects.
It is important to note that if your child has an 'S' he/she is exactly where they should be.

A collection of your child’s work will also be sent home at the end of each term / semester.

Anytime you wish to speak to the teacher please feel free to make an appointment time directly with either of the teachers.
Religious Education (RE)

The four Level One Modules have been adapted for Prep.

- **Term 1** “Who is Jesus?” *(Beliefs)*
- **Term 2** “Introducing Scripture” *(Scripture)*
- **Term 3** “Prayers and Rituals, Mystery and Wonder” *(Celebration and Prayer)*
- **Term 4** Morality: Stories and Messages *(Morality)*

“Who is Jesus?” covers these components:
- Jesus as a Child
- Jesus taught about God’s Love
- Jesus heals
- Jesus chooses Disciples
- Christians celebrate with a special meal in conjunction with Lent and the Easter story
Behaviour Management

- Reinforcement of positive behaviour with appropriate positive language
- Time Out
Social and Emotional Learning

Program Achieve

- Getting Along
- Persistence
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Confidence

Awards at Assembly on Fridays
Parents will be notified when their child will be getting an award.

Circle Solutions
House Keeping

- Ooze time ending Week 4
- Healthy food and water in drink bottles
- Reality of frozies at Morning Tea. Children miss out on play at Play Time
- **Encourage responsibility and independence by supervising as your child completes their morning chores**
- If arriving late please be aware that you will have to inform the office if the roll has been marked
- Washers weekly. **Washers are essential!**
  - Group Leader and Helper
  - Sick children …. Sign out at the office
  - Children away sick or other plans for being away. Inform us or the office or send a note
- Birthdays …. Patty cakes. Issues with food allergies.
- Keeping boxes …. Respect other children’s privacy
- Bus, pick up, older children, siblings …. Procedures
- Change in plans …. Please advise us before 3:00pm
- Spare underpants in a zip lock bag. Keep in school bag
- Oral Presentation groups and related weekly activities will commence next week
- Reading Eggs program will soon be accessed at home using a password. Any levels completed at home/school will correlate
- Home Readers this term
- Tuck shop orders to go in Prep boxes
- Bear visits later. Bears will go home on Friday and return on Wednesdays.
- **School commences at 8.35am.**
- Project Compassion for LENT. Be like Jesus. Help others
- During assemblies please be respectful of proceedings as you are a role model for your children
- Transition statements - please hand to your teacher ASAP
- Headlice
Handouts