Prep 2013
Parent Information Night

Teachers:

Prep Blue
Mrs Annette Picking
and Mrs Letitia O’Loan
Ms Tonya Steffens

Prep White
Mrs Amanda Anstiss
Mrs Libby Hogan and
Mrs Jane Greenham

We have had a very enjoyable few weeks getting to know your children and making them feel welcome and safe in their new environment.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in preparing your child and working with us to effectively establish routines and encourage confidence and independence.
Religion

We begin the term learning the Sign of the Cross and class prayers that we pray together each day. Our focus is on how we are all different but we are all special. During this term, the Christian values identified through the teaching of the You Can Do It program will be explored during our religion lessons. We will also learn about Lent and the story of Easter. We will visit the church and join in school celebrations such as the Opening School Mass.

Maths

In Mathematics the strands Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability are taught using a variety of tools – big books, games, interactive whiteboard activities and practical hands on experiences. We use the Origo maths program which is aligned with the National curriculum to support learning in this subject area.

During Term One, we begin working with numbers 0-9. The children will have many opportunities to sort and classify, make patterns, count and order. We also learn number rhymes to aid the children in the formation of numbers.

English

Below is an outline of the various activities which will take place in the Prep classrooms during Literacy sessions.

Reading: This term we will provide opportunities for the children to participate in shared reading activities using Nursery Rhymes and Big Books. A rhyme or book is chosen each week and is read together regularly as a whole class. This models to the children how to be good readers and exposes them to various aspects of text. These include orally predicting the text, oral retell, identifying known sight words and recognising patterns and rhymes in text. Texts related to other subject areas and texts chosen purely for enjoyment will also be read to the children daily.

Letterland: Letterland is the phonics program used in the Early Years at St Ignatius. It has interesting characters, songs, stories and activities. We introduced the program to the children during Week 2 with the arrival of the “Clever Cat” character. Children are encouraged to recall the character, letter name and sound of each letter we have introduced.

Writing: Children will be involved in writing activities each week. Writing will be modelled (joint construction of text) and children will also participate in independent writing tasks. During independent writing children will use invented and conventional letters and drawings. Teachers will scribe for the children during these early writing experiences. Children are encouraged to ‘have-a-go’, search for words in the classroom or sound out words. Structured writing will be based on a variety of experiences – remembered, imagined and literature based.
Literacy Groups (Learning Centres): Each week the children will be involved in activities related to Nursery Rhyme, Big Book or letter/sound of the week. These activities will include phonic/sounds work, reading and writing activities, fine motor and role play. From Term Two, children will use the I Pads during these sessions.

Handwriting: This will involve activities which reinforce and develop Queensland Beginners Script skills and techniques. Fine motor skills, which are fundamental to handwriting success, will also be developed and the children will be involved in a range of activities such as cutting, pasting, colouring and fine motor exercises.

Home Reading: Home reading is a very important part of learning to read. This year the children will begin home reading in Term Two. Further information on Reading Exposure and Practices will be sent home later this term.

Library: Library lessons and borrowing have commenced. Please ensure your child always has a library bag for borrowing on Thursdays. Books must be returned in order to borrow again.

Show and Tell: During this term, the children will have the opportunity to be involved in an informal Show and Tell where they will be asked to share (show or tell) something of interest to him/her. Beginning Week Five, Show and Tell will be conducted in Treasure Groups and we will use the following roster.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Treasure Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Purple</td>
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Reading Ted: Reading Ted will travel home with different children each week. He comes equipped with his own bag, pencil case and book. He will go home each Friday and return the following Wednesday ready to tell the class all about his adventures. We encourage families to let Ted be part of your family while visiting and join in activities and events which happen. Most particularly we want Reading Ted to be part of story time with the family. If you can take photos of this special time we would love you to put a copy into Ted’s book and write a little about what he has done while he has been with your family. When the children return with Ted on Wednesday, he/she will share some of the adventures Ted has had with the family and show Ted’s book with the details of the visit. The “Reading Ted” experience is another way to reinforce the importance of taking time to stop and share stories to foster a love of reading that will continue for a lifetime.

You Can Do It

This is the social/emotional educational program adopted in Prep to support the school and homes in a collective effort to optimise the social, emotional and academic outcomes of young children. The five social and emotional skills presented in the program are:

1. Confidence - Connie Confidence
2. Persistence – Pete Persistence
3. Organisation – Oscar Organisation
4. Getting Along – Gabby Get Along
5. Resilience – Rickie Resilience
This program identifies the social and emotional capabilities that all young children need to acquire in order to be successful in school, experience wellbeing and have positive relationships.

**History/Science**

In Science we will begin our unit of work called Staying Alive where we will explore the basic needs of living things. We will consider how plants, animals and humans grow and change and will closely look at how the children have grown and changed in their own lives. During this unit of work, there will be a task which we will ask parents to complete with the children at home. More details of this task will be sent home later this term.

**Specialist Lessons**

The children will be involved in the following specialist Lessons:

- **Crocodile Club** – Mondays – Gross motor program where the children will be involved in a range of activities to develop gross motor skills such as skipping, hopping and running.

- **Italian** – every second Tuesday - This term, Prep will be introduced to some Italian icons, including Pinocchio, Topo Gigio, Arlecchino, simple greetings, familiar Nursery songs sung in Italian, Carnevale, the Italian flag, some colours and numbers.

- **Music** - every second Wednesday – This term the children will learn Nursery Rhymes and other simple songs during music lessons.

**General Information**

**Fabulous 4** – Please support your child in becoming independent and organised by encouraging them to check his/her bag for the **FABULOUS 4 every day**!

1. Hat
2. Lunch
3. Water Bottle
4. Pouch

On Thursday it becomes the **FABULOUS 5** as the children also need to bring their library books and bags to school.

**Assembly**

Assemblies are held on a Friday at 8.50am. Awards are presented at the assembly for all classes. The awards include a Student of the Week and awards for Students We Admire Greatly (SWAGs). We will inform parents in advance if their child is to receive a **Student of the Week Award** so that parents can attend if they wish.
Liturgy

Class Liturgies are held on Tuesdays. You will be informed and invited to attend our Prep Liturgy when it is to be held. Our first Liturgy will be held in Term Two.

Uniform

- Sports Uniform – Monday and Friday
- Formal Uniform – Every other day
- Hair – School colours must be worn (ribbons and scrunchies are available at the uniform shop)
- Hat – No hat no play policy. Please ensure your child has a hat every day.

Lunch Time

Lunch Box and Water Bottle:
Children are required to have a water bottle every day with their name clearly displayed. Lunch boxes should also be named clearly. Cool packs are not required as lunch boxes are stored in the fridge. Please ensure you pack a healthy lunch that your child is able to manage independently.

We ask that you please also respect allergies within the school by providing nut-free food (for example not peanut butter).

Classroom Helpers

There will be various opportunities throughout the year for parents to assist in the classroom. When we are requiring assistance, a note will be sent home to all parents. If you are available and interested in assisting, please indicate your availability and return note to school in your child’s pouch.

Communication

Should you need to contact your child’s teacher, it is best to either send a note in your child’s pouch or send an email to the appropriate email address below:

Amanda Anstiss  
amanda.anstiss@bne.catholic.edu.au
Annette Picking  
apicking@bne.catholic.edu.au
Letitia O’Loan  
lrush@bne.catholic.edu.au

You can always expect a response to your email within 48 hours.

Shared Partnerships in Life and Learning (SPIll)

As an integral part of our Prep year reporting, we will be holding interviews with parents towards the end of term to discuss your child’s social/emotional and academic progress.