Caningeraba State School

Prep Information

Booklet

2014
Welcome
We extend a warm welcome to you, as parents of our Prep year children. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child.

We firmly believe that - at Caningeraba we actively engage in learning to create unique life-long learners – it’s not what we say, it’s what we do!

Our Prepstar Learning Values
We believe children learn best when -
- they are happy, secure and supported
- involved in enquiry-based, co-constructed, hands-on reflective activities
- expectations are high
- opportunities for problem-solving and higher level thinking are provided.

Students at Caningeraba are Actively Encouraged to -
- engage in and reflect on learning
- discover self identity
- develop independence
- acquire decision-making skills that can be applied to a variety of learning and social contexts
- accept and appreciate differences whilst developing a sense of self and others.

School Hours
The prep day is the equivalent of a full school day, five days per week. School begins at 8:50am concluding at 2:50pm. Your child should be at school by 8:40am, when a bell rings to indicate children move to their classrooms, to promptly begin at 8:50am.

Early Years Curriculum
Our Prep year is a new learning environment with exciting things to do, see, touch and experience. Your child will find friends to share with and teachers who respect them as capable and competent learners. Learning involves developing a relationship of trust. We aim to create a relaxed, secure and supportive environment where children are encouraged to investigate and explore to their individual potential.

Caningeraba Preparatory teachers will use the Australian Curriculum for the curriculum content in the key learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. The Early Years Curriculum Guidelines will continue to describe the contexts for learning in Prep.

The Early Years Curriculum Guidelines incorporate -
- supporting play as a context for learning
- understanding each child as an individual
- developing supportive partnerships
- providing flexible learning environments
- assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn.

At the beginning of the school year, self-initiated and teacher-directed activities in outdoor and indoor settings provide opportunities for teachers to be actively involved in teaching, building oral language and extending learning. As the year progresses, there is a greater emphasis on focused teaching and learning across a range of learning contexts as students continue to develop knowledge, abilities and skills for success in their ongoing schooling.
Early Years (Prep) Program at Caningeraba State School

Everything your child does within our school has a purpose for learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask us.

The following factors have been identified to contribute to success in learning -

- social and emotional competence with a focus on social and personal learning
- health and physical wellbeing, particularly in making healthy choices, gross and fine-motor development
- language learning and communication focusing on oral language and early literacy
- early mathematical understandings with emphasis on early numeracy
- active learning processes with a focus on thinking, investigating, imagining and responding
- positive dispositions to learning.

Open Door Policy

School starts at 8:50am, giving staff adequate time to prepare their room and attend any meetings scheduled before this time. Please do not enter the room before this time unless you have an appointment. When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher.

We value your interest and participation in our school day, however please appreciate how busy our teachers are as our school day begins and ends. Each child and parent has individual concerns, however our teachers have a responsibility to all children in their class. If you have something to discuss with your prep teacher, please make an appointment at a suitably mutual time.

Travel To and From the Classroom

Please notify us personally or in writing, when anyone other than yourself will be collecting children from the school. School finishes at 2:50pm. If you know that you are going to be late, please contact the school office and notify them of your delay.

For the safety of your child, there are pedestrian crossings located outside the school grounds. Please ensure that you use the crossings and parking areas outside of the school grounds.

Please remember -

- for the first three weeks of school you are welcome to wait outside the Prep classroom prior to 8:50am
- from Week 4 (Term 1) we would like you to wait in the Tuckshop Undercover Area with your child. At the 8:40am bell all children can then proceed to their classroom
- children must be collected from the Prep classroom at 2:50pm. Children will not be allowed to leave the classroom unless someone is there to collect them.

Illness

We advise you to keep your child at home if she/he is not well. Remember that a sick child is better at home with their parents rather than at school feeling unhappy and spreading germs to other children.

Money

Please do not allow your child to bring money to school. Prep students will not be allowed to go to the Tuckshop during play breaks. We encourage parents of all children in Prep to Year 3 to buy food/drinks from the tuckshop through the order form. This curbs - waiting in cues (and perhaps not even being served in time during the break); loss of money; loans to friends; buying for friends; etc.

On Free Dress Days, students will be asked for a gold coin donation which is collected by the teacher. Some events hosted at the school may require donation payments.
**Tuckshop**
The school tuckshop operates every day. Orders are to be written on a paper bag with name, class, order, and whether it is for first or second break. Orders are to be placed at the Tuckshop on arrival at school and will be available for students from their classroom at the start of each break.

If you would like to volunteer in our tuckshop please phone Katrina or Michelle on 5568 6339.

**Sun Safety Policy**
The outdoor learning environment is perfect for children to explore, and to promote body strength, balance, coordination, whilst supporting growth in thinking processes and social learning.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child’s arrival at school. Please ensure your child has their own hat to wear - our school wide-brimmed hat being the most appropriate for our climate. A spare hat in their school bag is advisable. We strongly adhere to the school rule - **NO SCHOOL HAT, NO PLAY.** All children must wear our school hat or a hat which is of school colours - blue/white only without logos - thank you.

**Treasures from Home**
Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home. Any toys that find their way to school will be cared for until the end of the day. Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage.

**Birthdays and Other Celebrations**
Everyone loves a birthday and other special celebrations, as these are wonderful ways to build understanding about each other. As a healthy-eating school we would appreciate celebratory food limited to: fruit skewers; fruit platter; fruit muffins or cake (no icing); low kilojoule jelly cups.

Please discuss arrangements with your child’s teacher.

**Communication**
**Messages:** Please read the noticeboards outside your child’s classroom regularly to keep in touch with the children's activities, items of interest and generally, what’s happening at school.

**Prep Newsletters:** To keep you informed our Prep teachers will regularly send home newsletters with a diary of events and other interesting information only relevant to Prep children and families.

**School Newsletters:** Our newsletter can be accessed through the website, sent to you electronically, or a printed copy sent home with your child.

**School Website:** Our school website is updated weekly and can be found at www.caningerss.eq.edu.au

**Sharing Information:** Events in family life such as illness, new babies and visitors can be a prime source of excitement or concern for young children, and can affect their behaviour at home and/or at school. It is important for the home and school to share information that may affect children, and we would appreciate it if parents would inform us of any unusual happenings of this nature.

Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with your teacher that you may have about your child’s progress, the school or the program. It is best to arrange a meeting time that is suitable to both you and the teacher. Teachers are generally not available between 8:40 am and 2:50pm, however are happy to meet with parents before and after school.

We look forward to working with your child and yourself in building a supportive partnership!
Parents in the Prep Class
As parents, you play a vital role in the education of your children and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in our classroom. You can help by -
- participating in the Support-A-Talker program. Volunteers will be sought in Term 1 to commence by Term 2 and training given by our Speech Language Pathologist and Learning Support Teachers
- offering to share your invaluable experience, hobbies, interests or any special expertise
- collecting resources for art/craft experiences
- doing small jobs for us at home or in the classroom (eg. cutting up materials for collage)
- discussing any problems or concerns with the teachers.

Class Requirements
All items on the Prep Year Booklist are available as a pack from our Uniform Shop. All required equipment should be brought to school on the first day.

Prior to the commencement of your child’s Prep year, it is important to practice skills such as -
- packing and unpacking their own bag
- opening snack foods and drinks
- tying shoe laces.

Your child will need -
- school bag - big enough to hold a jumper, library book, lunch boxes and drink containers. Our school bag (available from the Uniform Shop) is an ideal size.
- wide-brimmed or peaked hat of school colours for outdoor play. A spare hat is a great idea.
- healthy lunches for first and second breaks
- brunch munch is a fruit or vegetable snack for mid morning
- spare set of clothes including one pair of underpants and a pair of shorts/skirt in a named plastic bag, with each item of clothing clearly named.

Names and Labels
As young children often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything - bags, shoes, lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats, jumpers, track pants, library bags, clothing. Please make sure your child knows where their name is written on their belongings.

Please do not label: pencils, glue and small equipment from book list. This equipment is used as a shared resource.

Do label: clipboard, display folder, scrapbooks, art smock, library bag.

What to Wear
Prep students wear our school uniform available from the School Uniform Shop. It is school policy that hats, jumpers, track pants, head bands must be of school colours.

Please buy shoes with Velcro until your child can tie their own shoe laces. Untied shoes are a safety hazard. Please begin teaching your child to develop responsibility for taking shoes and socks on and off.
Commencement of School Year
When you and your child arrive at school on the first day there will be class lists displayed in the tuckshop undercover area. The class lists will have: student names, class teacher name and location of the class. There will be Administrative staff in the area to assist you and your child.

Our class lists will be drawn up according to information you as parents provide, along with any preschool information forwarded to us. This information is vital, as we would like to accommodate friendship groups and have our classes as ‘balanced’ as possible. We do reserve the right to make some adjustments to classes if the need arises.

Information Covered in our Caningeraba Enrolment Pack:
- Absences
- Excursions
- Illness and Medications
- Uniforms
- School Rules

School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Resumes - Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1 Concludes</td>
<td>Friday 4 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1 Holidays</td>
<td>Monday 7 April to Thursday 17 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Public Holidays</td>
<td>Good Friday 18 April and Easter Monday 21 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Resumes - Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Friday 25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 9 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 Concludes</td>
<td>Friday 27 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 Holidays</td>
<td>Monday 30 June to Friday 11 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Resumes - Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Coast Show Public Holiday</td>
<td>Friday 29 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 Concludes</td>
<td>Friday 19 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 Holidays</td>
<td>Monday 22 September to Friday 3 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 6 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Resumes - Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 7 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>Monday 20 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Year Concludes</td>
<td>Friday 12 December</td>
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We hope you will have an enjoyable and rewarding year with us. We also look forward to working closely with you to ensure the best possible start in education for your child. We are looking forward to sharing a happy and productive year.

Welcome to Caningeraba!