

# **Sts Peter and Paul's School Prep Classes 2013**



**33 Alexandra Street  
Bulimba**

**Ph: 3399 1281  
Fax: 3395 6651**

**Prep Times: 8:40am - 3:00pm**

**Term Dates (2013):**

Term 1: 30 January – 28 March

Term 2: 15 April – 21 June

Term 3: 8 July – 20 September

Term 4: 8 October – 6 December

## **Welcome to Prep at Sts Peter and Paul's School!**

You'll find within this booklet some useful information about Prep – starting times, curriculum information etc.

Please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher if you have any questions!

We look forward to getting to know your family and hope your child has a wonderful year in Prep in 2013.

### **What is Prep About?**

During the course of the Prep year, we hope the children will learn to –

- care for and respect each other, in the Catholic environment of our school;
- build constructive friendships and relationships with the children and adults around them;
- be excited about learning;
- experience a variety of activities to extend their knowledge and skills;
- use their imagination and creativity;

- become thoughtful problem solvers and life long learners.

Young children learn most effectively through play. They actively construct meaning when they are involved in learning activities which engage and motivate them. Our Prep program encourages the children to be independent learners, within a variety of contexts.

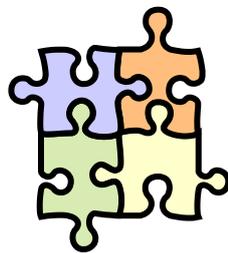
## **The Curriculum**

The Prep curriculum embraces all of the interactions and experiences, both spontaneous and planned, which constitute daily life in an early years classroom. Through a variety of child-initiated activities, there develops in each child a range of critical thinking and communication skills. Important competencies and life skills are developed through the early learning areas, as set out in the Foundation Level of the Australian Curriculum:-

- English
- Early Mathematics
- History
- Science

Additionally, children are immersed in a variety of Social and Personal Learning experiences; Health and PE and Arts experiences.

Prep follows the Religious Education Guidelines as set down by the Brisbane Archdiocese and approved by the Archbishop.



Learning in each of the above areas takes place in the Prep context in the following ways -

### **Five Contexts for Learning**

- Play
- Real-life situations
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions
- Focused learning and teaching



## **Four Phases of Learning and Development**

These phases are used by teachers to make judgements about the children's learning and development. Our assessment and monitoring of the children will use these four phases:

- Becoming Aware
- Exploring
- Making Connections
- Applying

By the end of the Prep year, most children typically will have reached the making connections phase in most areas.

## **Specialist Lessons**

Throughout the year, the Prep children will participate in other school activities such as:

- Weekly music and drama lessons
- Weekly physical education classes
- Weekly library visits



Additionally, we will participate in whole school activities such as liturgies and school sporting carnivals. In term 2 (or on special occasions) we will begin to attend weekly assemblies.

## **Daily Information for Prep Children**

### **Arrival and Departure**

The children attend Prep five days per week, from 8.40am. A teacher will be on duty from 8:20am in the Adventure Playground to supervise children. Please do not arrive or leave your child prior to that time, as there is no supervision for the children until that teacher begins their duty.

Children will be dismissed from Prep classrooms to the steps outside Prep Blue at 3pm.

We ask that you collect your child punctually, as young children often become very distressed, if they are the last ones at Prep. **THERE IS NO TEACHER ON DUTY IN THIS AREA AFTER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DISMISSED.** If your child is not collected promptly from the classroom, they will be sent to OSHC (Outside School Hours Care). No Prep child is allowed to walk to pick-up lines or leave the Adventure Playground unaccompanied.

## Outside School Hours Care

Outside School Hours Care is available should you require care for your child prior to 8.20am and after 3.00pm. The wonderful staff from OSHC bring the children to Prep in the mornings, help them settle in and unpack. In the afternoons, they collect them and walk them up to OSHC, where they have afternoon tea and play games. Please contact OSHC if you wish to register your child for this service.

### Drinks



We encourage the children to drink lots of water throughout the day from the water bubblers. However, they will also need to bring their own water filled drink bottle from home. We ask that you save cordial or juice for your child to drink at home. We find most children rarely drink a full popper and the level of waste and spillage is high.

### Lunches

Each child will need to bring along a lunch box to Prep, containing their morning tea and lunch. We try to encourage the children to be as independent

as possible, so we ask that all food is suitable for your child to manage without help i.e. wrapping

they can open, fruit they can eat without assistance and appropriate portion sizes. It may be useful to have a 'trial' run at home, to ensure your child can open their lunch box and manage its contents independently. No cans please.

Please ensure that the food you send to Prep is healthy. We would ask you not to send lollies, chocolates or chips. A lunch box with an ice pack is a great idea, particularly in the warmer months, as we do not have space to store lunchboxes in the fridge.



## **Clothing**

The children will wear the school's sport uniform to prep. The school uniform, which is elastic waisted sports shorts and sport knit shirt, is easy to manage for both boys and girls. All school clothing is available from Hosikozi Clothing Company at Balmoral.

## **Hat**

The children will need a Sts Peter and Paul's hat – bucket, slouch or legionnaire style. The school has a strict “no hat, no play” policy. We are not able to provide spare hats at Prep, due to head lice spreading easily.

## Footwear



Children will need to wear comfortable, easy to manage shoes. Sandals with velcro fasteners for summer and white, sports type shoes with velcro fasteners with blue short socks in winter. The children will frequently remove and put their shoes on during the day and they need to be able to manage their footwear independently. Easy to manage footwear also fosters a sense of success for the children.

## What Your Child Needs To Bring

- School bag – It's a good idea to personalise this with a tag or key-ring for easy identification
- School hat
- A spare set of clothes and underwear
- Library bag
- Lunch box/drink bottle

- A small sheet or towel for rest time.

**Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name, including footwear.**

## **Discussion Time**

Many children love to share their special news with their friends. This is also often the stimulus for learning opportunities. We *encourage* the children to show something they have made or found, photos or books of interest or a news item from home. However, we *discourage* them from bringing in toys.

Discussion Time will begin when the children have settled into prep and when they are familiar with the other children. All children will have the opportunity of sharing something regularly.

## **Rest Time**

A period of rest is part of our daily program at Prep. This takes various forms – sleeping, day-

dreaming, listening to music or stories, or watching an occasional dvd. Learning to take 'time out', to rest bodies and to quietly reflect and process the

day's events is a healthy, life-long skill. We find the children become very tired at Prep, as the effort of attending Prep for five days per week - learning the expectations of teachers, meeting new friends and concentrating on complex or new activities, takes its toll.

## **Laundry Roster**



A couple of times throughout the year, each family is asked to help wash dish cloths, tea towels and cleaning rags. A roster will go home at the beginning of each term indicating which families are rostered on for that particular term.

## **Excursions**

During the Prep year, we will be taking the children on one or two excursions. Notes will go home prior to these events and parents are encouraged to join us on these special days. The school also arranges visits from groups such as the Arts

Council and the Prep children are usually included in these activities.

## **Tuckshop**

Tuckshop will not be available to the Prep classes.

## **Birthdays**

Although we try to encourage the children to make healthy food choices, birthdays are the exception! To help celebrate your child's birthday, you may wish to send along 28 cup cakes, ice-blocks or a watermelon to Prep.

## **Illness**

Please keep your sick child at home. Most children will say they still want to come to Prep, even though they are sick. However, we prefer that you keep them home, in order to stop the spread of infection.

If your child is sick and will not be attending school, you will need to phone the school office

before 8:40am, or email us, so that we are aware of their absence.

It is essential that we have current contact details for your child, in the event of illness or an emergency.

If your child needs medication during the day, it must be taken to the school office and not the classroom. There are strict policies involving the administration of medication at school.



## Parents

We aim to work in partnership with your family, so parents are always welcome and can participate in many aspects of Prep life. If you would like to chat about your child's progress during the year, or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's Prep teacher.

You can help by:



- Visiting and joining in different aspects of the Prep program.

- Reading the school newsletters and other notes sent home from school.
- Offering to share any hobbies, interests and expertise you may have.
  
- Supporting and encouraging your child to be independent.
- Supporting the P&F and School Board.
- Taking part in school celebrations and school functions.
- Becoming a Class Co-ordinator - please see class teacher if you are interested in this role.
- Collecting collage (junk) material.

Mothers, Fathers and Grandparents and other family members are welcome to visit the classrooms throughout the year. We will begin visits once the children have settled into our daily routine.

### **We Love Junk!!**

We would appreciate it if you could save your (clean) junk for our collage and construction area. We always need magazines, cards, boxes, and containers and are grateful for any fabric, wool, stamps or chocolate wrappers you may have.

## One last thing

Please, please, please – name everything! You'd be surprised at how much alike 28 pairs of sandals can look!

Thank you for the opportunity to spend this precious year with your child.



The Prep Teachers