



Warranwood Primary School CONNECTIONS

Prep News and Information

A WARM WELCOME

We would like to welcome everyone to the start of a very exciting Prep year at Warranwood. It was terrific to meet many new families (and some familiar families) at our Welcome to Warranwood sausage sizzle. We had many excited Preps wanting to introduce their families to their new teachers!

For some of you the first couple of weeks have been filled with emotion, excitement, uncertainty, tiredness and relief. For others, its just relief! The Prep teachers are thrilled with the way the students have settled into school life and are learning all about each other, their classroom routines and their new school community. We thank you again for your support in making this transition such a smooth and happy experience for all.

Introducing the Prep Team

Jacquie Durik

Suzie Smith

Ann Mangan

Bridget Kane

(Team Leader)



Class representatives



Prep K Class Representatives

Emma (Ben's Mum)
Kylie (Zoe's Mum)
Suzaan (Mia's Mum)

Prep S Class Representatives

Kate (Leo's mum)
Caryn (Zara's mum)



Prep MD Class Representatives

Emma (Ben's Mum)
Courtney (Hannah's Mum)
Kellie (Mitchell's Mum)



TESTING

The first six Wednesdays of Term 1 are school-free days for the Prep level. These days are set aside for the teachers to work individually with the students to determine their initial abilities in maths and literacy. This snapshot enables the teachers to understand the academic needs of the students and to plan an effective teaching and learning program that caters for everyone. Times have been allocated to every student and the timetable can be found on the classroom windows if you have lost your note or forgotten your time.

ATTENDANCE

Warranwood Primary School uses the Compass School Manager software program, which supports a number of administrative functions of the school. There are many fantastic features, which will save both time and money and allow you to access reports and interviews, etc. online. One feature is the marking of attendance. It is very important that if your child is going to be absent or late that you record your child's absence, late arrival or early departure using the Compass system. The roll will be marked in the classroom at around 9:10 am each day. Any arrivals after that time will be marked as late and you will need to check in at the office.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly is held most Mondays in the Hall at 9.00 am. We will start at the classroom and walk to the hall together. All sorts of wonderful things take place at assembly like Principals Awards, performances, announcements regarding sporting results and information about activities and upcoming events. Everyone is most welcome to attend!

PARENT HELPERS

We are very grateful for any assistance parents are able to offer, as it makes a huge difference to the classroom program. If you can help in the classroom or by doing tasks at home, please let your class teacher know. A note will go home, allowing parents to select a time and day they are available to help. A timetable will then be put up on the window. If you are unable to make a regular commitment, please don't hesitate to chat with your child's teacher about when you are available.

TAKE HOME BOOKS

The students have been given their take home book folders and have started taking books home. Initially this is to get them into the habit of reading each night and changing their books each day. Once our testing is completed we will be able to allocate books according to ability levels. If you find that the book is easy, use the time to ask your child about the story, create a different ending, discuss interesting words, etc. If the book is too hard, read it to your child and discuss aspects of the story. Ask them to read the more predictable words. Inside your book cover there is a diary. After your child has read their book, please fill out the diary on the day you read it. This will help to ensure your child gets a variety of books and also lets us know how they felt about the book. If you do not get to read the book, it still needs to come back to school, but we won't change it over. Once we start having parent helpers, we often ask them to sit and read with the students, which is why it is necessary for them to bring their readers back each day.

BUDDIES

On Monday February 8th, the Preps met their Buddies. It was a very exciting morning where they got to know one another and completed an activity together. The role of a buddy is to be a helpful friend and mentor out in the playground and to have fun with the Preps in a series of planned activities throughout the year. Due to numbers this year you may find that your child has two Buddies.

CAFÉ READING

Last year our school very successfully implemented the CAFÉ reading program, which is a direct teaching approach that uses explicit and direct instruction to give meaning to what we do in our literacy blocks.

Café Reading stands for: C – Comprehension, A – Accuracy, F – Fluency, E – Expanding Vocabulary.

In Prep we are starting to focus on the concept of reading for understanding (comprehension) and choosing a book to read that is a 'Good Fit' book. As we model reading using big books and other literature we ask as we read, "Do I understand what I am reading?" We are also discussing the use of pictures to help us understand the text and match key words. Throughout the year we will be explicitly introducing many strategies that will assist with the development of the above four essential reading skills.

READING EGGS

You will note that in your term fees you have been asked to pay a **\$24 subscription** to the Reading Eggs program. This is a fabulous literacy program, which supports the way in which we teach reading and phonics. The students are able to access Reading Eggs both at home and school. If they were to sign up individually it would be at a cost of around \$100 so this is a great saving and an excellent learning tool.

CANTEEN

The canteen is closed on Wednesdays for lunch orders but open during lunchtime every day for the children to purchase snacks. Lunch orders need to be placed in the class basket at the beginning of the day. We will encourage students to place any change in their bags. If they are allowed to spend their change, please let them know.

SPENDING MONEY

Due to our concerns about food allergies, we ask that you please discourage your children from buying snacks from the canteen for other students. Buying food for others can also cause distress for the students who are not selected by their friends to share the money.

HEALTHY BODIES

Although we have just begun the year, the students are very busy so it is important that they eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise regularly. We encourage all students to have a fresh bottle of water in their bag which they can easily access. We also remind students to refill their bottle throughout the day. We encourage the students to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please advise your class teacher if your child has food allergies or there are foods such as chocolate you prefer they do not eat. Several of the students in our year level can have anaphylactic reactions to certain foods. Parents are requested not to include any nut products in any food. Please be aware of this when packing lunches and we ask that you reinforce the message with your children that students are not to share food.

ILLNESS

If your child is sick please keep them at home as necessary. However don't forget that every day is full of learning and students often feel left behind if they have too many days away from school. Please contact the office if they are going to be away and notify us immediately if your child's absence is due to an infectious disease (eg Chicken Pox). If your child is infected with head lice or the eggs (nits) please notify your class teacher so the correct procedures can be followed to avoid an outbreak. Please contact the school nurse or the office if you need further information regarding health issues.

SUN SMART

Our school is a Sunsmart School and hats are required for outside play every day. You are encouraged to send along sunscreen for your child to apply prior to going to play or lunch as well as applying it at home each morning.

Term One Diary Dates

Testing and School Free Days

Wednesday 8th February
Wednesday 15th February
Wednesday 22nd February
Wednesday 1st March
Wednesday 8th March

Getting To Know You Interviews

Monday 20th February
Tuesday 21st February

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 13th March (No School)

Students Attend Full Time

From Tuesday 14th March students will be attending school full time.

Grandparent/Special Friend Day

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End Of Term One

Friday 31st March

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting term. Please come and see us if you have any further questions.

Suzie, Bridget, Jacquie and Ann